

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)




Scoping Meetings for the Otter Tail River Hydroelectric Project

August 30 & 31, 2016

Housekeeping Items

- Sign-up sheets
- Court Reporter (independent party)
 - Transcripts
 - Will be available and made part of public record.
 - Speakers
 - Please state name and affiliation, spell out name and acronyms.
 - Everyone who wishes to speak will have an opportunity to do so.
 - Please speak clearly and one at a time.

Agenda

1. Who is FERC?
2. Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) overview
3. Purposes of scoping
4. Request for information and studies
5. Presentation by *Otter Tail Power* 
6. Resource issues identified in scoping document (SD1)
7. Important dates
8. How to stay informed
9. Final comments/questions



About FERC



- Independent federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity. FERC also regulates natural gas and *hydropower projects*.
- 5 (currently 4) FERC Commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate (President appoints the Chairman).
- FERC is supported by a staff of about 1,500 employees.

About FERC (cont.)



- Office of Energy Projects (340 employees)
 - *Division of Hydropower Licensing*
 - Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance
 - Division of Dam Safety and Inspections
- FERC's authority derives from the Federal Power Act (FPA)
 - “balancing act”
- Licenses are issued for a term of 30 to 50 years
- Approximately 2,600 licensed or exempted FERC projects



Midwest Branch has 12 employees
(including branch chief)

FERC's Hydropower Jurisdiction

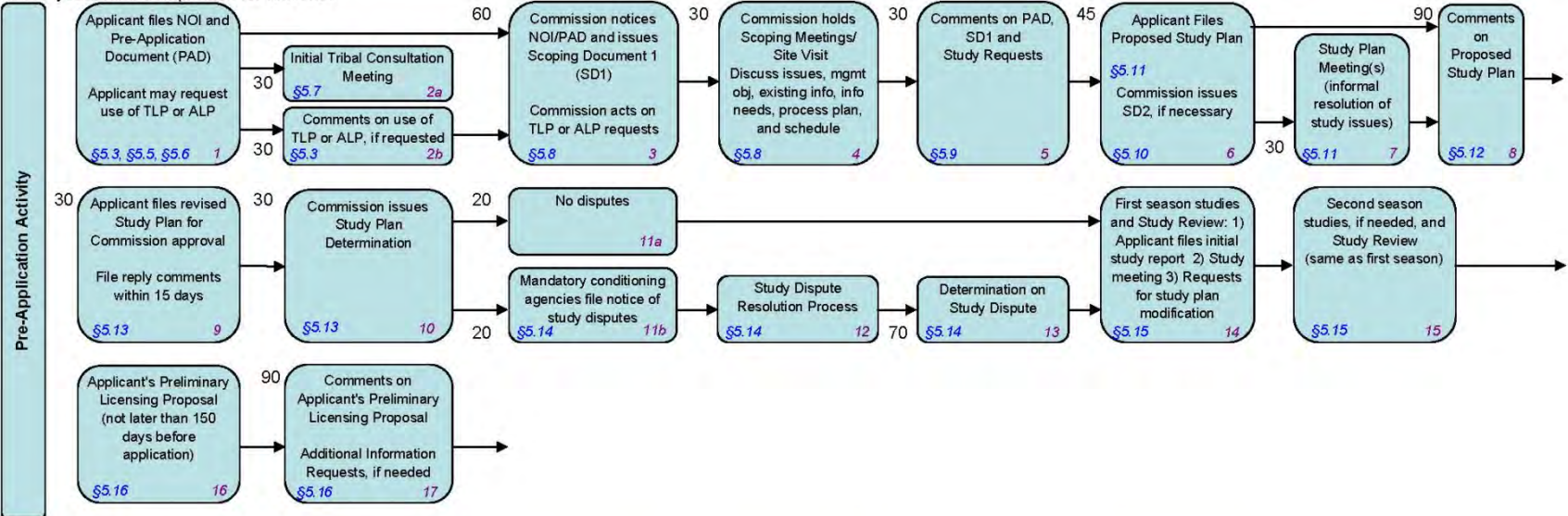
- Non-Federal hydro projects are subject to FERC jurisdiction and required to be licensed, if:
 - a) Located on navigable waters of the US.
 - b) Located on public lands or reservations of the US.
 - c) Project utilizes surplus water or waterpower from a Federal dam.
 - d) Affects interstate or foreign commerce.

The Integrated Licensing Process (ILP)

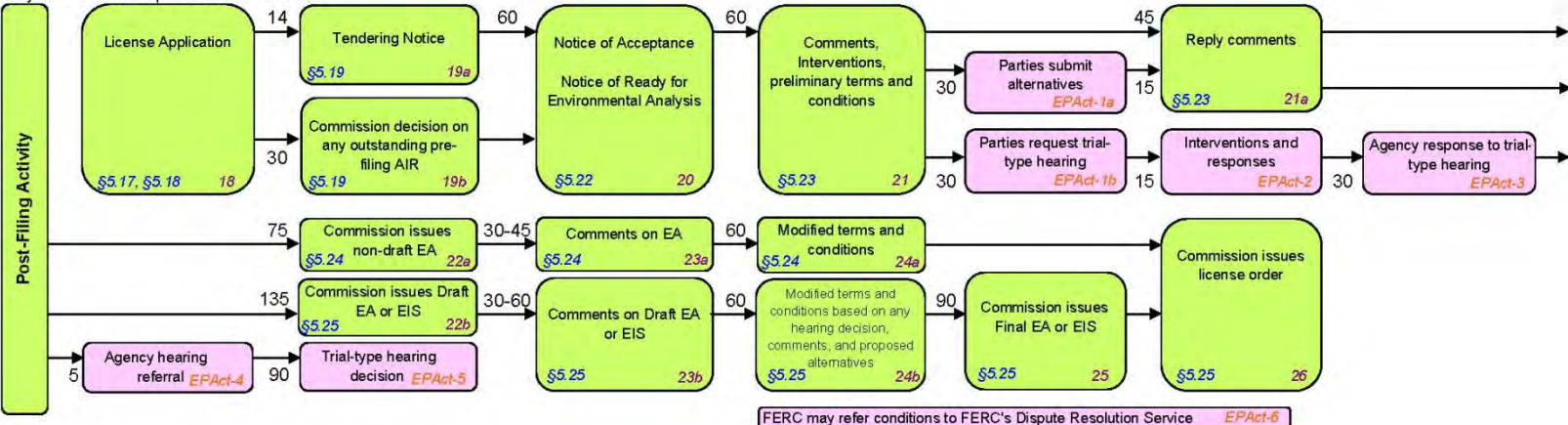
- Became the default licensing process in 2005
- Founded on three fundamental principles:
 - 1) Early identification and resolution of studies
 - 2) Integrate agency and tribal permitting process needs, including NEPA, the applicant's pre-filing consultation, and federal and state permitting needs (e.g., section 401 CWA, ESA)
 - 3) Established timeframes to complete process steps

Integrated Licensing Process

5.5-5 years before expiration for relicense



2 years before expiration for relicense



Project License

- Integrated Licensing Process (ILP)

<u>Pre-filing</u> (3 – 4 years)	<u>Post-filing</u> (~1.5 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consult with interested parties on issues and studies• Gather information• Conduct studies• Prepare license application	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek comments from interested parties• Prepare EA or EIS and seek comments• Weigh all information in record before Commission decision

Initial Steps (Pre-filing)



Purpose of the PAD

- Brings together all existing, relevant, and reasonably available information
- Provides basis for identifying issues, data gaps, and study needs
- Forms the foundation of future documents
- Sets the schedule for the ILP

Scoping Meetings and Public Comments (Pre-filing)



Purposes of Scoping?

- To solicit public input and comments on the scoping document (SD1).
- Identify the issues associated with the proposed project.
- Discuss existing conditions and potential information needs.

Purposes of Scoping? (cont.)

- *We are here to solicit public input on the SD1:*
 - What are the resource issues? (i.e., Did we get it right in SD1 or are we missing something?)
 - Is there any info you can provide on potentially affected resources that we don't have and would help us?

Purposes of Scoping? (cont.)

- *We are here to solicit public input on the SD1:*
 - Are there issues listed in SD1 that don't need to be considered?
 - We also want to know about any cumulative effects or alternatives that should be analyzed and whether or not our geographic scope is adequate.
 - Comments on SD1 are due 10/1/2016

Study Plan Development (Pre-filing)



Request for Information and Studies

- Information that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis and identify substantial environmental issues.
- Any data that would help to describe the existing environment and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources.

Request for Information and Studies (cont.)

- Identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans and any future project proposals in the affected resource area.
- Documentation showing why any resources or identified issues should be excluded from further study or consideration
- Study requests that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resources potentially affected by the project.

Study Request Criteria

(Appendix A of SD1)

- Describe goals and objectives of study proposal.
- Explain relevant resource management goals.
- Explain relevant public interest considerations.
- Describe existing information and need for additional information.

Study Request Criteria (cont.)

(Appendix A of SD1)

- Explain nexus between project operations and effects and how study results would inform the development of license requirements.
- Describe methodology and how it's consistent with accepted practice.
- Describe consideration of level of effort and cost of study and why alternative study is needed.

Request for Information and Studies

- Comments on SD1 and study requests are due on 10/1/2016
- Clearly identify the following on the first page:
Otter Tail River Hydroelectric Project No. 10853
- Can be filed electronically via the internet or by mail
- Address all communications to:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426



Conduct Studies & Prepare Application (Pre-filing)



Presentation by Otter Tail Power



Otter Tail River Hydroelectric Project



HYDRO ELECTRIC STATION RELICENSING

August 2016

OTTER TAIL RELICENSING TEAM

- Mike Olson – Project Manager
- Bill Swanson – Manager Supply Engineering
- Mark Bring – Associate General Counsel
- Sarah Casey – Public Relations

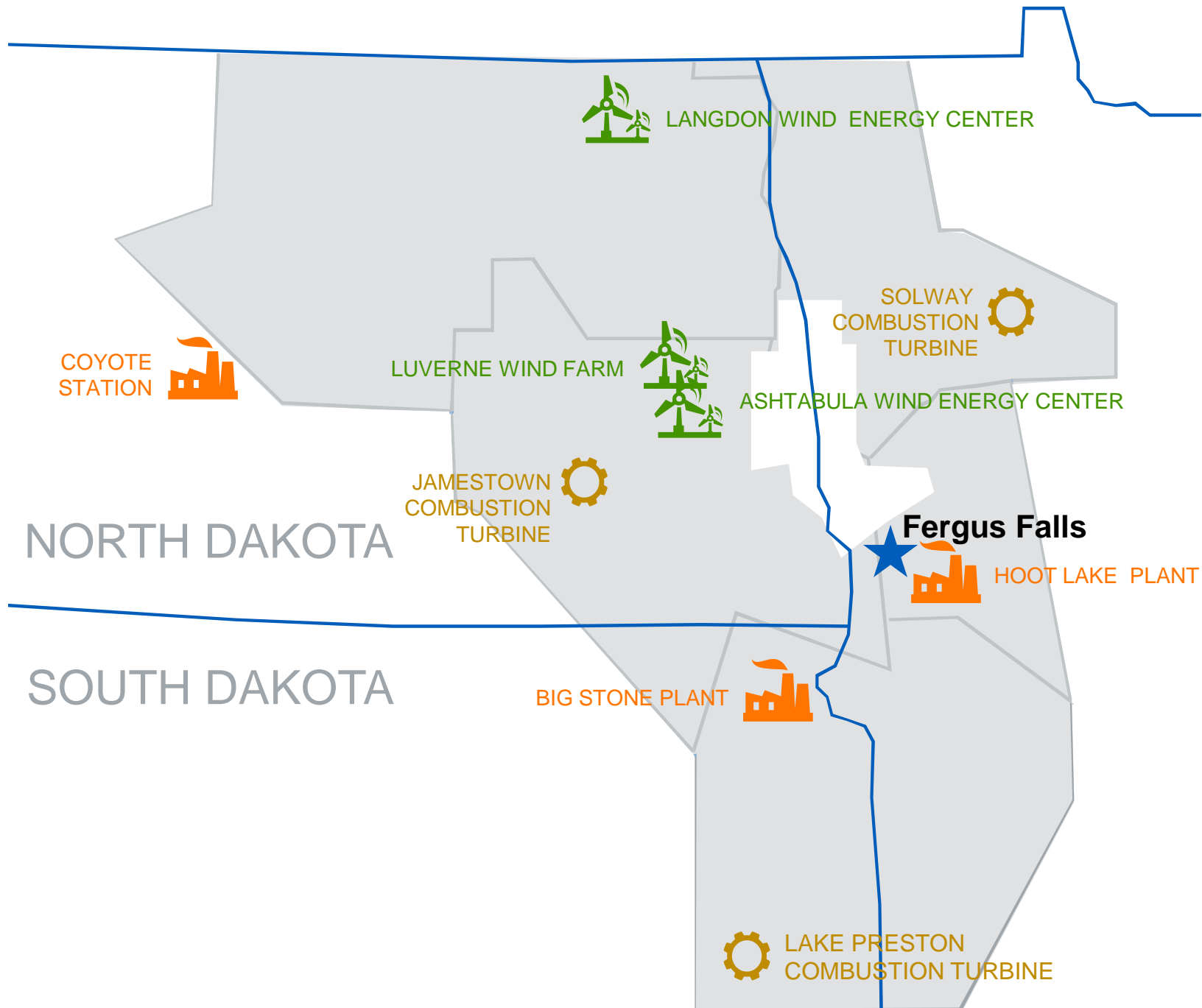
Randy Dorman – Kleinschmidt Associates

AGENDA

1. About us
2. Project overview
3. Project website

ABOUT US

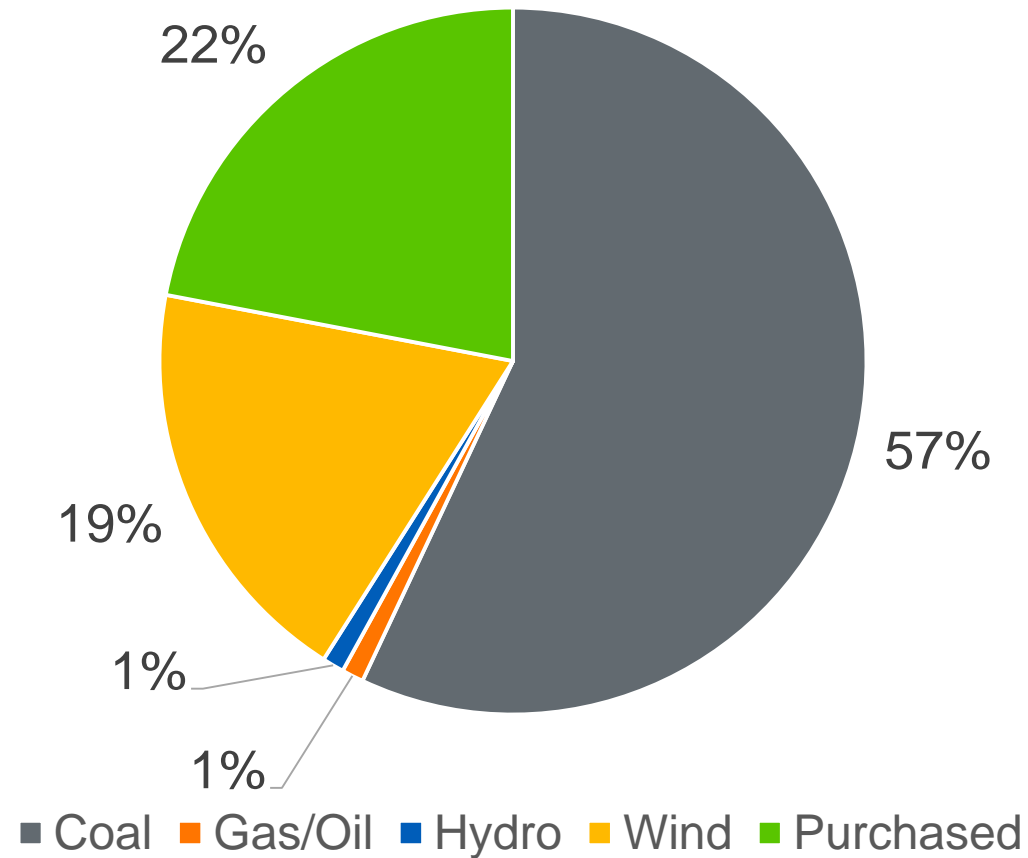




SERVICE AREA

- 70,000 Square miles
- 131,200 Customers
- 422 Communities
- Avg population about 400
- 785 Employees
 - 495 Minnesota
 - 200 North Dakota
 - 90 South Dakota
- About 800 MW owned generation
- About 245 MW wind Generation
- About 5,600 miles of transmission lines

TYPICAL ENERGY RESOURCE MIX



OUR GOAL

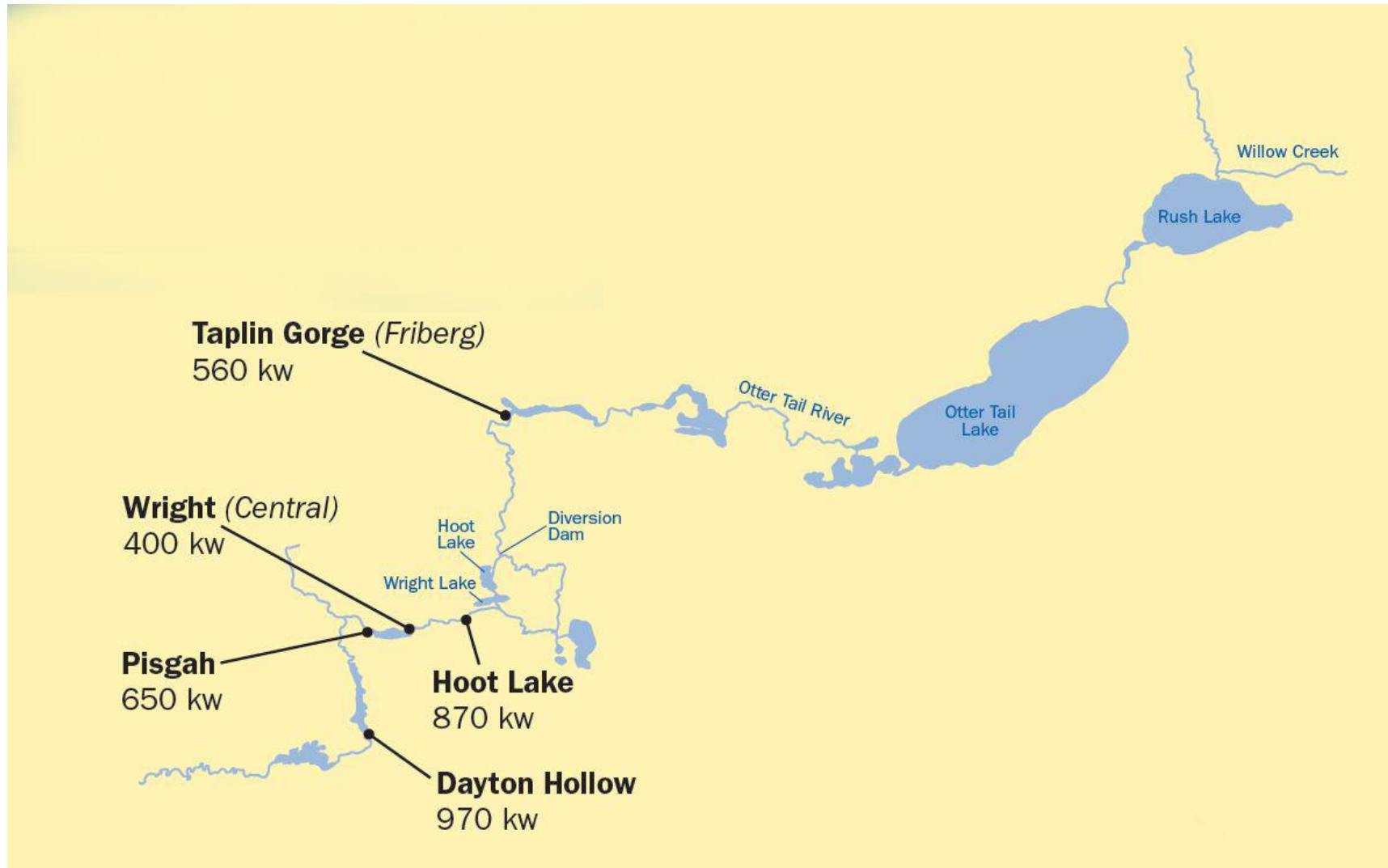


Balance.

PROJECT OVERVIEW



STATION LOCATIONS



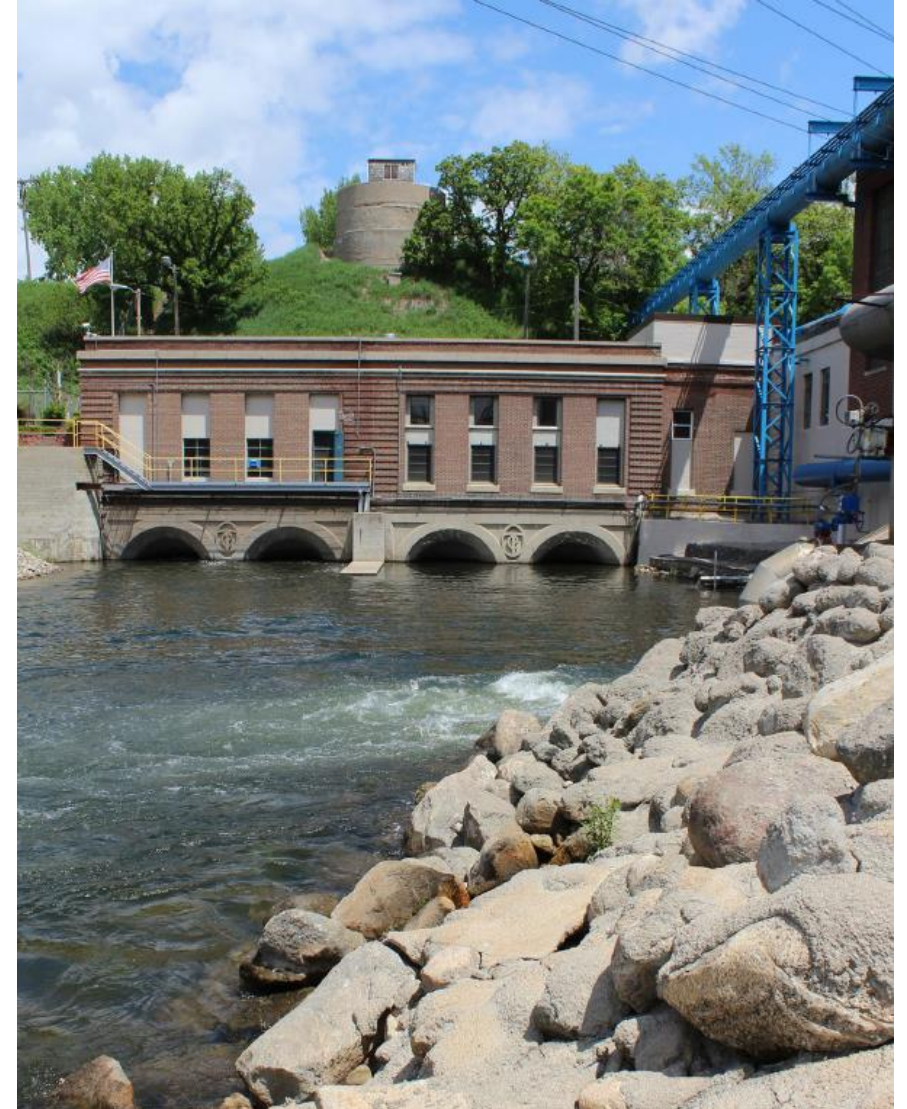
TAPLIN GORGE (FRIBERG)

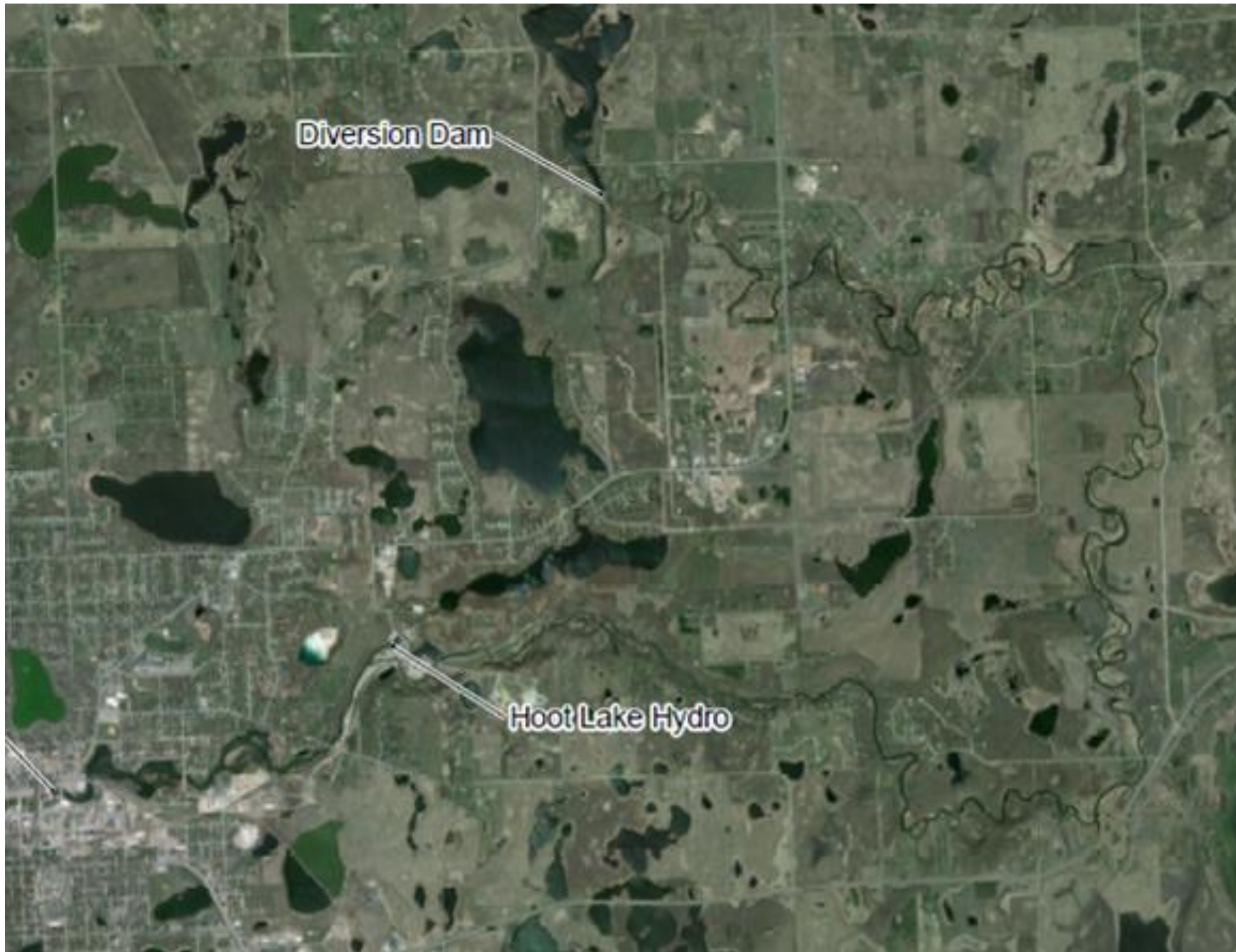
- Capacity: 560 kilowatts
- Age: Online since 1925
- Reservoir elevation: 1,299 feet msl



HOOT LAKE (INCLUDES DIVERSION DAM)

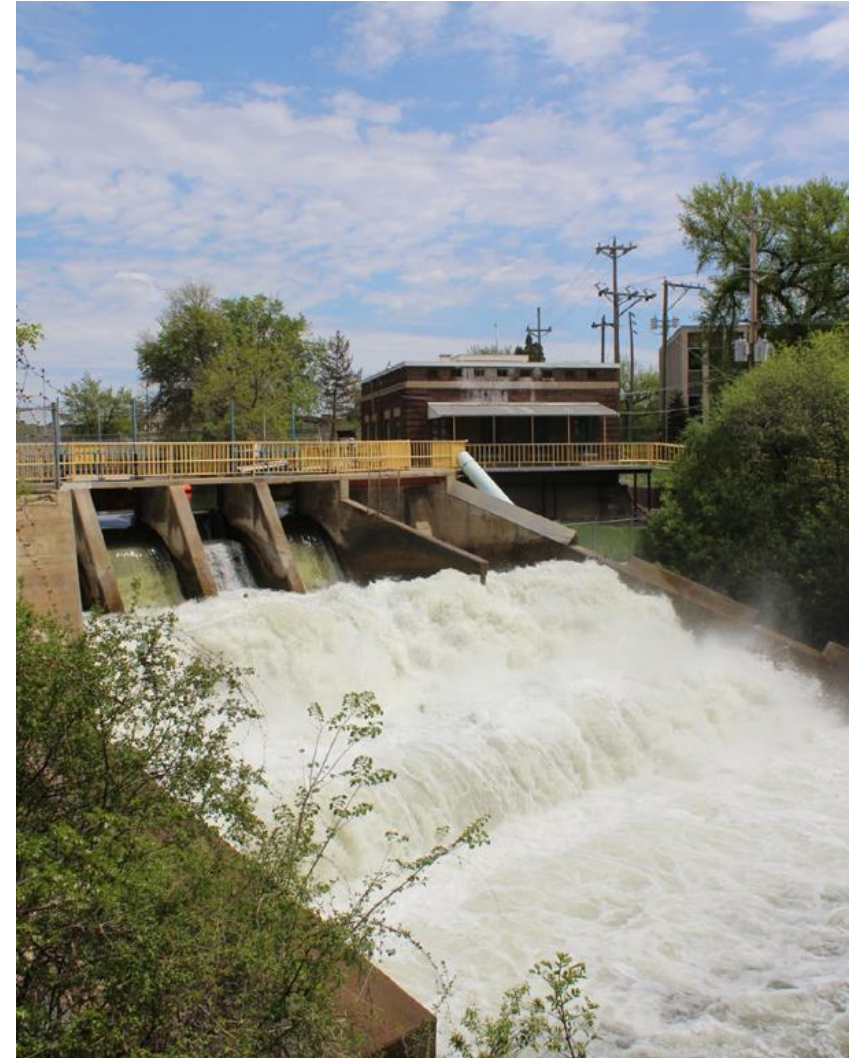
- Capacity: 670 kilowatts
- Age: Online since 1914
- Reservoir elevation: 1,256 feet msl





WRIGHT (CENTRAL)

- Capacity: 400 kilowatts
- Age: Online since 1922
- Reservoir elevation: 1,181 feet msl



PISGAH

- Capacity: 650 kilowatts
- Age: Online since 1918
- Reservoir elevation: 1,156 feet msl



DAYTON HOLLOW

- Capacity: 970 kilowatts
- Age: Online since 1909
- Reservoir elevation: 1,107 feet msl



otpc.com/Hydro



Resource Issues Identified for Scoping

- Aquatic Resources
- Terrestrial Resources
- Threatened and Endangered Species Resources
- Recreation and Land Use Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Developmental Resources

Aquatic Resources



- Effects of impingement and turbine entrainment on fish populations in the Otter Tail River.
- Effects of minimum flow releases on the quality of aquatic habitat in the bypassed reach of the Friberg development.

Terrestrial Resources



- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities on riparian, littoral, and wetland habitat and associated wildlife.

Threatened and Endangered Species



- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the federally threatened gray wolf and northern long-eared bat.

Recreation and Land Use



- Adequacy of existing recreational facilities and public access at the project to meet current and future recreational demand.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on land use within the project area.

Cultural Resources

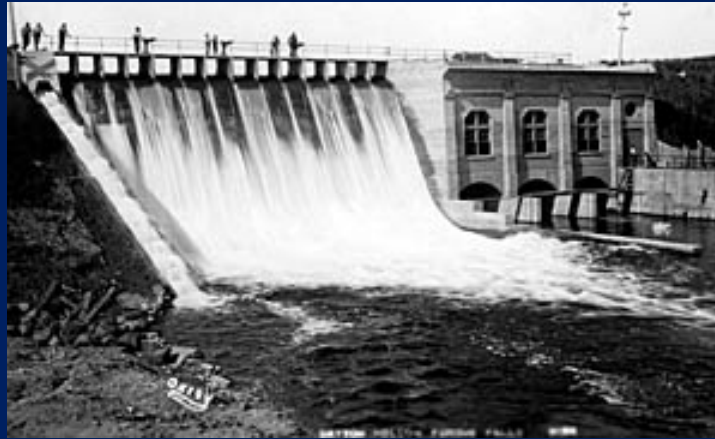


Image: Dayton Hollow Dam, 1909

- Effects of continued project operation on properties that are included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Developmental Resources



- Effects of any proposed or recommended environmental measures on the project's economics.

Important ILP Dates

PAD/SD1 Comments Due: **10/01/2016**

Proposed Study Plan: **11/15/2016**

Study Plan Meetings: **12/15/2016**

Study Plan Comments Due: **02/13/2017**

Revised Study Plan: **03/15/2016**

Study Plan Determination: **04/17/2016**



- See Appendix B of SD1 (*errata*) for the full process plan and schedule (handouts available)

How to Stay Informed

- Get added to the mailing list (See instructions in section 10 of SD1)
- E-library at www.ferc.gov (please use project docket no. P-10853)
- E-subscription at www.ferc.gov
- Contact me:
Patrick Ely
Email: patrick.ely@ferc.gov
Phone: 202-502-8570

Comments or Questions ?

