

resources (HR) policies play a role in decision making.

Ross Santy,

Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2026–20975 Filed 10–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings

Take notice that the Commission received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

Filings Instituting Proceedings

Docket Numbers: RP27–24–000.

Applicants: Shell Energy North America (U.S.), L.P., Constellation Energy Generation, LLC.

Description: Joint Petition for Limited Waiver of Capacity Release Regulations, et al. and Request for Expedited Action of Shell Energy North America (US), L.P., et al.

Filed Date: 10/7/26.

Accession Number: 20261007–5160.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/19/26.

Docket Numbers: RP27–25–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 10.8.26 Negotiated Rates—Freeport Commodities LLC R–7250–53 to be effective 11/1/2026.

Filed Date: 10/8/26.

Accession Number: 20261008–5057.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/20/26.

Docket Numbers: RP27–26–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 10.8.26 Negotiated Rates—Freeport Commodities LLC R–7250–54 to be effective 11/1/2026.

Filed Date: 10/8/26.

Accession Number: 20261008–5059.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/20/26.

Docket Numbers: RP27–27–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 10.8.26 Negotiated Rates—Freeport Commodities LLC R–7250–55 to be effective 11/1/2026.

Filed Date: 10/8/26.

Accession Number: 20261008–5060.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 10/20/26.

Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission's Regulations (18

CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercensearch.asp>) by querying the docket number.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

Dated: October 8, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–20959 Filed 10–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 10441–020]

City of Aspen; Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Maroon Creek Hydroelectric Project

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* Subsequent Minor License.

b. *Project No.:* 10441–020.

c. *Date Filed:* April 8, 2025.

d. *Applicant:* City of Aspen.

e. *Name of Project:* Maroon Creek Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On Maroon Creek near the city of Aspen in Pitkin County, Colorado. The project occupies 0.575 acres of land managed by the U.S. Forest Service in the White River National Forest.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)–825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Phil Overeynder, Utility Director, 427 Rio Grande Place, Aspen, CO 81611, (970) 920–5000, phil.overeynder@aspen.gov.

i. *FERC Contact:* Jane Dalglish, Coordinator, West Branch, Division of

Hydropower Licensing; (503) 552–2718; jane.dalglish@ferc.gov.

j. The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document that will discuss the environmental effects of relicensing the Maroon Creek Hydroelectric Project. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether to issue a new license for the project.

k. This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies regarding the project. This notice is intended to advise all participants as to the potential scope of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. Commission staff does not intend to issue a separate scoping document.

As part of the NEPA review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental effects that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a hydropower license. This gathering of public input is referred to as “scoping.” The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues.

l. *Scoping Comments:* By this notice, the Commission requests written public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on November 9, 2026.

Comments should focus on the potential environmental effects and reasonable alternatives. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written and oral comments during the preparation of the environmental document.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file scoping comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 10,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659

(TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: Maroon Creek Hydroelectric Project (P-10441-020).

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

m. The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

n. *Project Description:* The existing project consists of (a) a 10-foot-high, 40-foot-long reinforced concrete dam with a crest elevation of 8,245.75 feet mean sea level (the Maroon Creek diversion dam); (b) a small impoundment; (c) an intake structure at the dam; (d) a 39-inch-diameter, 5,563-foot-long buried reinforced concrete penstock; (e) a 27-inch-diameter, 1,317-foot-long buried reinforced concrete penstock together with a 110-foot section of steel penstock at the plant site; (f) a powerhouse with a 450-kilowatt (kW) turbine-generator unit; (g) a 200-foot-long trapezoidal open channel tailrace, returning the water to Maroon Creek; (h) 0.48-kilovolt (kV) generator leading to a three-phase, 0.48/24.9 kV step-up transformer; (i) an approximately 400-foot-long, 24.9 kV overhead power line tap connection to the Aspen Highlands circuit operated by Holy Cross Energy; and (j) appurtenant facilities.

The City of Aspen proposes the addition of up to 50 kW of generating capacity through two new small turbines, with two new attached generators placed at the existing diversion dam. These new units would generate power from the bypass flows released from the diversion dam without changing the timing or the amount of those releases. Flows utilized by new generation equipment would be returned to the same location on the stream immediately below the dam and headgate.

In addition, the City of Aspen proposes to continue implementing the following measures that are a part of the current license: (1) maintain a minimum flow of 6 cfs in the project's bypass reach, as measured immediately downstream from the confluence with Willow Creek, located a fourth of a mile downstream from the project's diversion dam, or maintain the natural flow in Maroon Creek downstream of the confluence with Willow Creek, whichever is less; (2) maintain streamflow gages to monitor minimum flow; (3) maintain the fish screening structure at the powerhouse intake; (4) use best management practices to minimize dust, noise, and traffic impacts to residents during delivery of equipment and construction; (5) revegetate any disturbed land surfaces; and (6) consult with Colorado Parks and Wildlife during the final design of the project.

o. A copy of the application, with details of the proposed project, can be viewed on the Commission's website at <https://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the project's docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document (P-10441-020). For assistance, contact FERC at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

p. NEPA Process and the Environmental Document: Any environmental document issued by the Commission will discuss effects that could occur as a result of the project's relicensing under the relevant general resource areas, such as:

- geology and soils;
- aquatic resources;
- terrestrial resources;
- threatened and endangered species;
- recreation, land use, and aesthetic resources;
- cultural resources; and
- developmental resources.

Commission staff will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid effects on the various resource areas. Your comments will help Commission staff identify and focus on the issues that might have an effect on the human environment and potentially eliminate others from further discussion in the environmental document.

Following this scoping period, Commission staff will determine whether to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EA or EIS will present Commission staff's

independent analysis of the issues. If Commission staff prepares an EA, a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment* will be issued. The EA may be issued for an allotted public comment period. The Commission would consider timely comments on the EA before making its decision regarding the proposed project. If Commission staff prepares an EIS, a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement* will be issued. Staff will then prepare a draft EIS which will be issued for public comment. Commission staff will consider all timely comments received during the comment period on the draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. Any EA or draft and final EIS will be available in electronic format in the public record through eLibrary. If eSubscribed, you will receive instant email notification when the environmental document is issued (see paragraph (s) of this notice for instructions on using eSubscription).

q. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

r. This notice is being distributed to the Commission's official mailing list for the project and any additional entities on the applicant's distribution list. You can access the Commission's official mailing list for this project at Mailing List/Recipients By State. If you want to receive future mailings for the project and are not included on the Commission's official mailing list, or if you wish to be removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. In lieu of an email request, you may submit a paper request. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: *Maroon Creek Hydroelectric Project No. 10441-020*.

Additionally, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription, which makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the

dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. Go to <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview> to register for eSubscription.

In addition to publishing the full text of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this notice, as well as other documents in the proceeding (e.g., license application) via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document (P-10441-020). For assistance, contact FERC at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: October 8, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026-20996 Filed 10-13-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 9709-070]

ECOsponsible, LLC; Notice of Termination of License (Major Project) by Implied Surrender and Soliciting Comments, Protests, and Motions To Intervene

Take notice that the following hydroelectric proceeding has been initiated by the Commission:

- a. *Application Type*: Termination of License by Implied Surrender.
- b. *Project No*: 9709-070.
- c. *Date Initiated*: October 8, 2026.
- d. *Licensee*: ECOsponsible, LLC.
- e. *Name of Project*: Herkimer Hydroelectric Project.
- f. *Location*: The Herkimer Hydroelectric Project is located on the West Canada Creek, Herkimer County, New York.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Standard Article 26.
- h. *Applicant Contact*: 469 Snyder Road, East Aurora NY 14052-9710.
- i. *FERC Contact*: David Rudisail, (202) 502-6376, david.rudisail@ferc.gov.
- j. *Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene and protests*: November 9, 2026.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket numbers P-9709-070. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

k. *Description of Project Facilities*: The project works include: a timber crib dam with a 9-foot-high, 95-foot-long section reaching a crest elevation of 420 feet mean sea level (msl) and 12-foot-high, 145-foot-long section reaching a crest elevation of 419.2 feet msl; a reservoir with a surface area of 19 acres, storage capacity of 163 acre-feet, and normal water surface elevation of 420.5 feet msl; timber flashboards; an intake structure; a reinforced concrete and steel powerhouse containing four generating units with a capacity of 400 kilowatts (kW) each and an 80-kW minimum flow generator at the base of the dam for a total installed capacity of 1,680 kW; a 50-foot-long, 13.2-kilovolt transmission line; and appurtenant facilities. The project has not been operated since 2006.

l. *Description of Proceeding*: License Article 26 states in part: *If the licensee shall abandon or discontinue good faith operation of the project or refuse or neglect to comply with the terms of the license and the lawful orders of the Commission mailed to the record address of the licensee or its agent, the Commission will deem it to be the intent of the licensee to surrender the license.*

The project has fallen into disrepair and has not operated since 2006. The project was transferred to ECOsponsible, LLC, by order dated March 12, 2015 (2015 Order). The 2015 Order required

the licensee to file a plan and schedule to restore project operation within 60 days. From June 2020 through October 2021, the Commission's Division of Dam Safety and Inspections New York Regional Office (NYRO) and Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance issued 12 letters requiring the licensee to file a plan and schedule to make the needed repairs and to restore project operation. The licensee responded over the years with at least five plans, but all plans were deficient because they lacked sufficient detail for NYRO's review and approval. On August 26, 2021, NYRO inspected the project and found it in unsatisfactory condition and largely abandoned. The licensee did not attend the inspection and ceased communication with the Commission. On November 8, 2021, the Commission issued a notice of Termination of License by Implied Surrender. Several parties filed interventions and protests in response, including an intervention from, Mr. Dennis Ryan, Jr., purportedly on behalf of ECOsponsible. In order to explain, in part, a lapse in communication with the Commission, Mr. Ryan, Jr. explained that ECOsponsible's "Founder, Management Committee Chairperson, and Treasurer Dennis Ryan, Sr. passed away suddenly." On March 31, 2022, Mr. Ryan, Jr., again purportedly acting on behalf of the existing licensee, ECOsponsible, filed a Notice of Intent to File an Application for a New License for the Herkimer project (NOI). On April 3, 2024, Commission staff rejected the NOI filed by Mr. Ryan, Jr., determining, among other things, that Mr. Ryan, Jr. was not authorized to do business on behalf of the licensee, ECOsponsible.¹ Also, on April 3, 2024, the Commission issued a notice Soliciting Notices of Intent to File a New License Application and Pre-Application Documents. Several entities, including Stone Ridge Hydro, LLC (Stone Ridge), filed responses indicating an interest in filing an application for the Herkimer Project. On March 21, 2025, Stone Ridge filed a final license application. On January 7, 2025, the Commission authorized Stone Ridge to use the Traditional Licensing Process to file an application to relicense the Herkimer project. On July 23, 2026, Stone Ridge withdrew its application for relicensing the Herkimer project. The withdrawal of the application became effective on August

¹ See also *ECOsponsible*, 188 FERC ¶ 61,061(2024) (Order addressing argument raised on rehearing).