
Kilarc-Cow Creek Hydroelectric Project Decommissioning FERC Project No. 606

Public Meetings

November 7th and 8th, 2007



Introductions and Meeting Process

- Introductions
- Housekeeping
- Safety
- Ground Rules

Objectives for Meeting

- Provide background on decommissioning process
- Summarize Preliminary Proposed Decommissioning Plan (PPDP)
- Respond to public comments received on PPDP
- Review License Surrender Application process
- Public involvement process
- Public comment

Background

- PG&E initially sought to renew license to operate, filed Notice of Intent (NOI) to relicense (2002)
- After relicensing studies and consultation with resource agencies and NGOs, PG&E decided not to relicense
- PG&E entered into a Project Agreement with resource agencies and NGOs to implement decommissioning
- Once the license application filing deadline passed (March 2005), PG&E lost the right to relicense this Project now or in the future

Background

- FERC issued public notice March 2005 inviting others to seek a license for this project
- One NOI was filed, but no timely license application was filed by the December 2006 deadline
- FERC ordered PG&E to develop a decommissioning plan and file a License Surrender Application by March 2009

Background

- PG&E held a series of public meetings and a site visit starting on March 27, 2007 to begin the decommissioning process
- PG&E released a Preliminary Proposed Decommissioning Plan September 12, 2007 and requested comments from interested parties by October 12, 2007
- 24 comment letters/emails were received on the Preliminary Proposed Decommissioning Plan

Reponses to Comments Received

- Briefly review PPDP
- Overview of comment themes
- Response to comment table

Availability of Plan, Comments and Responses

The Preliminary Proposed Decommissioning Plan, public and agency comment letters, and PG&E's responses are posted on the Project website:

<http://www.kilarccowcreek.com/>

Summary of Preliminary Proposed Decommissioning Plan

Most facilities are proposed for removal

- **Diversion dams**
 - Remove to stop water diversion and allow free passage of fish
 - Abutments may be left in place to protect stream banks
- **Powerhouses**
 - Buildings may be left in place (long-term disposition to be determined)
 - Electric generators, turbines and other equipment removed
- **Forebays** – graded and filled
- **Canals** – portions left in place and breached, others filled, and flumes removed

Public Comment Themes

- Continued operation of the Project
- National Environmental Policy Act compliance
- Resource information needs
- Kilarc Forebay operation as a recreation facility
- Discontinuation of releases to Hooten Gulch
- Potential effects on ground water wells
- Disposition of Project water rights

Continued Operation of the Project

- Federal Power Act prohibits PG&E from obtaining a new license to operate the Project
- PG&E must file a Surrender Application by March 2009 as ordered by FERC
- A Surrender Application does not evaluate alternatives to decommissioning, including continued operation of the Project
- PG&E cannot authorize continued operation of the Project
- Only FERC can authorize the continued operation of the Project (in a separate proceeding)

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

- FERC is responsible for the NEPA process
- PG&E will provide FERC the information needed for environmental analysis in the Surrender Application
- FERC will conduct its environmental analysis after PG&E files the Surrender Application
- NEPA alternatives will include disposition of the facilities, but will not include operational alternatives to decommissioning
- Based on its environmental analysis, FERC will issue an order to PG&E regarding PG&E's Surrender Application

Resource Information Needs

- FERC requires information on environmental resources that are affected by the decommissioning of the Project
- PG&E will provide the resource information that FERC needs to assess environmental effects of decommissioning the Project
- PG&E is posting the following information on the website
 - Aquatic resources
 - Wildlife resources
 - Botanical resources
 - Recreation resources
- Additional information will be collected to address specific questions related to the proposed decommissioning

Resource Information Needs

- Sediment assessment behind impoundments
- Historical properties assessment for Project facilities
- Archeological investigations for areas that may be affected by decommissioning activities
- Rare plant surveys along new access routes for decommissioning activities
- Assessment of potential effects on surface waters and on groundwater wells

Kilarc Forebay Operation as a Recreation Facility

- Kilarc Forebay will not be operated as a recreational facility by PG&E
- PG&E is willing to meet with potentially interested parties to discuss information and interests
- Issues that need to be addressed by a prospective recreational operator would include:
 - Assume liability for future operation and maintenance as a recreation facility
 - Procure water rights for recreation
 - Upgrade diversion structure to current standards
 - Obtain land rights or easements for public access and facilities
 - Obtain FERC approval

Discontinuation of Releases to Hooten Gulch

- Several private parties have expressed concern that decommissioning project facilities will discontinue water delivery to Hooten Gulch.
- PG&E is not obligated to continue providing benefits to those who have benefited in the past from Project operations.
- However, PG&E has offered to work collaboratively with these parties to address these issues.

Potential Effects on Surface Water and Groundwater Wells

- Several property owners are concerned that the removal of Kilarc Forebay may adversely affect the operations of groundwater wells used for domestic use.
- PG&E will evaluate the potential for the removal of Kilarc Forebay to adversely affect surface waters or groundwater wells.

Disposition of Water Rights

- Concern has been expressed over the abandonment of PG&E's water rights.
- PG&E believes abandoning our water rights will most effectively meet the objectives of the Project Agreement without reopening the adjudication.
- PG&E will meet with resource agencies to discuss this issue.

FERC Requirements for Surrender Application

- Project description (Decommissioning Plan) for decommissioning activities and disposition of facilities, project lands, and water rights
- Schedule for decommissioning actions
- Describe environmental resources and effects of proposed actions

Schedule for Developing License Surrender Application

- Develop Draft License Surrender Application including a revised Decommissioning Plan (August 2008)
- Public comment period (August – October 2008)
- Final License Surrender Application filed with FERC (March 2009)

FERC Actions After Filing Timeline

- FERC prepares Environmental Assessment (NEPA) 1 to 2 years (2009 to 2011)
- FERC issues Order to develop detailed plans
 - PG&E prepares and files engineering removal plan and site restoration plan (6 – 12 months)
 - FERC Orders PG&E to discontinue generation and decommission Project
- PG&E Decommissions Project (2010 to 2013)
 - Follow-up monitoring (2012 to 2015)

Public Involvement Process

- There will be an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft License Surrender Application (August 2008)
- PG&E plans to hold future meetings to update the public as additional information becomes available (a spring meeting is anticipated)
- PG&E is open to sharing information with any entity that is interested in operating the project for recreation or environmental purposes

Public Comment
