

**Hydropower Projects  
Roles and Responsibilities**

**National Conservation Training Center**

**SUMMARY OF REPORTS DEVELOPED BY  
THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE**

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**Approved May 22, 2000**

ITF work products and recommendations are available at <http://www.doi.gov/hydro/>

**I. *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process.***

methods to better assess the environmental impacts of proposed hydroelectric projects. Using process; (2) discuss with resource agencies the full range of alternatives, possible settlement coordinate state and federal resource agency recommendations; (4) ensure identification of pre-filing between resource agencies and license applicants of project impacts on resource federal agencies and enable all interested parties to understand and more efficiently work within

**II.** This report helps to determine which environmental studies should be studies, the report encourages resource agencies to explain their objectives, suggest those which would support their conditions. For post-filing studies, it recommends that study exists, adaptive management may be appropriate but the report proposes that such a plan include agencies on interim measures and final adjustments. These new procedures should help make the

**III.** This paper recommends improved endangered species. During the pre-filing stage, the report suggests early discussions between the filing by the licensee of a biological assessment along with the application. After filing of an sections in the NEPA document should be devoted to ESA issues, if any, and the accompanying

issues when initiating formal consultation. After licensing, when new species are listed or critical habitat designated, new information will be continuously monitored to determine project effects. A biological evaluation will be developed to identify measures needed to protect new species. If changes to project operation are needed as a result, the licensee must apply for a license amendment with the Commission. This improved ESA coordination will facilitate timely licensing actions.

**IV. *Federal Power Act (FPA) Mandatory Conditions.*** This guidance paper deals with (1) Section 4(e) of the FPA, which authorizes the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to impose mandatory conditions on projects located on Federal reservations they supervise; (2) Section 18 of the FPA, which authorizes the Departments of Commerce and the Interior to impose mandatory fishway prescriptions; and, (3) Section 10(j) of the FPA, which authorizes federal and state resource agencies to propose conditions to protect fish and wildlife. It recommends that during the pre-filing stage, the resource agencies provide license applicants with their resource objectives, and encourages them to consider the least expensive response and to coordinate conditions and recommendations among agencies. Under Section 10(j), resource agencies are urged to provide specific, detailed, and timely recommendations. These recommendations can lead to better coordination, an improved exchange of information, and, consequently more timely, better-informed decision making.

**V. *Noticing Procedures.*** This report reforms noticing procedures to facilitate accurate resource agency responses. These reforms will expedite issuance and receipt of notices and improve overall communication among federal agencies

**VI. *Alternative Licensing Procedures (ALP).*** This document proposes guidelines for use by all stakeholders involved in the Commission's ALP, or collaborative process. The guidelines supplement the Commission's ALP regulations and are designed to, among other things, assist stakeholders in identifying resource management goals early in the process, establish clear ground rules for participating in an ALP, and help resolve disputes as they arise.

**VII. *Enforceable and Trackable License Conditions.*** This paper provides guidance to state and federal agencies on how to draft clear and enforceable license conditions. The recommendations will help ensure that conditions meet the goals of the drafters, and that the Commission is able to enforce them.