



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Celeste Miller - 202.502.8680

FERC Issues First Hydroelectric License Using Integrated Licensing Process

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) today issued its first hydroelectric license using the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), which provides a more streamlined and efficient means of obtaining a license.

The process coordinates FERC's work with that of other federal and state agencies, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations and the public. Today's license was issued within one year of the application being filed with FERC.

"The timeliness of today's decision proves the effectiveness of the new Integrated Licensing Process," Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher said. "I commend all the parties involved for their commitment to the process."

The 40-year license was issued to PPL Montana for its 11.25 megawatt (MW) Mystic Lake Project on West Rosebud Creek near Fishtail, Mont., by delegation authority of the director of FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

To enhance public recreation opportunities, the license requires the construction of public recreation facilities near the project as well as enhanced flows for whitewater boating. The license also requires the installation of new shutoff and minimum-flow valves to improve minimum flow reliability which would protect fish in the project's bypassed reach. Other requirements would protect, mitigate and enhance water quality, fisheries, wildlife and cultural resources at the project.

FERC codified its ILP in July 2003. The process is intended to make hydro licensing more efficient and predictable and to reduce the costs associated with licensing. The ILP specifically is aimed at improving coordination among FERC and other agencies, including the concurrent preparation of environmental documents. It also is aimed at streamlining dispute resolution and expanding opportunities for public participation in pre-filing consultation.

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