



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Hydropower Relicensing

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

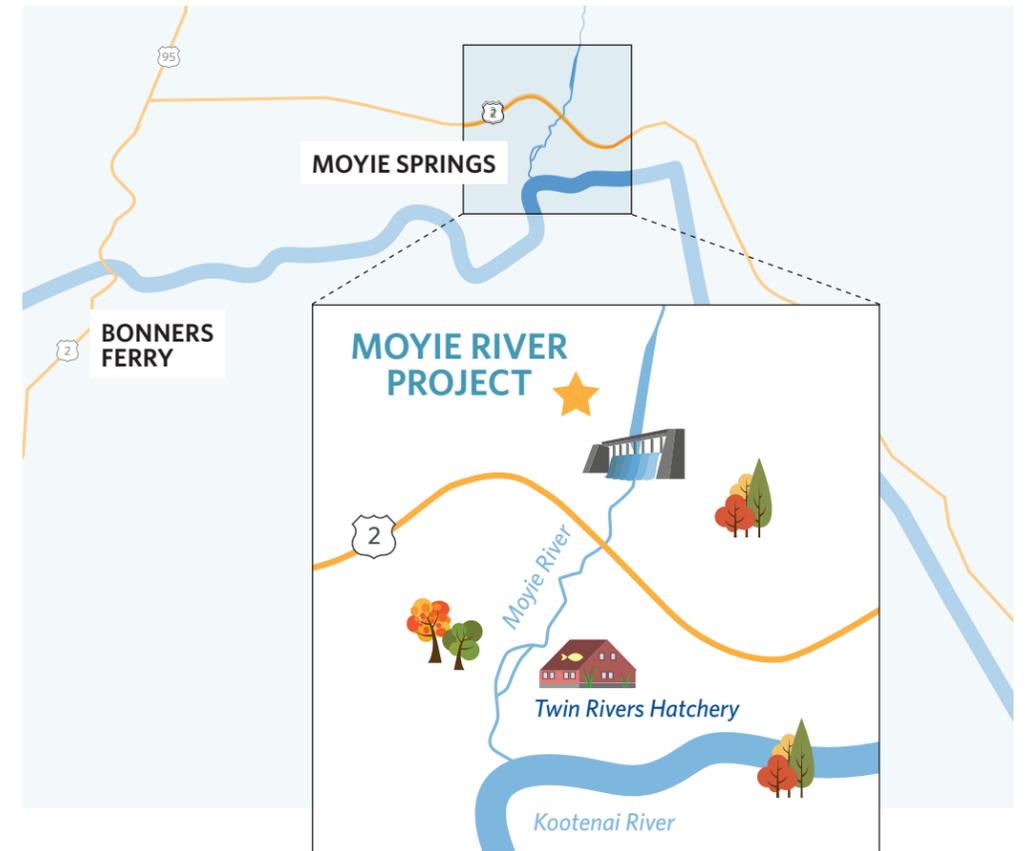
Relicensing is a multi-year regulatory and environmental review process that provides the opportunity for consultation and engagement with agencies, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties to inform the development of a license application to FERC.



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

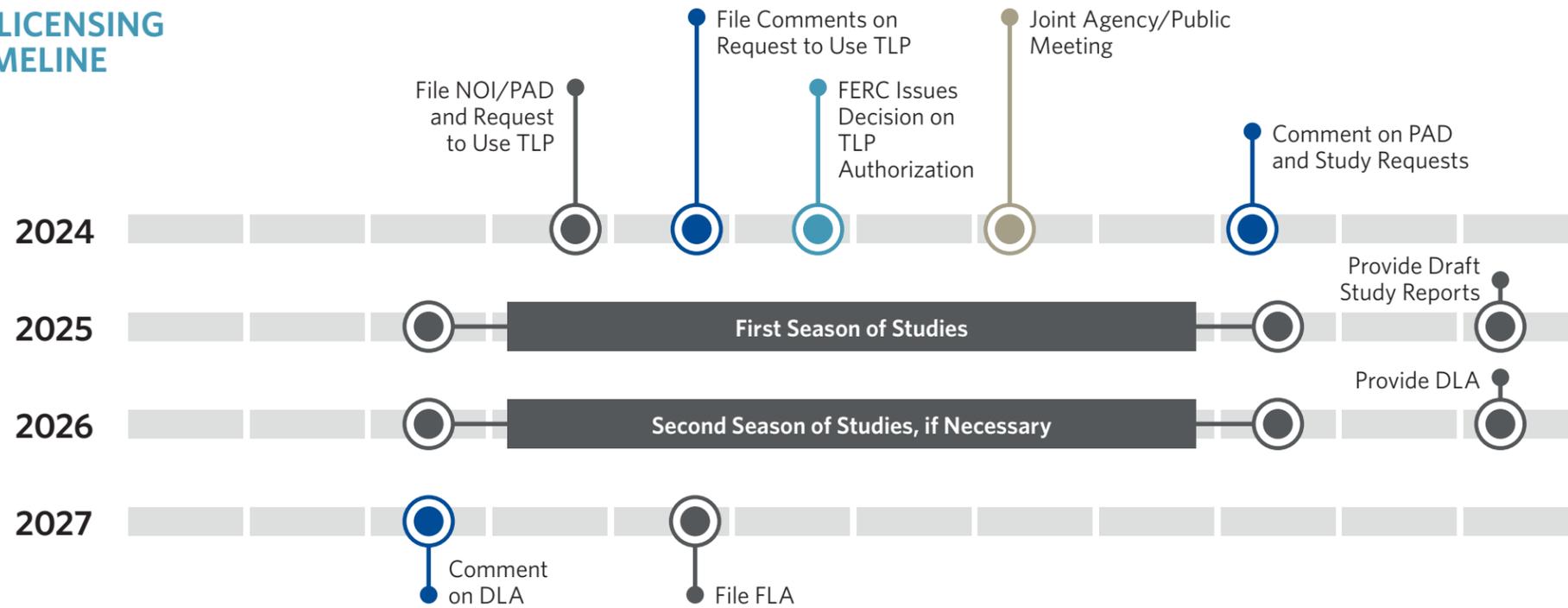
FERC provides licensees with three licensing process options:

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

The City is using 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
	City City of Bonners Ferry, ID		FLA Final License Application	PAD Pre-Application Document
	DLA Draft License Application		NEPA National Environmental Policy Act	Project Moyie River Hydroelectric Project
	FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission		NOI Notice of Intent	TLP Traditional Licensing Process

NOTICE OF INTENT

Pursuant to FERC regulations, the City filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to relicense a project on April 29, 2024.

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 was filed with FERC on April 29, 2024.

The PAD includes 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 requested use of the TLP from FERC. That request addressed 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.

FERC provided authorization to use the TLP on June 3, 2025.



RELICENSING STUDIES

Proposed Studies and Study Requests

- In the PAD, the City proposed to conduct studies related to water quality sampling and recreation use.
- Study requests were received from the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.
- After consulting with stakeholders, the City is implementing the following studies in 2025:
 - Cultural Resources Study
 - Tribal Resources Study
 - Recreation Use and Facilities Assessment
 - Water Quality Monitoring Study

Get Involved and Stay Informed

- Relicensing documents are available on the City's website here: <https://bonnersferry.id.gov/utilities/moyie-river-hydroelectric-project/>
- Documents filed with the Commission will be available from FERC's eLibrary at 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

Mike Klaus, PE
City Engineer

City of Bonners Ferry
7232 Main Street #149
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-0357
mklaus@bonnersferry.id.gov

Matt Wiggs
Project Manager

HDR Engineering, Inc.
412 E Parkcenter Blvd Ste 100
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 387-7089
matthew.wiggs@hdrinc.com