

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20426

February 7, 2006

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OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 12478-000—Montana  
Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Project  
Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Company, LLC

Mr. Steve Marmon  
Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Company  
3633 Alderwood Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**Reference: Approval to use alternative procedures to prepare a license application**

Dear Mr. Marmon:

On December 28, 2005, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a notice of a request by the Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Company (GDHC) to use the alternative procedures for preparing and filing an application for a license for the Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Project (project) that would be located at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamations' Gibson Dam.<sup>1</sup> In support of the use of the alternative licensing procedures, GDHC demonstrated that it has made an effort to contact all resource agencies, Indian tribes, citizens groups, and others affected by the project and that a consensus exists that the use of alternative procedures is appropriate in this case. GDHC submitted a communications protocol that is supported by the interested entities. The Commission's notice requested any additional comments on GDHC's proposal to use alternative procedures, and we received one written response. In a letter filed on January 24, 2006, the U.S. Department of the Interior responded by stating that they received the Commission's notice and has no objections to using the alternative licensing process.

In light of the support shown for using an alternative licensing process, I

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<sup>1</sup> Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Company began first stage consultation on February 15, 2005, thus was not required to file a notification of intent to seek a license and pre-application document pursuant to 18 CFR §5.5.

believe that the use of the alternative licensing procedures would be appropriate in this case, because it would foster improved communications, participation, and cooperation among the participants and ultimately simplify and expedite the licensing process. Therefore, I am approving GDHC's request to follow the alternative procedures in accordance with the Commission's Regulations for Licensing Hydroelectric Projects at 18 CFR § 4.34(i).

If you have any questions, please contact David Turner at (202) 502-6091.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hill, Chief  
Hydro West Branch 1

cc: Mailing List  
Service List

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