Norristown Dam Hydroelectric Project
FERC Exemption Application (P-15347)

Joint Agency and Public Meeting

June 5, 2024
Welcome and Introductions

Safety moment
Commissioners’ welcome
Montgomery County
Verdantas
Agenda

- Norristown Dam Description
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Exemption Application Process
- Exemption Application Schedule
- Overview of Initial Consultation Document (ICD)
- Summary of Affected Resources
- Potential Studies
- Questions and Comments

Meeting Purpose and Proceedings

- Inform attendees (stakeholders) about the Norristown Dam Hydroelectric Project and solicit feedback
- Meeting proceedings are recorded or transcribed
- Please hold all comments till the end of the presentation
  - Sign up sheet
Montgomery County Context

- This project supports Montgomery County goals and initiatives
  - Greenprint
  - MontCo 2040
  - 2019 Sustainability Resolution
    - Goal of using 100% renewable energy for all operations by 2050
- Part of the County’s energy strategy
  - Sustainable Energy Partnership of SEPA
  - Generating local energy makes the County more energy independent
- Supported by the County Commissioners and County staff
Norristown Dam Site
FERC Exemption Overview

Exemption of Small Hydroelectric Power Projects of 10 Megawatts or Less on a case-specific basis.

**FERC Exemptions are valid for the life of the project**

*Exemptible projects.* Subject to the provisions in paragraph (b) of this section, § 4.31(c), and §§ 4.105 and 4.106, the Commission may exempt on a case-specific basis any small hydroelectric power project from all or part of Part I of the Act, including licensing requirements. Any applications for exemption for a project shall conform to the requirements of §§ 4.107 or 4.108, as applicable.

*Article 2.* The construction, operation, and maintenance of the exempt project must comply with any terms and conditions that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and any state fish and wildlife agencies have determined are appropriate to prevent loss of, or damage to, fish or wildlife resources or otherwise to carry out the purposes of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as specified in exhibit E of the application for exemption from licensing or in the comments submitted in response to the notice of exemption application.
FERC Exemption Overview

TLP Consultation Stages

**First Stage**
- Applicant submits Initial Consultation Document (ICD) and newspaper notice;
- Commission approves use of Exemption;
- Applicant conducts joint agency/public meeting and site visit;
- Resource agencies and tribes provide written comments; and
- Agencies, tribes, or applicant request dispute resolution on studies with the Commission.

**Second Stage**
- Applicant completes reasonable and necessary studies
- Applicant provides draft application and study results to resource agencies and tribes;
- Resource agencies and tribes comment on draft application; and
- Applicant conducts meeting if substantive disagreements exist.

**Third Stage**
- Applicant files final application with Commission and sends copies to agencies and tribes

We are here!
FERC Exemption Timeline

First Stage Consultation
Submit ICD to FERC
FERC Reviews and Accepts IDC
Joint Agency/Public Meeting Window
Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Consultation
Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Comment Response
Second Stage Consultation
Study Plan Development
Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Consultation
Revised Study Plans
Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Comment Response
Final Study Plan
Conduct Studies
Draft License Application
Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Comment Response
Third Stage Consultation
Final Application
Tendering Notice
Notice of Acceptance/Ready for EA
If Deficiencies
Post-Filing Agency/Tribal/Stakeholder Comment
Response to comments
State Water Quality Certification Application
FERC Exemption Granted
Initial Consultation Document (ICD)

Project location, facilities and operations
- Proposed project design
- Flow duration and estimation of annual generation
- Construction schedule

Environmental Resources and Impacts
- Water Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Fish and Aquatic Resources
- Wildlife and Botanical Resources
- Wetland, Floodplains and Riparian Resources
- Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species
- Recreation and Land Use
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Socioeconomic Resources
- Aesthetic Resources
- Tribal Resources
Project Design

Approximate Annual Generation = 7,300,000 KWh

Bridgeport, PA
Water Resources
# Fish and Aquatic Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>2009 Smallmouth Bass Survey (Bridgeport, PA)</th>
<th>2012 American Shad Survey (Norristown Dam)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>Anguilla rostrata</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Shad</td>
<td>Alosa sapidissima</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td>Ictalurus punctatus</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flathead Catfish</td>
<td>Pylodictis olivaris</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gizzard Shad</td>
<td>Dorosoma cepedianum</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Bass</td>
<td>Ambloplites rupestris</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redbreast Sunfish</td>
<td>Lepomis auritus</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Sunfish</td>
<td>Lepomis cyanellus</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>Lepomis macrochirus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>Micropterus dolomieu</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>Micropterus salmoides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tesselated Darter</td>
<td>Etheostoma olmstedi</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spotfin Shiner</td>
<td>Cyprinella spioptera</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quillback Carpsucker</td>
<td>Carpiodes cyprinus</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Sucker</td>
<td>Catostomus commersonii</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wildlife and Botanical Resources
Wetlands, Floodplains and Riparian Resources
## Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Federal Status</th>
<th>State Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bats</td>
<td>Indiana Bat</td>
<td><em>Myotis sodalis</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Long-eared Bat</td>
<td><em>Myotis septentrionalis</em></td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtles</td>
<td>Bog Turtle</td>
<td><em>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</em></td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cultural and Historical Resources
Socioeconomic Resources

According to the 2022 census data, Montgomery County has a population of 860,578
- Bridgeport has a population of 5,019
- Norristown has a population of 35,829
Aesthetic Resources
Tribal Resources

No federally or state recognized tribes in the project vicinity

Tribes with potential interest to the region

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma,
- Delaware Nations, Oklahoma,
- Delaware Tribe of Indians,
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma,
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe,
- Shawnee Tribe
Potential Studies

ICD Comments and study requests due to FERC within 60 days (August 4, 2024)
  ► Requested studies must apply to an affected resource with a nexus to the project

Common study requests for hydropower relicensing, licensing, and exemption applications:
  ► Fish community survey
  ► Fish impingement and entrainment evaluation
  ► Water quality assessment
  ► Instream flow evaluation

Requesting additional existing relevant information
  ► Studies, research, reports, etc.
Public Comment Guidelines

- Speakers will be called in order that they signed up
- Speaking time limited to 2 minutes
- Not a Q&A session, comments and questions will be addressed at a later date
- Need not be present to submit comments

Comments can also be submitted online to FERC

- [https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx](https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx)
- Reference docket P-15347
Project Information

Documents and other relevant information on the Norristown Dam Project can be found at:

https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/4578/Norristown-Dam-Project

www.montgomerycountypa.gov/NorristownDam
Site Visit – 318 Merion St, Bridgeport (Upper Merion Boathouse Park)

- 3PM to 4PM
- Safety
- Transportation – Drive (2min) or Walk (10 min)
- Parking – Small parking lot at park (limited spaces)
- Where to gather – Fish Ladder Kiosk