



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Inquiry

Docket No. RM07-08-000

“COMMENTS”

The Department offers comments on the Notice of Inquiry that was issued by the Commission and appeared in the Federal Register on March 1, 2007.

The Commission's adoption of a policy for the issuance of preliminary permits for projects that would use new hydroelectric technologies is an important step in encouraging the evaluation and assessment of such projects. This process and the preference it offers developers in securing a project license after completing evaluations that support project advancement will encourage the investment necessary to bring these new technologies to fruition.

The Notice outlined three basic approaches in handling preliminary permits, with the Commission following the “strict scrutiny” approach on an interim basis. The Department believes that this interim approach appropriately balances encouraging the evaluation of projects while limiting non-development speculation. Ultimately, this approach would appear to best encourage the submission of new technology preliminary permit applications by qualified applicants.

Under the “strict scrutiny” approach, the Commission has developed and imposed more stringent preliminary permit conditions compared to those placed on permits for conventional hydropower projects. The Department supports these new conditions, especially limiting the geographic scope of permits. Until there is a better understanding of the broad array of potential environmental impacts and other types of issues posed by these new technologies, the imposition of geographic limits is critically important.

I hope that these comments are helpful and if I can be of any further assistance, please contact me at 860.424.4109. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Date: 4/24/07

Brian J. Emerick
 Supervising Environmental Analyst
 Office of Environmental Review

cc: DEP Dist.

Submission Contents

Connecticut DEP comments on the Commission's proposed rule making regarding preliminary permits.

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