

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20426  
**November 13, 2008**

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2305-020  
Toledo Bend Hydroelectric Project  
Sabine River Authority of Texas and  
Sabine River Authority, State of  
Louisiana

**Reference: Scoping of environmental issues for relicensing the Toledo Bend Hydroelectric Project**

To the Parties Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is reviewing the Pre-application Document (PAD) submitted to the Commission by Sabine River Authority of Texas and Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana (Sabine River Authorities) on September 22, 2008 for relicensing the Toledo Bend Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2305-020). The project is located on the Sabine River and occupies lands and waters in Panola, Shelby, Sabine, and Newton Counties, Texas, and De Soto, Sabine, and Vernon Parishes, Louisiana. The Sabine River Authorities will use the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) to relicense the project. Under the ILP, the Sabine River Authorities must file their preliminary licensing proposal or a draft license application for the continued operation of the project by June 2, 2011. The final license application must be filed with the Commission on or before September 30, 2011. The current license for the project expires on September 30, 2013.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Commission staff intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the project. The EIS would be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a new license. To support and assist our environmental review, we are conducting a scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed and that the EIS is thorough and balanced.

We invite your participation in the scoping process and are circulating the enclosed Scoping Document to provide you with information on the project and to solicit comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS. Please review this scoping document and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions included in section 5.0 *Request for Information and*

*Studies.* Besides our request for information in section 5.0 of the scoping document, the Commission's ILP regulations require that parties wishing to submit comments on the PAD or staff's scoping document, or wishing to request studies, do so within 60 days of the issuance date of the scoping document.<sup>1</sup>

As part of our scoping process and in an effort to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities associated with the proposed action, we will hold two scoping meetings on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, to receive input on the scope of the EIS. A daytime meeting focused on resource agencies, Indian tribes, and non-governmental organizations (NGO's), will begin at 1:30 p.m. An evening meeting, primarily for the public, will start at 7 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Cypress Bend Conference Center, 2000 Cypress Bend Parkway, Many, Louisiana, 71449, (877) 519-1500. The public, agencies, Indian tribes, and NGOs may attend either or both meetings. Further, the Sabine River Authorities and Commission staff will conduct a site visit (bus tour) of the project on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, starting at 8:00 a.m. Those wishing to participate should meet at the Cypress Bend Conference Center. To appropriately accommodate persons interested in attending the site tour, participants should contact Bambi Granger by **December 5, 2008** [e-mail, [bgranger@sratx.org](mailto:bgranger@sratx.org) or phone, (409) 746-2192]. More information about the scoping meetings and site visit is available in the scoping document.

The scoping document is being distributed to the Commission's official mailing list (see section 9.0). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written, electronic filings, or e-mailed requests must specify your wish to be removed or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: Toledo Bend Project No. 2305-020. For assistance with electronic filing or e-mail notification registration, please refer to the instructions in section 5.0 of the scoping document.

Please review the scoping document and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 5.0. The deadline for filing comments is **January 20, 2009**. Please direct any questions about the Toledo Bend Project relicensing to Alan Mitchnick at (202) 502-6074 or e-mail at [alan.mitchnick@ferc.gov](mailto:alan.mitchnick@ferc.gov); or Lesley Kordella at (202) 502-6406 or email at [lesley.kordella@ferc.gov](mailto:lesley.kordella@ferc.gov).

Enclosure: Scoping Document

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<sup>1</sup> CFR 18 Section 5.9 *Comments and information or study requests*

cc: Mailing List  
Public Files