Don Pedro Project Relicensing

MODesto IRRIGATIoN DISTRICT | TUrlock IRRIGATIoN DISTRICT

FERC PROJECT NO. 2299
Presentation Overview

- The Don Pedro Project
  - Federal License
  - Description of Project
  - Functions

- The Licensees

- The Relicensing Process
  - Purpose
  - Steps
  - Schedule

- Contact Information and Website
• Project operates under a federal license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) because of powerhouse facility

• Original license issued:
  o Effective April 30, 1966
  o Term of 50 years
  o Expires on April 30, 2016

• Project must obtain a new license through a process generally referred to as “relicensing”
The Don Pedro Project

- Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir
- Don Pedro Powerhouse
- Recreation facilities
  o Blue Oaks Recreation Area
  o Fleming Meadows Recreation Area
  o Moccasin Point Recreation Area
Don Pedro Reservoir
Ward’s Ferry Bridge
Don Pedro Recreation Areas
Don Pedro Powerhouse
Functions of the Project

- Power Generation
- Water Storage & Use
  - Irrigation
  - Municipal & Industrial
  - CCSF “Water Bank”
- Recreation
  - Houseboating
  - Recreational boating
  - Fishing
  - Camping
  - Hiking and swimming
- Flood Control
The Licensees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modesto Irrigation District</th>
<th>Turlock Irrigation District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Established in 1887</td>
<td>• Established in 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Serves 7 communities in 2</td>
<td>• Serves 14 communities in 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>counties</td>
<td>counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Treats drinking water for</td>
<td>• Electric Service Area: 662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Modesto</td>
<td>square-miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Electric Service Area: 560</td>
<td>• Electric Accounts: 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>square-miles</td>
<td>square-miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Electric Accounts: 111,000</td>
<td>• Irrigation Service Area: 307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Irrigation Service Area: 156</td>
<td>square-miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>square-miles</td>
<td>• Irrigated acres: 150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Irrigated acres: 60,000</td>
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Purpose of FERC Relicensing

- Obtain new license for operation of Project
  - New License term can range from 30-50 years

- Include interested parties in process

- Examines uses of Project
  - Power generation
  - Other uses of multi-purpose project (irrigation and municipal water supply, recreation, flood control)
  - Natural resource management
    - Major issue: water releases for instream purposes below the dam
      - Species of concern: Steelhead & Fall-run Chinook
Scope of Relicensing

- Congress passed the Federal Power Act (FPA) in 1920. Several amendments have since occurred.
- FERC is mandated by Congress to issue licenses authorizing projects which are:

  "best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or developing a waterway for the...benefit of interstate commerce,... waterpower,... protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife..., and other beneficial public uses, including irrigation, flood control, water supply and recreational purposes..."
**FERC Relicensing Process**

- **Integrated Licensing Process (ILP)**
- **Multi-year process leading up to License Application**
- **Participants include**
  - Federal, State and Local Governmental Agencies
  - Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
  - Public Citizens
  - Tribal Groups
Steps During Relicensing

- Compile relevant information about Project
- Identify known and potential resource effects
  - Operation and Maintenance of Project
  - Natural Resources
- Conduct studies
- Evaluate impacts
- Determine project operation for next license term
Why It is Called the “Integrated” Licensing Process

- Comprehensive approach
- Integrates FERC’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Power Act (FPA) responsibilities
- Integrates other related processes
  - Endangered Species Act
  - National Historic Preservation Act
  - Clean Water Act (by State Water Resources Control Board)
  - Magnuson-Stevens Act (fisheries act)
Relicensing Process Schedule

- **2010** – Information from interested parties
  - Available and relevant information for relicensing

- **February 2011** –
  Notice of Intent and Pre-Application Document (PAD) Filed
  - General informational document
  - Followed by 120 day comment period

- **June through December 2011** –
  Study Plan Development
  - Feedback and revision period

- **2012 and 2013** – Executions of Studies

- **Early 2014** – License Application Filed
Public Involvement Opportunities

2010  Initial Informational Meeting; Relicensing Website
2011  Relicensing Participants Meetings (Feb 28, Apr 1, Apr 19-21)
      4 Resource Work Groups formed
      Early May:
      • Public Scoping Meetings (May 11) and Site Visit (May 10)
      Circa Mid-July and Early December:
      • Comment on Proposed Studies
2012/2013 Study Report Meetings
      Comment on Draft License Application
2014  Circa June:
      • Comment on Final License Application
2016  New License Issued
Questions?

• **Contact Information**
  - FERC
    - Website: [http://www.ferc.gov/](http://www.ferc.gov/)
    - Don Pedro Project Relicensing: james.hastreiter@ferc.gov
  - Modesto Irrigation District – Public Relations
    - Melissa Williams: melissaw@mid.org
  - Turlock Irrigation District – Public Relations
    - Michelle Reimers: mareimers@tid.org

• **Relicensing website:**