

contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

Dated: March 26, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2715-026]

**Kaukauna Utilities; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment**

On July 22, 2022, Kaukana Utilities (Kaukauna) filed a relicense application for the 6.2-megawatt Combined Locks Hydroelectric Project No. 2715 (project). The project is located on the Lower Fox River in the Village of Combined Locks and the Village of Little Chute, Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, on January 16, 2024, Commission staff issued a notice that the project was ready for environmental analysis (REA Notice). Based on the information in the record, including comments filed on the REA Notice, staff does not anticipate that licensing the project would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the application to relicense the project.

The EA will be issued and circulated for review by all interested parties. All comments filed on the EA will be analyzed by staff and considered in the Commission's final licensing decision.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target date
Commission issues EA .....	August 2024. <sup>1</sup>

Milestone	Target date
Comments on EA .....	October 2024.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Kelly Wolcott at (202) 502-6480 or *kelly.wolcott@ferc.gov*.

Dated: March 26, 2024.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP24-60-000]

**Northern Natural Gas; Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project**

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document, that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Northern Lights 2025 Expansion Project involving construction and operation of facilities by Northern Natural Gas (Northern) in Freeborn, Houston, and Washington Counties, Minnesota, and Monroe County, Wisconsin. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

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. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. 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.

<sup>1</sup> The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations under 40 CFR 1501.10(b)(1) (2023) require that EAs be completed within 1 year of the Federal action agency's decision to prepare an EA. See National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, as amended by section 107(g)(1)(B)(iii) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, Public Law 118-5, section 4336a, 137 Stat. 42.

Additional information about the Commission's NEPA process is described below in the *NEPA Process and Environmental Document* section of this notice.

By this notice, the Commission requests 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 on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 25, 2024. Comments may be submitted in written form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the *Public Participation* section of this notice.

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

If you submitted comments on this project to the Commission before the opening of this docket on February 16, 2024, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP24-60-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, the Natural Gas Act conveys the right of eminent domain to the company. Therefore, if you and the company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law. The Commission does not subsequently grant, exercise, or oversee the exercise of that eminent domain authority. The courts have exclusive authority to handle eminent domain cases; the