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Via Electronic Filing

October 16, 2008

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

Subject: Loup River Hydroelectric Project

FERC Project No. 1256

Notice of Intent to File and Pre-Application Document

Dear Secretary Bose:

Loup River Public Power District (Loup Power District or District) herein electronically files its Notice of Intent (NOI) to file an Application for New License for the Loup River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1256 (Project). The District is the owner, operator, and original licensee of the Project. The existing license was effective on December 1, 1982, for a term ending April 15, 2014. Loup Power District is utilizing the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) for this relicensing effort. Therefore, pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.6, the District is concurrently filing its Project Pre-Application Document (PAD) with its NOI.

The PAD is comprised of two public volumes (including appendices) and one privileged volume. The PAD contains all of the information required by 18 CFR § 5.6(c) and (d). It is being concurrently distributed (in hard copy or electronic format) to federal and state resource agencies, local governments, and Native American tribes in conformance with 18 CFR § 5.2(a) and § 5.6(a) (1) and (2). A distribution list of those parties is attached. Other parties known to be potentially interested in the relicensing proceeding are being notified by mail that the documents are available for viewing on the District's website or at the District's office in Columbus, Nebraska.

At this time, and pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4), the District requests that the Commission authorize Loup Power District to initiate consultation, as described in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and others regarding relicensing of the Project. Please note that 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4) requires that the Commission notify the SHPO and other consulting parties in writing (or email) if this authorization is granted.

Also at this time, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.08, the District requests that the Commission designate Loup Power District as its non-federal representative to conduct informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to prepare a biological assessment(s) as necessary to comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

All materials related to the current Project license as well as materials related to this NOI and PAD are available for inspection at the office of Loup Power District, 2404 15th Street, Columbus, NE 68602. A notice of this filing will be published in the *Columbus Telegram*, *Genoa Leader-Times*, *Nance County Journal*, and *Humphrey Democrat*. The NOI and PAD will also be available at the following public libraries and on the website established by the District for the relicensing of the Project, www.loup.com/relicense, and in accordance with the conditions of the Information Distribution Protocol contained within the PAD.

Columbus Public Library
2504 14th Street
Columbus, Nebraska
Genoa City Library
421 Willard Avenue
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The District looks forward to working with the Commission and all interested parties on relicensing the Loup River Hydroelectric Project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, the NOI, or the PAD, please contact me at (402) 564-3171 ext. 268.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal D. Suess President/CEO

Loup Power District

Attachments: Notice of Intent to File for a New License

Pre-Application Document – Loup River Hydroelectric Project

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Loup Power District Hydro Project

Loup River Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 1256

Pre-Application Document Volume 1

October 16, 2008

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ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SHORT FORMS

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act

AHZ Active Habitat Zone

AMP adaptive management plan

Applicant Loup River Public Power District (also Loup Power

District or the District)

CART Columbus Area Recreational Trails, Inc.

CEII Critical Energy Infrastructure Information

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

cfs cubic feet per second

CRMP cultural resources management plan

CWA Clean Water Act

DDT dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane

District Loup River Public Power District (also Loup Power

District)

DO dissolved oxygen

EAP Emergency Action Plan

EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ESA Endangered Species Act of 1973

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FOIA Freedom of Information Act

FPA Federal Power Act

FR Federal Register

GIS geographic information systems

hp horsepower

Hz hertz

ILP Integrated Licensing Process

kV kilovolt(s)

kVA kilovolt-ampere(s)

kWh kilowatt hour

Loup Power District Loup River Public Power District (also the District)

μg/L micrograms per liter

MCL maximum contaminant level

mL milliliter(s)

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

MW megawatt(s)

mya million years ago

N/A not applicable

NAC Nebraska Administrative Code

NCDC National Climatic Data Center

NDEQ Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

NDNR Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

NESCA Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act

NGPC Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

NHHS Nebraska Health and Human Services

NHPA National Historic Preservation Act

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOI Notice of Intent

NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NPPD Nebraska Public Power District

NPS National Park Service

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRHP National Register of Historic Places

NSHS Nebraska State Historical Society

NWI National Wetlands Inventory

OHV Off-Highway Vehicle

PA programmatic agreement

PAD Pre-Application Document

PDF portable document format

PM&E protection, mitigation, and enhancement

ppb parts per billion

Project Loup River Hydroelectric Project

ROW right-of-way

rpm revolutions per minute

RTE rare, threatened, or endangered

SCORP State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

SD Scoping Document

Section 106 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

SHPO State Historic Preservation Office

SMA Sand Management Area

TMDL total maximum daily load

U.S. United States

USACE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USC United States Code

USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture

USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS U.S. Geological Survey

WMA Wildlife Management Area

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