



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

September 12, 2011

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement for License Surrender for the Kilarc-Cow Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 606 (CEQ #20100236 & 20110273)

Dear Ms. Bose:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the License Surrender for the Kilarc-Cow Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 606, Shasta County, California. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on August 24, 2010 via U.S. mail. We recently learned that our comments were not received by FERC. Consequently, EPA's comments were not addressed in the "Response to Comments" in the FEIS. On August 25, 2011, Karen Vitulano of my staff spoke with FERC Environmental Coordinator CarLisa Linton-Peters, who suggested that we file our DEIS comments along with this letter and indicated that FERC would attempt to address our comments in the Order, if possible. Our DEIS comment letter is attached.

Our comments on the DEIS identify FERC's need to address applicability of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Regulations, suggest discussion of additional mitigation for water quantity and related impacts, and recommend a discussion on climate change effects. We appreciate your willingness to consider these comments in the Order.

We plan to file comments on future NEPA documents with FERC electronically to increase the potential for their successful receipt. We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS, and request a copy of the Order when it becomes available. If you have questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521, or contact Karen Vitulano, the lead reviewer for this document, at 415-947-4178 or vitulano.karen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosure: EPA comments on the Kilarc-Cow Creek Hydroelectric Project DEIS

cc: CarLisa Linton-Peters, FERC Environmental Coordinator