

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 14850-000]

**Covington Mountain Hydro, LLC.; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications**

On July 3, 2017, the Covington Mountain Hydro, LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), proposing to study the feasibility of the Bison Peak Pumped Storage Project (Bison Peak Project or project) to be located in the Tehachapi Mountains south of Tehachapi, Kern County, California. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would be a closed-loop pumped storage project with an upper reservoir and the applicant has proposed three alternatives for the placement of a lower reservoir, termed South, Law, and Horsethief. Water for the initial fill of either of the alternatives would be obtained from local water agency infrastructure via a route that would be identified during studies.

A 35-foot ring dam and a perimeter of 4,900 feet would form the project's upper reservoir. The upper reservoir would have a total storage capacity of 1,300 acre-feet and a surface area of 20 acres at an elevation of 7,890 feet mean sea level (msl). The upper reservoir would be connected to one of the three proposed lower reservoir alternatives as described below.

The South lower reservoir alternative would consist of the following: (1) The upper reservoir; (2) a 19-acre lower reservoir at 4,920 feet msl created by a dam with a crest height of 160 feet, crest length of 610 feet, and a storage capacity of 1,300 acre-feet; (3) a 9.1-foot diameter, 9,700-foot-long penstock from the upper reservoir that bifurcates creating an additional 6.5-foot diameter, 700-foot-long penstock; (4) an underground powerhouse with three 120-megawatt (MW) reversible pump-

turbines and a surface powerhouse with a single 120-MW Pelton turbine; (5) an intake/tailrace facility; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the South lower reservoir alternative would be about 1,051 gigawatt-hours.

The Law lower reservoir alternative would consist of the following: (1) The upper reservoir; (2) a 19-acre lower reservoir at 5,370 feet msl created by a dam with a crest height of 145 feet, crest length of 750 feet, and a storage capacity of 1,300 acre-feet; (3) a 9.5-foot diameter, 9,900-foot-long penstock from the upper reservoir that bifurcates creating an additional 6.7-foot diameter, 1,300-foot-long penstock; (4) an underground powerhouse with three 110-MW reversible pump-turbines and a surface powerhouse with a single 110-MW Pelton turbine; (5) an intake/tailrace facility; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Law lower reservoir alternative would be about 963 gigawatt-hours.

The Horsethief lower reservoir alternative would consist of the following: (1) The upper reservoir; (2) a 18-acre lower reservoir at 5,940 feet msl created by a dam with a crest height of 150 feet, crest length of 750 feet, and a storage capacity of 1,300 acre-feet; (3) a 9.5-foot-diameter, 9,000-foot-long penstock from the upper reservoir; (4) a mostly underground powerhouse with two 180-MW reversible pump-turbines; (5) an intake/tailrace facility; and (6) appurtenant facilities. The estimated annual generation of the Horsethief lower reservoir alternative would be about 788.4 gigawatt-hours.

All alternatives would include a 220-kilovolt transmission line with a length of 10 to 12 miles.

*Applicant Contact:* Matthew Shapiro, Covington Mountain Hydro, LLC., 1210 West Franklin St., #2, Boise, ID 83702; phone: (208) 246-9925.

*FERC Contact:* Jim Fargo; phone: (202) 502-6095.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at [http://](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp)

[www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp](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](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-14850-000.

More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed or printed on the eLibrary link of Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Enter the docket number (P-14850) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Dated: January 4, 2018.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2018-00282 Filed 1-9-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-9972-88-ORD]

**Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting Dates and Agenda**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of teleconference and face-to-face meetings.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) holds teleconference meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. ET and two face-to-face meetings each calendar year. For 2018, teleconference only meetings will be February 21; March 21; April 18; May 16; June 20; July 18; September 19; October 17; November 21; and December 19 to discuss the ideas and views presented at the previous ELAB meetings, as well as new business. Items to be discussed by ELAB over these coming meetings include: (1) Issues in continuing the expansion of national environmental

accreditation; (2) ELAB support to the Agency on issues relating to measurement and monitoring for all programs; and (3) follow-up on some of ELAB's past recommendations and issues. In addition to these teleconferences, ELAB will be hosting their two face-to-face meetings with teleconference line also available on January 22, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque, NM at 1:00 p.m. (MT) (due to unforeseen administrative circumstances, EPA is announcing this meeting with less than 15 calendar days' notice) and on August 6, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, LA at 1:00 p.m. (CT). Written comments on laboratory accreditation issues and/or environmental monitoring or measurement issues are encouraged and should be sent to Ms. Lara P. Phelps, Designated Federal Official, US EPA (E243-05), 109 T. W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 or emailed to [phelps.lara@epa.gov](mailto:phelps.lara@epa.gov). Members of the public are invited to listen to the teleconference calls, and time permitting, will be allowed to comment on issues discussed during this and previous ELAB meetings. Those persons interested in participating in ELAB teleconference meetings should call Lara P. Phelps at (919) 541-5544 to obtain teleconference information. For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Lara P. Phelps at the number above, preferably at least 10 days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

Dated: December 28, 2017.

**Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta,**

*Science Advisor, Office of the Science Advisor.*

[FR Doc. 2018-00284 Filed 1-9-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

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## FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

### Sunshine Act Meeting; Farm Credit Administration Board

**AGENCY:** Farm Credit Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice, regular meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Government in the Sunshine Act, of the regular meeting of the Farm Credit Administration Board (Board).

**DATES:** The regular meeting of the Board will be held at the offices of the Farm Credit Administration in McLean, Virginia, on January 11, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. until such time as the Board concludes its business.

**ADDRESSES:** Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090. Submit attendance requests via email to [VisitorRequest@FCA.gov](mailto:VisitorRequest@FCA.gov). See

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for further information about attendance requests.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dale L. Aultman, Secretary to the Farm Credit Administration Board, (703) 883-4009, TTY (703) 883-4056, [aultmand@fca.gov](mailto:aultmand@fca.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Parts of this meeting of the Board will be open to the public (limited space available) and parts will be closed to the public. Please send an email to [VisitorRequest@FCA.gov](mailto:VisitorRequest@FCA.gov) at least 24 hours before the meeting. In your email include: Name, postal address, entity you are representing (if applicable), and telephone number. You will receive an email confirmation from us. Please be prepared to show a photo identification when you arrive. If you need assistance for accessibility reasons, or if you have any questions, contact Dale L. Aultman, Secretary to the Farm Credit Administration Board, at (703) 883-4009. The matters to be considered at the meeting are:

#### Open Session

##### A. Approval of Minutes

- December 14, 2017

##### B. Report

- Auditor's Report on FCA FY 2017/2016 Financial Statements

#### Closed Session \*

- Executive Meeting With Auditors

Dated: January 8, 2018.

**Dale L. Aultman,**

*Secretary, Farm Credit Administration Board.*

[FR Doc. 2018-00337 Filed 1-8-18; 11:15 am]

**BILLING CODE 6705-01-P**

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 17-1227]

### Media Bureau Freezes the Filing of Minor Change Applications for LPTV/Translator Stations

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces a freeze on the filing of minor change applications by low power television and TV translator stations.

\* Session Closed-Exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2).

**DATES:** This filing limitation became effective on December 20, 2017.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shaun Maher, Video Division, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, [Shaun.Maher@fcc.gov](mailto:Shaun.Maher@fcc.gov), (202) 418-2324.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Effective immediately, the Media Bureau announces a freeze on the filing of applications for minor change applications for low power television (LPTV) and TV translator stations. The incentive auction is being conducted pursuant to Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. It includes a "reverse auction" and reorganization or "repacking" of the broadcast television bands in order to free up a portion of the ultra-high frequency band for new flexible uses. The facilities of LPTV and TV translator stations are not protected during repacking. "Operating" LPTV and TV translator stations displaced by repacking will be permitted to file displacement applications in a special window to be opened following the completion of the auction. "Operating" stations are defined as those that have licensed their authorized construction permit facilities or have an application for a license to cover on file with the Commission on the release date of the incentive auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice.

To facilitate the special window for displaced LPTV and TV translator stations and to protect the opportunity for LPTV and TV translator stations displaced by the repacking of the television bands to obtain a new channel in the special window from the limited number of channels likely to be available for application after repacking, the Media Bureau deems it appropriate to freeze the acceptance of minor change applications at this time. The Media Bureau will continue to process pending minor change applications. Following completion of the special window for displaced LPTV/translator stations, the Media Bureau will announce when it will again begin accepting minor change applications.

The Media Bureau will consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests for waiver of the filing limitation imposed by this Public Notice when a minor change application is necessary or otherwise in the public interest for technical or other reasons to maintain quality service to the public. As with any request for waiver of our rules, such a request will be granted only on a showing of good cause and when grant of the waiver will serve the public interest.