



# Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Hydropower Relicensing

An introduction to the FERC relicensing process of the Moyie River Hydroelectric Project.

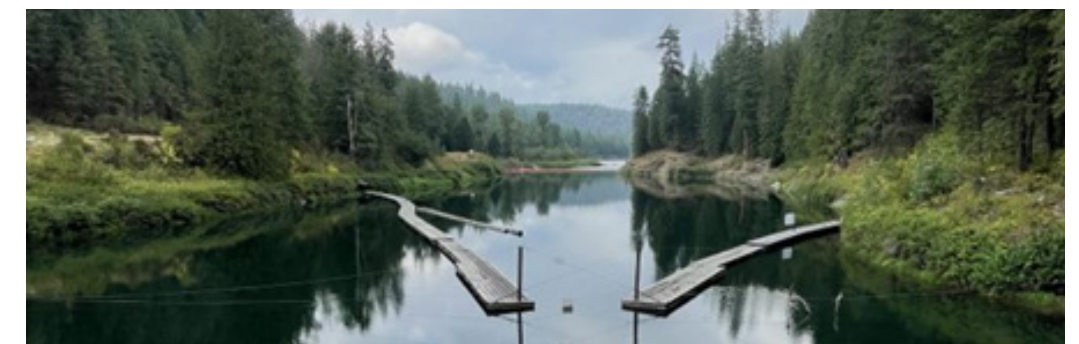
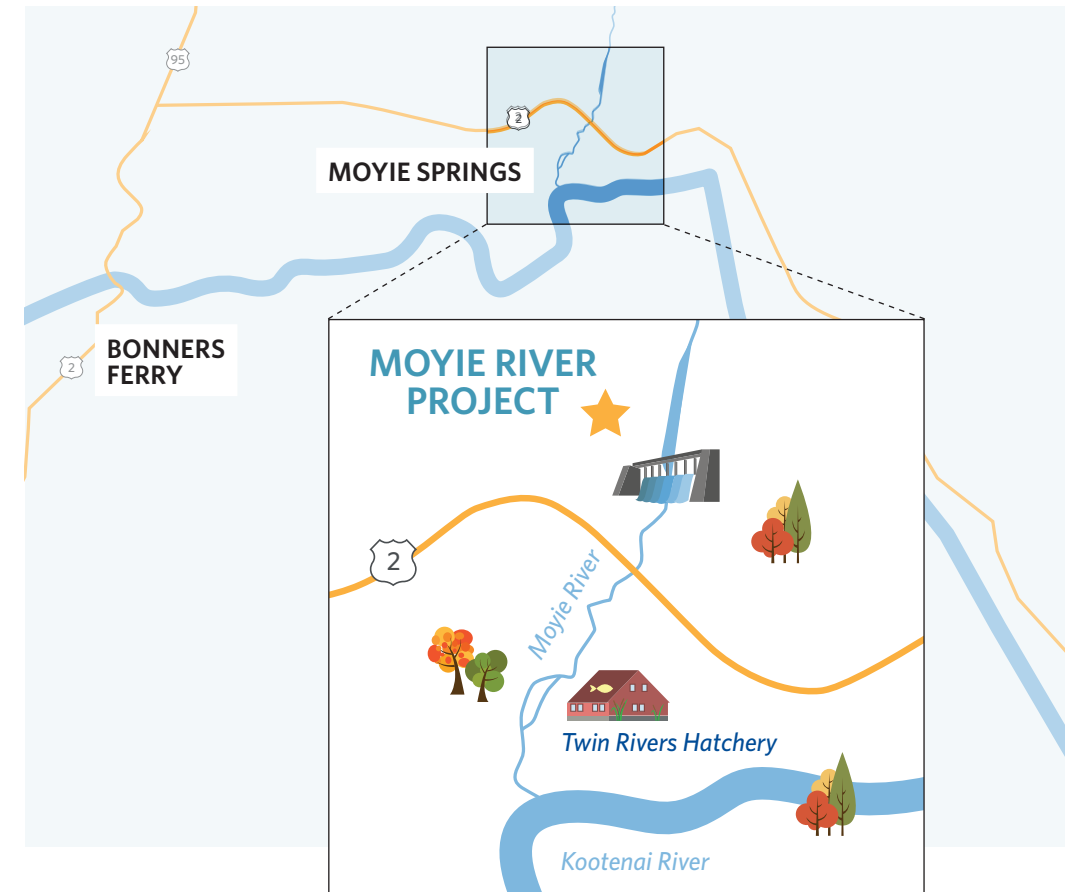
*Relicensing is a multi-year regulatory and environmental review process that provides the opportunity for consultation and engagement with agencies, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties to inform the development of a license application to FERC.*



## THE MOYIE RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

The City of Bonners Ferry, Idaho (City) is the licensee, owner, and operator of the 3.95-megawatt Moyie River Hydroelectric Project (Project) (FERC No. 1991). The Project was built in 1949 and is located on the Moyie River in Boundary County, approximately 1-1/2 miles upstream of the confluence of the Moyie River and Kootenai River. The Project consists of a 92-foot-high concrete dam impounding a 450-acre-foot reservoir. The Project operates run-of-river and generates electricity for the City. The City proposes to continue operations in the new license consistent with current operations.

*The existing license for the Project was issued by FERC in June 1999 and expires on May 31, 2029.*



## WHO IS FERC AND WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF RELICENSING?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is an independent federal agency with the responsibility of issuing licenses for non-federally owned hydropower projects, enforces the conditions of each license for the duration of its term, and conducts project safety and environmental inspections.

Obtaining a new license (relicense) from FERC for the continued operation of an existing hydroelectric facility is a multi-year regulatory process that involves consultation with federal and state agencies, Indian tribes, and the public. Between five to five and a half years before the license expires, the City must file a notice of intent (NOI) declaring its intention to seek a new license (relicense) for the Project. At least two years before a license expires, the City must file an application for a new license. The license application will contain the necessary information for FERC to evaluate Project effects and prepare the environmental documents required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its regulations.

Following submittal of the license application, FERC initiates the NEPA process, which triggers coordination with Indian Tribes and state and federal agencies, such as the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, coordination with state and federal agencies in consideration of Threatened and Endangered Species, and coordination with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and Tribes in consideration of impacts on sites and facilities listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places.

## RELICENSING PROCESS

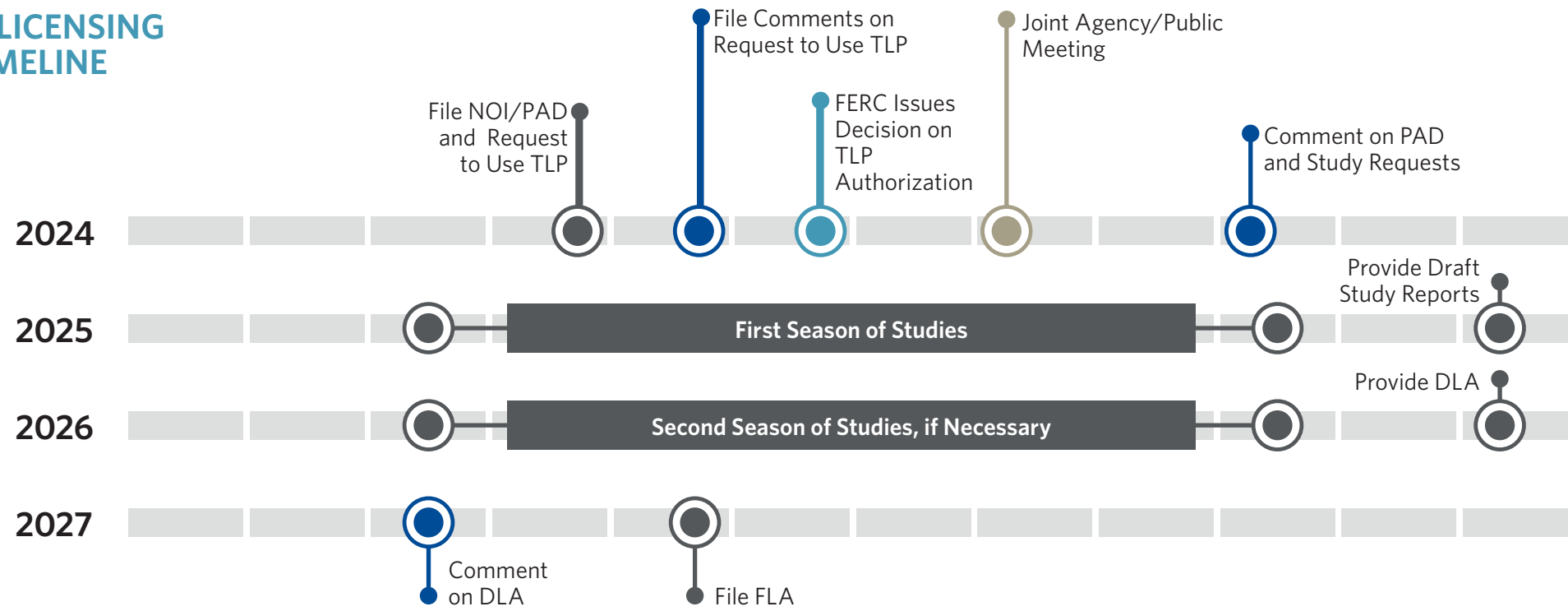
**FERC provides licensees with three licensing process options:**

- Integrated Licensing Process
- Traditional Licensing Process
- Alternative Licensing Process

*The City is proposing to use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP). The TLP provides more flexibility for the City and interested stakeholders to complete the various steps in the relicensing process.*

As part of the TLP, the City will provide information to stakeholders about the Project, and work with stakeholders to identify relevant resource information and any studies that may be necessary to inform the license application to be filed with FERC.

## RELICENSING TIMELINE



KEY	FERC	STAKEHOLDERS	THE CITY	THE CITY & STAKEHOLDERS
	<b>City</b>   City of Bonners Ferry, ID		<b>FLA</b>   Final License Application	<b>PAD</b>   Pre-Application Document
	<b>DLA</b>   Draft License Application		<b>NEPA</b>   National Environmental Policy Act	<b>Project</b>   Moyie River Hydroelectric Project
	<b>FERC</b>   Federal Energy Regulatory Commission		<b>NOI</b>   Notice of Intent	<b>TLP</b>   Traditional Licensing Process

### NOTICE OF INTENT

Pursuant to FERC regulations, the City will declare their intent to relicense a project between five to five and a half years before license expiration.

Filed concurrently with the PAD, the NOI provides information about the Project and identifies applicable municipalities, Tribes and other political organizations that may be affected by the Project.

### PRE-APPLICATION DOCUMENT

The PAD summarizes the known, available information for the Project. This document is submitted to FERC between five to five and a half years before the license expiration. This existing, relevant, and reasonably available information is distributed to Tribes, agencies, and stakeholders to enable them to identify issues and related information needs. It is also a precursor to the environmental analysis section of the license application.

#### The PAD will include the following elements:

- Plan and schedule for all the work that will happen before submission of the license application.
- Project description/location
- Existing site and resource conditions, including:
  - Description of the River Basin
  - Recreation and Land Use
  - Geology and Soils
  - Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species
  - Water Resources
  - Aesthetic, Cultural, Tribal, and Socioeconomic Resources
  - Fish and Aquatic Resources
  - Wetlands, Riparian and Littoral Habitat
  - Wildlife and Botanical Resources

### TLP REQUEST

The City plans to request use of the TLP from FERC. That request will address the following factors:

- Likelihood of timely license issuance;
- Complexity of the resource issues and level of anticipated controversy;
- Relative cost of the TLP compared to the ILP;
- The amount of available information and potential for significant disputes over studies; and
- Other factors believed by the commenter to be pertinent.

**Stakeholders will have 30 days to file comments on the request to use the TLP.**



## GET INVOLVED!

### Development of the PAD

- Prior to submission of the PAD, the City will reach out to Tribes and state and federal agencies to compile available information related to the Project and Project Area.
- The City will also develop a PAD Questionnaire to solicit relevant information related to the Project and Project Area.

### Joint Agency/Public Meeting

- Approximately four months following submission of the PAD, the City will host a Joint Agency/Public Meeting and Site Visit.
- The purpose of the meeting is to:
  - Provide an overview of the Project
  - Review information about the Project
  - Discuss and answer questions about the data and any potential studies to be developed to inform information gaps.

### Distribution of Relicensing Materials and Distribution List

- Documents filed with the Commission will be available from FERC's eLibrary at [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp) by searching under Docket P-1991.
- The City will also maintain a Distribution List to inform stakeholders on relicensing activity and materials. **Reach out to the contacts below to be added to the Distribution List.**

## CONTACTS

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