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December 20, 2023

Via Electronic Submittal (eFile)

**Subject: Utica Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. P-2019
Draft Application for Small Conduit Exemption and Surrender of License**

Dear Potentially Interested Parties:

The Utica Water and Power Authority (UWPA) is applying to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a Small Conduit Exemption (Conduit Exemption) for the Murphys Powerhouse Project, currently part of the existing Utica Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2019). UWPA's Conduit Exemption Application also serves as UWPA's Application for Surrender of License (License Surrender) for the Utica Hydroelectric Project (P-2019) facilities excluded under FERC's definition of a small conduit hydroelectric facility, as defined under 18 CFR 4.30(b)(30) (i.e. the Utica Water Conveyance System). UWPA is filing its License Surrender Application together with its Conduit Exemption Application to convert its License to a Conduit Exemption for the Murphys Powerhouse Project as an integrated package.

Pursuant to 18 CFR 4.38(b)(1) and (c)(4), UWPA is notifying potentially interested parties of the availability of the Initial Consultation Document (ICD) consisting of a combined Draft Application for the Conduit Exemption of the Murphys Powerhouse Project and Surrender of License for the Utica Hydroelectric Project (P-2019). The Draft Application, serving as the ICD, is available on UWPA's website at: <https://uticawater.com/exemption>. Hard copies and electronic copies of the ICD/Draft Application are available upon request.

Concurrent with the distribution of the Draft Application for the Conduit Exemption and License Surrender for the Utica Hydropower Project (P-2019) is a similar package for the UWPA's Angels Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2699).

UWPA is seeking input from interested parties on the Draft Application and requests potentially interested parties provide written comments, or an acknowledgement of no comments, by **Monday, March 25, 2024**. Any comments should follow the requirements of 18 CFR 4.38(b)(5). Please address your comments to:

Mr. Joel Metzger
General Manager
Utica Water and Power Authority
P.O. Box 358
Angels Camp, CA 95222
joelm@uticawater.com

UWPA is filing and distributing all portions of the Draft Application following the Commission's eFiling guidelines. One portion, the Exhibit F drawings will be filed as Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) and one portion, the Tribal Cultural Resources Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Results will be filed as Privileged. Other portions of the filing will be publicly accessible.

The following files and their accessibility designation are included in this filing:

- Introductory Statement, Exhibit A (Project Description), and Exhibit G (Project Boundary Maps) – Filed as Public
- Exhibit F (General Design Drawings) – Filed as CEII
- Exhibit E (Environmental Report) – Filed as Public
- Exhibit E, Appendix C (Tribal Cultural Resources NAHC Results) – Filed as Privileged

Joint Agency Public Meeting and Site Visit (For both the Utica and Angels Projects)

Pursuant to FERC's regulations under 18 CFR 4.38(b)(3), UWPA has scheduled one public site visit and two joint agency public meetings on **Thursday, January 25, 2024** (one in the morning at 9:30 a.m. and one in the evening at 6:00 p.m.) to explain the projects and seek input from potentially interested parties on the proposed Conduit Exemption and Surrender of License. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP [here](#) by Friday January 12. The meetings will be held at:

Native Sons Hall
389 Main Street
Murphys, CA 95247

Newspaper notices on the availability of the Draft Application and public meetings will be issued in accordance with FERC's regulations. During the public meetings, UWPA will discuss the Conduit Exemption application, the Murphys Powerhouse Project description, existing facilities operation, and the FERC's Conduit Exemption and License Surrender application processes.

An opportunity for a site visit will take place between the morning and evening meetings at 12:30 p.m. for those who [RSVP here](#) or by contacting UWPA at (209) 736-9419 or admin@uticawater.com. Transportation will be provided leaving from the Native Sons Hall. The site visit will consist of the Murphys Powerhouse and Angels Powerhouse areas and accessible representative sections of the Utica and Angels water conveyance systems. Appropriate attire is required for the site visit: long pants, closed-toe shoes, and personal protective equipment. Updated information about the public meetings and site visit (including lunch and transportation) will be available on this webpage <https://uticawater.com/exemption>.

Potentially interested parties may provide comments on the Draft Application at any time during the review period following the distribution date of this transmittal letter. UWPA is requesting parties provide written comments, or an acknowledgement of no comments, by **Monday, March 25, 2024**. Any comments should follow the requirements of 18 CFR 4.38(b)(5).

Please send any questions regarding the application or process to joelm@uticawater.com or call (209) 736-9419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Metzger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line across the middle.

Joel Metzger
General Manager
Utica Water and Power Authority

Ecc: Distribution List
Michael Swiger, VanNess Feldman, LLC
Michael Manwaring, Stantec

Distribution List
Draft Application for Small Conduit Exemption and License Surrender
Utica Project (FERC No. 2019) and Angels Project (FERC No. 2699)

FEDERAL	
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STATE	
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TRIBES	
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OTHERS	
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<p>Dave Steindorf California Hydropower Specialist American Whitewater PO Box 1540 Cullowhee, NC 28723 dave@amwhitewater.org</p>	<p>UWPA Water Contractors 22 total contractors Names and contact information withheld to protect privacy</p>