

CLIC Update: 9 March 2017, David Townsend: President, Chiputneticook Lakes International Conservancy

Re: A Need to Request that the US Federal Regulatory Commission Convene a Public Hearing Prior to Deciding the Application by Woodland Pulp, LLC to Surrender its License for Project No P-2660 (Forest City)

I write to provide a quick update on Woodland Pulp's application to surrender its license to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the Commission or FERC) to operate the dam at Forest City and to urge all stakeholders to write to the Commission requesting that a public hearing be held in order for the Commissioners to fully understand and consider the various issues at stake. It may be particularly important to make this request within the next week or so.

When FERC issued a new 30 year license for the Forest City project to Woodland Pulp, on the 23 of November 2015, the Commission required the pulp company to undertake and complete six rather large studies/plans. These included a historic properties plan, a recreational uses and land use plan, and a fishway maintenance plan. The costs and efforts necessary to complete these six plans was one of the reasons why Woodland applied to surrender its new 30 year license on 23 December 2016.

Within its application to surrender its license at Forest City, Woodland Pulp asked the Commission to immediately release the company from completing those plans because they would not be needed since the project license was to end. Until today (March 7th), FERC did not reply to the pulp company's request to be released from completing these studies. Due to an extension of time granted by FERC on 23 May 2016, the due dates for two of the studies was 3/16/ 2017, for two others it was 3/22/2017 and for the final two studies it was 11/22/2017. Thus, four of the six studies were to be submitted to the Commission within a few weeks.

Today, FERC issued a letter to Woodland Pulp releasing the company from submitting all six of the studies, "while we review your surrender application." To me, this action is a little like a teacher assigning a large research project and then informing the affected students a week before it is due to be handed in that the students are no longer required to do it. While this action by FERC suggests that things are very disorganized at the Commission, one consequence is that commission staff will no longer have to examine and comment upon those six studies as a part of the staff review process.

It is possible that this might advance the timetable as to when FERC commences its public consultation process for the surrender of the Forest City license. For this next consultation stage, either the Commission will hold a 30 day notice and comment period (a write-in process only) OR it will announce a plan to hold a public hearing and invite written submissions prior to and, likely, for a stated period of time following the public hearing.

Since it is possible that the Commission may soon decide whether or not to convene a public hearing, CLIC urges all interested parties/ stakeholders to write to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission asking that a public hearing be held for the surrender of Project No P-2660 at Forest City. Anyone who

wishes to write the Commission may register with the FERC website and submit a comment electronically, or they can put their comments within a letter and address it to:

Ms. Kimberly Bose
Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

If you decide to use FERC's e-Comment application <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp> you must direct your comment to the Forest City Project within FERC's Hydropower Division, so use the project designation " P-2660 " along with your name and address when registering at the site. I should warn the FERC's e-Comment system anticipates Registrants with U.S. addresses only. (This is frustrating since FERC has other hydropower projects that directly impact stakeholders in other countries.) Whether you are using the e-Comment system or sending a traditional letter, it is critical that the phrase, "Re Application by Woodland Pulp, LLC to Surrender its License for Project No P-2660" be used as the subject line for your actual comments. Even if you post a letter to FERC, the staff at the Commission will scan it and mount it on-line as part of the proceedings for the Forest City dam. If you e-Subscribe with the FERC site in order to receive notice of, and access to, all public submissions made regarding this proceeding, you will be able to see your own comments posted there.

Many people have expressed frustration about not knowing how to help out, THIS, is one thing that you can do to help. Thank you. David Townsend, President of CLIC.

Breaking Update: I have just been told that Canadians should be able to register with FERC to make a comment regarding FERC Project P-2660 by registering at the FERC website at the URL: <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eregistration.asp> Please let CLIC know if you encounter problems submitting a comment.
