

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426  
May 31, 2024

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 1869-066 – Montana  
Thompson Falls Hydroelectric Project  
NorthWestern Energy

**VIA FERC Service**

Andrew Welch  
Manager, Hydro License Compliance  
NorthWestern Energy  
208 N Montana Ave, STE 200  
Helena, Montana 59601

**Subject: Extension of Time to File Additional Information**

Dear Mr. Welch:

On February 26 and March 22, 2024, Commission staff requested additional information on NorthWestern Energy's (NorthWestern) relicense application for the Thompson Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 1869-066. The additional information included a total of 16 items, 14 of which were to be addressed by May 26, 2024 and 2 of which were to be addressed by June 20, 2024. On May 23, 2024, NorthWestern filed responses to 13 of the 16 items and requested an extension of time to November 19, 2024, to respond to the following items: item 4 of the February 26 letter requesting additional details on NorthWestern's proposed attraction flows when operating the upstream fish passage facility; item 5 of the February 26 letter requesting that NorthWestern elaborate on the conceptual measures being considered to improve upstream and downstream fish passage at the project; and item 2 of the March 22 letter requesting an engineering analysis of NorthWestern's proposed operational change in reservoir levels on upstream and downstream flooding of non-project properties and structures.

NorthWestern states that the information requested in items 4 and 5 of the February 26 letter is subject to ongoing and active settlement negotiations between NorthWestern, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Thus, NorthWestern needs the additional time to consult with the respective agencies and Tribes and finalize its proposed fish and aquatic resource mitigation measures as part of a


larger settlement agreement. NorthWestern states that it also needs the additional time to complete the engineering and flood impact analysis requested by item 2 of the March 22 letter as this analysis could not be completed in the timeframe requested by Commission staff.

Because the information is necessary for staff to complete its environmental analysis and the additional time could help to facilitate agreement on certain related aquatic resource matters, NorthWestern's request is granted. Items 4 and 5 from Commission staff's February 26, 2024 letter and item 2 of Commission staff's March 22, 2024 letter are now due by November 19, 2024.

If you have questions, please contact Mike Tust at (202) 502-6522 or via e-mail at [michael.tust@ferc.gov](mailto:michael.tust@ferc.gov).

Sincerely,

**NICHOLAS  
JAYJACK**

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**cc: VIA FERC Service**

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