

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-RPS-02
Project Title:	Appeal by Los Angeles Department of Water & Power re Renewables Portfolio Standard Certification Eligibility
TN #:	212422
Document Title:	21-2012-02-24_Notice of Staff Workshop on BC Run-of-River Hydroelectric Projects Study (Bates Nos. LA000322-LA000326)
Description:	N/A
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Organization:	LADWP
Submitter Role:	Applicant
Submission Date:	7/22/2016 4:53:19 PM
Docketed Date:	7/22/2016

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



In the matter of:)	
)	
Developing Regulations and Guidelines)	Docket No. 11-RPS-01
for the 33 Percent Renewables Portfolio)	
Standard)	
)	NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP
and)	RE: British Columbia Run-of-
		River Hydroelectric
Implementation of Renewables		Generating Facilities
Investment Plan Legislation		Study

Staff Workshop on British Columbia Run-of-River Hydroelectric Projects Study

California Energy Commission staff will conduct a WebEx workshop to discuss a study to analyze British Columbia Run-of-River Hydroelectric projects and consider whether these projects are, or should be, eligible renewable electrical generation facilities for California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS), and to solicit questions and comments from interested stakeholders. This workshop will be conducted by remote attendance only.

February 24, 2012

1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Remote Attendance and Availability of Documents

Internet Webcast - Presentations and audio from the workshop will be broadcast via the Energy Commission's WebEx web meeting service. For details on how to participate via WebEx, please see the "Remote Attendance" section toward the end of this notice.

Purpose

This workshop will discuss potential areas of consideration identified by Energy Commission staff, and solicit comments from stakeholders regarding whether British Columbia Run-of-River Hydroelectric projects are, or should be, considered eligible renewable electrical generation facilities for California's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS). Staff seek stakeholder comments on the following preliminary areas of

consideration that staff plans to address in the study the Energy Commission is required to complete and prepare a report for the Legislature pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 25741.5.

Areas of Consideration identified by staff include:

- Projects may impact fish, fish habitat, migration, and aquatic organisms
- Projects may affect streamside (riparian) vegetation and surrounding habitat
- Projects may result in diversion of more than 90 percent of river flow
- Effects of river diversions on fish populations have not been well studied
- Fine sediment accumulation and sediment movement may cause downstream effects
- Lack of high flows may affect channel maintenance
- Projects may impact recreation, aesthetic values and tourism
- Projects may have low life-cycle greenhouse gas unit emissions as compared to other generation technologies
- Penstocks, powerhouses, access roads and transmission lines may affect terrestrial environments and wildlife movement/mortality
- Construction activities emit air pollutants and greenhouse gases
- Construction activities may directly harm species and affect habitat
- Construction activities may cause erosion and spread invasive species
- Cumulative impacts may arise and may not be sufficiently addressed
 - At the level of a river system if more than one tributary is diverted, and
 - Development of linear/ancillary facilities such as roads and transmission lines may result in future development of previously undisturbed areas
- Projects may be increasingly proposed in sensitive wildlife and fish habitat
- Projects may provide benefits to First Nations Communities through partnerships, support for businesses, employment opportunities, training and capacity building
- Environmental standards for run-of-river projects in British Columbia may be different than for other industrial projects, even if the impacts are comparable
- Environmental Assessments may be required only for projects that are greater than 50 MW (although some applicants have and do opt in even when they do not trigger such a review)
- Projects may lack information sharing between agencies
- Environmental review may not provide for adequate public involvement
- Local agency involvement/approval may be limited
- British Columbia Strategic Land and Resource Plans and Land and Resource Management Plans for Crown land were originally meant for managing forests and may be less effective for run-of-river projects

The results of the workshop and the additional areas of consideration raised by stakeholders will be used by staff to guide the study of the run-of-river hydroelectric projects in British Columbia.

Background

The RPS was established by Senate Bill 1078 (Sher, Chapter 516, Statutes of 2002), with revisions to the law following as a result of Senate Bill 1250 (Perata, Chapter 512, Statutes of 2006), Senate Bill 107 (Simitian, Chapter 464, Statutes of 2006), and Senate Bill X1 2 (Simitian, Chapter 1, Statutes of 2011, First Extraordinary Session).¹ The law requires retail sellers of electricity and publicly owned electric utilities (POUs) to increase the amount of renewable energy they procure until 33 percent of their retail sales are served with renewable energy by December 31, 2020. Under the law, the Energy Commission is required to certify eligible renewable energy resources that may be used by retail sellers of electricity and POUs to satisfy their RPS procurement requirements, develop an accounting system to verify retail sellers' and POUs' compliance with the RPS, and adopt regulations specifying procedures for enforcement of the RPS for the POUs.

Public Resources Code Section 25741.5 provides in pertinent parts as follows:

- (a) "...after providing public notice and an opportunity for public comment, including holding at least one public workshop, and following consultation with interested governmental entities, the commission shall study and provide a report to the legislature that analyzes run-of-river hydroelectric generating facilities in British Columbia, including whether these facilities are, or should be, included as renewable electrical generation facilities pursuant to Section 25741 or eligible renewable energy resources pursuant to Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Chapter 2.3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code.
- (b) By completing the study and making recommendations, the commission shall consider the effect that inclusion would have upon all of the following:
 - (1) Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
 - (2) Emissions of air pollutants.
 - (3) Water quality, recreation, and fisheries.
 - (4) Any other environmental impact caused by run-of-river hydroelectric generating facilities."²

Written Comments

Written comments on the above listed areas of consideration must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on March 2, 2012. Please include the docket number 11-RPS-01 and indicate Renewables Portfolio Standard in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments.

¹ http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sbx1_2_bill_20110412_chaptered.pdf

² Public Resources Code Section 25741.5, Subdivisions (a) and (b).

Parties should note that Docket 03-RPS-1078 has been replaced with Docket 11-RPS-01 for the Energy Commission's RPS proceedings. Parties under Docket 03-RPS-1078 will automatically be added to the distribution list for Docket 11-RPS-01.

Effective immediately, non-confidential electronic documents of 5 megabytes or less may be submitted in electronic format only. Paper copies are no longer required.

The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name or organization's name in the name of the file. Those submitting comments by electronic mail should provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document File (PDF) to docket@energy.state.ca.us and to RPS33@energy.state.ca.us.

If the Document exceeds 5 megabytes in size, please hand deliver or mail an original copy to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 11-RPS-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written materials relating to this workshop will be filed with the Dockets Unit and become part of the public record in this proceeding.

Public Participation

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov

Please direct all news media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

If you have questions on the technical subject matter of this workshop, please contact Brian McCollough at (916) 653-1648 or by e-mail at bmccollo@energy.ca.gov.

Remote Attendance

Participation in this staff workshop is through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you listen to the audio via your telephone. Please be aware that the meeting's WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded.

Computer Log-on with Telephone Audio:

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: **922 928 953**
 2. When prompted, enter your name other information as directed and the meeting password: **meeting@130**
- NOTE: Access to WebEx meetings is now available from your mobile device. To learn more and access your app, please visit <http://www.webex.com/overview/mobile-meetings.html>

Teleconference:

After logging in on the computer, an AUDIO CONFERENCE BOX will offer you the choice of phone connections:

1. TO HAVE WEBEX CALL YOU BACK: Type your area code and phone number and click "Call Me".
2. TO CALL INTO THE TELECONFERENCE: Use the drop-down box to select "I will call in" and follow the on-screen directions.
3. INTERNATIONAL CALLERS: Click on the "Global call-in number" link in part (2) above
4. TO LISTEN OVER THE COMPUTER: If you have the needed equipment and your computer is configured, click on "Use Computer Headset" and then "Call Using Computer" to use VoIP (Internet phone)

TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS): Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada) and when prompted enter the unique meeting number: 922 928 953. International callers can select their number from <https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239.

Mail Lists: Renewable; 33by2020

February 13, 2011