

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20426

May 21, 2014

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 13642-001 – Montana
Gordon Butte Pumped Storage Project
GB Energy Park LLC

**Subject: Scoping Document 1 for the Gordon Butte Pumped Storage Project,
P-13642.**

To the Party Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping for an anticipated original license application to be submitted by GB Energy Park LLC (GB Energy) for the Gordon Butte Pumped Storage Project (Gordon Butte Project or project) (FERC No. 13642). The project would be located in Meagher County, approximately 3 miles west of Martinsdale, Montana. The project would not occupy any federal lands.

Pursuant to NEPA of 1969, as amended, Commission staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue an original license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the EA is thorough and balanced. Although our current intent is to prepare a draft and final EA, there is a possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. Nevertheless, this meeting will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission.

We invite your participation in the scoping process, and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the Gordon Butte Project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA.

We will hold two scoping meetings for the Gordon Butte Project to receive input on the scope of the EA. A daytime meeting will be held Wednesday, June 25, 2014, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena, Montana. An evening meeting will be held Wednesday, June 25, 2014, starting at 6:00

p.m. at the Martinsdale Community Center, 110 Main Street, Martinsdale, Montana. We will also conduct an Environmental Site Review on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. For the site review, attendees should meet by 2:00 p.m. at the Martinsdale Community Center where the evening public meeting will be held. Attendees must provide their own transportation to the project site.

We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or both of these meetings. Further information on our Environmental Site Review and scoping meetings is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to both GB Energy's distribution list and the Commission's official mailing list (see section 9.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to efiling@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be removed or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Gordon Butte Pumped Storage Project No. 13642-001**.

Please review SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 5.0, *Requests for Information*. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the EA for this project, please contact Mike Tust at (202) 502-6522 or michael.tust@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Gordon Butte Project may be obtained from our website, <http://www.ferc.gov>.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

cc: Mailing List
Public Files

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1
GORDON BUTTE PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT

MONTANA

PROJECT NO. 13642-001

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Washington, DC

May 2014

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

Gordon Butte Pumped Storage Project, No. 13642-001

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On April 30, 2013, GB Energy Park LLC (GB Energy) filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Commission to seek an original license for the construction and operation of the Gordon Butte Pumped Storage Project (Gordon Butte Project or project). In the PAD, GB Energy indicated it intends to file a final license application on September 20, 2015. GB Energy is using the Commission's Traditional Licensing Process to prepare the license application.

The project would be located in Meagher County, approximately 3 miles west of Martinsdale, Montana (Figure 1). It would not occupy any federal lands. The project would be operated as a closed-loop pumped storage system, cycling water between two newly constructed reservoirs, with an initial fill and periodic maintenance fills from an existing irrigation diversion on Cottonwood Creek. The project would have an annual energy production of 1,300 gigawatt-hours (GWh). A detailed description of the project is provided in section 3.0.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,² the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of licensing the project as proposed, and also consider reasonable alternatives to the applicant's proposed action. At this time, we intend to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the proposed action and alternatives. The EA preparation will be supported by a scoping process to ensure identification and analysis of all pertinent issues. Although our current intent is to prepare a draft and final EA, there is a possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. Nevertheless, this meeting will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission.

¹16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

²National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f) (2012).

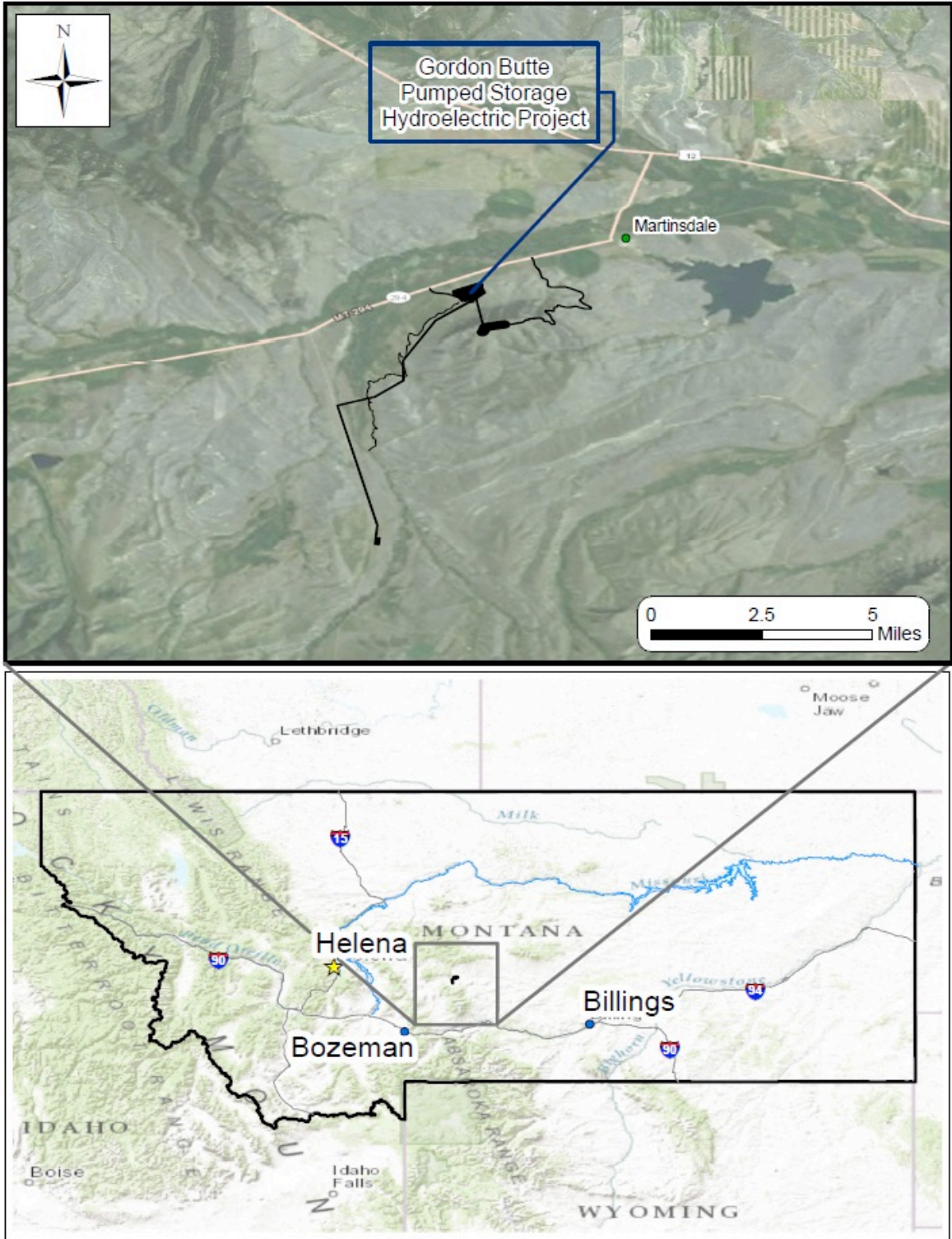


Figure 1. Location of the Gordon Butte Project (Source: Pre-Application Document and staff).

2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the EA and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the EA, (2) a description of the proposed action and alternatives, (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues, (4) a request for comments and information, (5) a proposed EA outline, and (6) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans which are applicable to the project.

2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. According to NEPA, the process should be conducted early in the planning stage of the project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the EA;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the EA;
- solicit, from participants, available information on the resources at issue; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

2.2 COMMENTS, SCOPING MEETINGS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW

During the preparation of the EA, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during the public scoping process when we solicit oral and written comments regarding scope of the issues and analysis for the EA,
- in response to the Commission's ready for environmental analysis notice, and
- after issuance of the EA when we solicit written comments on the EA.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two public scoping meetings and an Environmental Site Review in the vicinity of the proposed project. The daytime meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGO's, and Indian tribes, and the evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of the meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and locations of the meetings are as follows:

Daytime Scoping Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 25, 2014, 9:00 a.m. (MDT)
Location: Red Lion Colonial Hotel
2301 Colonial Drive
Helena, Montana
Hotel Phone: (406) 443-6702

Evening Scoping Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 25, 2014, 6:00 p.m. (MDT)
Location: Martinsdale Community Center
110 Main Street
Martinsdale, Montana
Contact: Sharrie Galt
(406) 572-3312

Environmental Site Review

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 25, 2014, 2:00 p.m. (MDT)
Location: Martinsdale Community Center
110 Main Street
Martinsdale, Montana
Contact: Carl Borgquist
(406) 570-4254
carl@absarokaenergy.com

All participants interested in seeing the proposed project site should meet by 2:00 p.m. at the Martinsdale Community Center. Participants must provide their own transportation to the project site. The Environmental Site Review will include a trip up to the top of the butte where the proposed upper reservoir would be located. This area also provides a view of the drop down to the site of the proposed lower reservoir. Anyone with questions about the Environmental Site Review should contact Carl Borgquist at (406) 570-4254 or carl@absarokaenergy.com.

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 5.0. These meetings are posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx>, along with other related information.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the licensing of the project. It is advised that participants review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Copies of the PAD are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-13642-001 for the Gordon Butte Project, to access the documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made on the level of analysis needed. If our preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for

causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the EA.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, a SD2 addressing any substantive comments received will be issued for informational use only by all participants or interested persons; no response will be required. The EA will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the applicant's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The no-action alternative is license denial. Under the no-action alternative, the project would not be built and environmental resources in the project area would not be affected.

3.2 APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

3.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities

GB Energy proposes the following new project facilities (Figure 2) for the Gordon Butte Project: (1) a 250-foot-long, 3-foot-diameter pipeline and pump house connected to an existing 3-mile-long, 4-foot-wide, 4-foot-deep irrigation canal for pumping of initial fill water and annual make-up fills to the lower reservoir; (2) a 3,000-foot-long, 1,000-foot-wide upper reservoir created by a 50- to 75-foot-high, 9,000-foot-long earthen and roller compacted concrete (RCC) embankment lined with impervious geotextile or pavement, with a normal maximum pool elevation of 6,020 feet mean sea level (MSL), storage capacity of approximately 4,050 acre-feet, and surface area of approximately 50 acres; (3) a reinforced concrete intake/outlet structure at the upper reservoir with six intake bays converging into a central 750-foot-long vertical shaft; (4) a 25-foot-diameter, 3,500-foot-long concrete and steel-lined penstock tunnel leading from the upper reservoir to the lower reservoir; (5) a 2,500-foot-long, 1,500-foot-wide lower reservoir created by a 50- to 75-foot-high, 10,000-foot-long earthen and RCC embankment lined with impervious geotextile or pavement, with a normal maximum pool elevation of 4,990 feet MSL, storage capacity of approximately 4,050 acre-feet, and surface area of approximately 85 acres; (6) a buried powerhouse with two 100-megawatt (MW) variable

speed turbine/generators and two 100-MW ternary hydraulic short-circuit turbine/generators; (7) a substation at the powerhouse site; (8) a 5.7-mile-long, 230-kilovolt (kV) single circuit transmission line; (9) a substation connecting to an existing non-project transmission line³ (10) approximately 7.4 miles of new access roads; (11) a 3.7-mile-long existing access road; and (12) appurtenant facilities.

³ The existing 500-kV Colstrip transmission line is jointly owned by NorthWestern Energy, Puget Sound Energy, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric, and Avista Corporation.

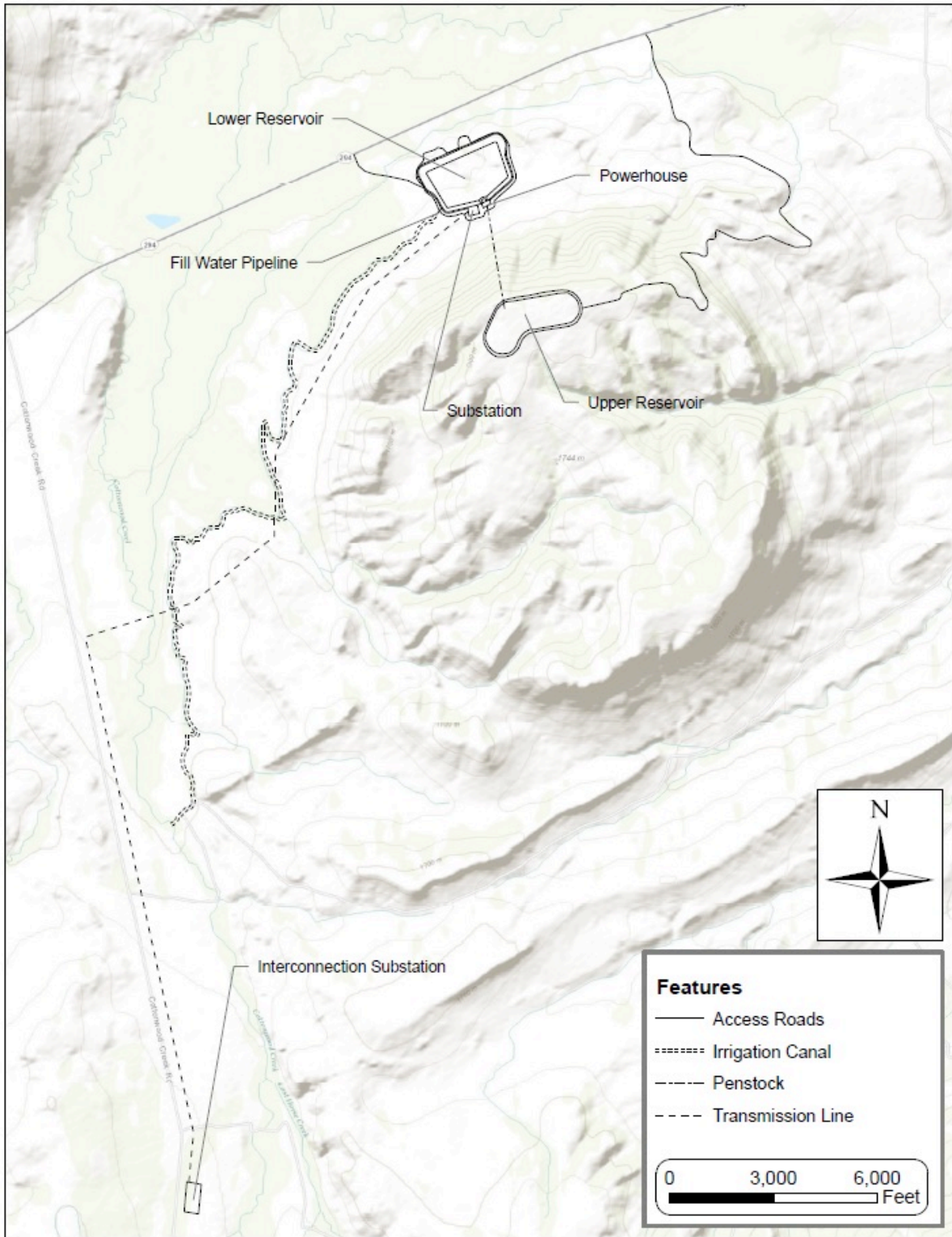


Figure 2. Proposed project facilities for the Gordon Butte Project (Source: Pre-application document and staff)

3.2.2 Proposed Project Operation

The Gordon Butte Project would operate as a closed-loop pump storage system. Water for the initial fill and subsequent annual make-up fills would be provided from Cottonwood Creek via the existing irrigation canal and new pump house and pipeline. During normal operation, the project would pump water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir through the penstock at times when energy in is excess or in low demand. When energy is needed, water would be released from the upper reservoir through the penstock and underground powerhouse. The Gordon Butte Project would have an installed capacity of 400 MW and an estimated annual energy production of 1,300 GWh.

3.2.3 Proposed Environmental Measures

GB Energy proposes to construct and operate the Gordon Butte Project with the environmental protection and enhancement measures described below.

Geologic and Soil Resources

- Employ best management practices during the design and construction to mitigate any potential adverse effects on soil resources.

Aquatic Resources

- Develop a spill management plan to address potential effects on water quality during construction.

Terrestrial Resources

- None proposed.

Threatened and Endangered Species

- None proposed.

Recreation and Land Use

- None proposed.

Cultural Resources

- Design the project to avoid identified cultural properties or traditional cultural properties (TCPs).
- Mitigate any adverse effects on cultural resources or TCPs through planned data recovery of cultural resource properties.
- Develop an Historic Properties Management Plan (if warranted) to provide a formal framework for the future treatment of all known cultural properties within the Area of Potential Effect that are eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Aesthetic Resources

- Construct the project in a manner that would minimize any adverse effects on aesthetic resources.
- Employ Best Management Practices to address potential adverse visual effects.

Socioeconomics

- None proposed.

Air Quality

- None proposed.

3.3 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Commission staff will consider and analyze all recommendations for operation or facility modifications, as well as for protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by us, resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.

4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES

4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

4.1.1 Resources That Could Be Cumulatively Affected

Based on our review of the PAD and preliminary staff analysis, we have identified terrestrial resources as resources that may be cumulatively affected by the proposed construction and operation of the project.

4.1.2 Geographic Scope

Our geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected resources is defined by the physical limits or boundaries of: (1) the proposed action's effect on the resources, and (2) contributing effects from other hydropower and non-hydropower activities within the Cottonwood Creek drainage basin. Because the proposed action would affect the resources differently, the geographic scope for each resource may vary.

At this time, we have tentatively identified the lower Cottonwood Creek watershed as our geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected terrestrial resources. Activities within this watershed that may cumulatively affect terrestrial resources include: (1) wind farm maintenance activities in the vicinity of the upper reservoir, and (2) agricultural operations in the vicinity of the lower reservoir.

4.1.3 Temporal Scope

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the EA will include a discussion of past, present, and future actions and their effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of an original license, the temporal scope will look 30-50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect on the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. We have identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the PAD and the Commission's record for the project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains those issues raised to date that could have substantial effects. After the scoping process is complete, we will review this list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the EA. Those issues identified by an asterisk (*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and site-specific effects.

4.2.1 Geologic and Soil Resources

- Effects of project construction on erosion and sedimentation of project lands and waters, especially areas known to have a severe erodibility hazard such as the penstock and portions of the existing access road.

4.2.2 Aquatic Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation on the water quality of project waters and Cottonwood Creek.
- Effects of initial water fill and annual make-up fills on other surface water uses in the basin.
- Effects of project construction and operation on fisheries and aquatic habitat in project waters and Cottonwood Creek.

4.2.3 Terrestrial Resources*

- Effects of project construction and operation on vegetation.
- Effects of project construction and operation on the spread of invasive species, including the consequences of the spread of noxious weeds on vegetation species composition and wildlife habitat values.
- Effects of upland, riparian, and wetland habitat loss on wildlife, including mule deer and the federal candidate species Sprague's pipit⁴ and greater sage-grouse.

⁴ Sprague's pipit is a small songbird that breeds in grassland habitat.

- Effects of transmission line on raptors, waterfowl, other migratory birds, and other wildlife.

4.2.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of project construction and operation on the North American wolverine, which is proposed to be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

4.2.5 Recreation and Land Use

- Effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on recreation resources in the project vicinity.
- Effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on other land use activities in the project vicinity including irrigation, agricultural production, grazing, and private residents.

4.2.6 Cultural Resources

- Effects of construction and operation of the proposed project on historic, archaeological, and traditional resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

4.2.7 Aesthetic Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation on aesthetic resources, including views, in the project vicinity.
- Effects of noise from project construction, operation, and maintenance on recreational and residential use in the project vicinity.

4.2.8 Socioeconomics

- Effects of the project on the local economy of Meagher County, Montana.

4.2.9 Air Quality

- Effects of project construction activities on air quality.

5.0 PROPOSED STUDIES

Depending upon the recommendations of the consulted entities, GB Energy will consider, and may propose certain other measures to enhance environmental resources affected by the project as part of the proposed action. GB Energy's initial study proposals are identified by resource area below. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and the applicant from interested participants, including Indian tribes. GB Energy proposes the following:

<u>Resource Area and Issue</u>	<u>Proposed Study/Information Need</u>
Geology and Soils	Conduct geology and soil evaluations and identify potential geologic hazards and soil instability.
Aquatic Resources	Characterize benthic macroinvertebrate communities and aquatic habitat in the source waters and identify the potential project effects on aquatic resources.
Terrestrial Resources	<p>Identify the types, abundance, and distribution of wetlands and riparian habitats and other plant communities within the project boundary, including along the proposed transmission line right-of-way; quantify the potential project effects on vegetation.</p> <p>Identify use by raptors, waterfowl, and other wildlife by season and habitat type; evaluate species presence and habitat quality for federal candidate species and birds protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act; quantify the potential project effects on wildlife resources.</p>
Threatened and Endangered Species	None proposed.

<u>Resource Area and Issue</u>	<u>Proposed Study/Information Need</u>
Recreation and Land Use	Identify recreation and land use resources and needs in the project area and evaluate the effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on those resources.
Cultural Resources	Conduct a class III cultural resource inventory of the Area of Potential Effect and a traditional cultural properties (TCP) study to locate and document all cultural resources and TCPs and determine their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
Aesthetic Resources	Quantify and qualify the existing visual quality of the project area and analyze potential visual effects of the project.
Socioeconomics	Evaluate the effects of project construction and operation on the local and regional economy and on local social conditions, goods, and services.
Air Quality	None proposed.

6.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative effects associated with licensing the project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;

- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed licensing of the project;
- existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- information that would help characterize the existing environmental conditions and habitats;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs) along with any implementation schedules;
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public; and
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration.

The requested information and comments on SD1 may be filed electronically via the Internet no later than **July 25, 2014**. But, if the Commission is closed on this day, then the comments are due the close of business on the next day in which the Commission is open.⁵ All filings must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Gordon Butte Pumped Storage Project No. 13642-001**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-

⁵ 18 C.F.R. § 385.2007(a)(2) (2014).

8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

Any questions concerning the scoping meetings, Environmental Site Review, or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Dianne Rodman at (202) 502-6522 or michael.tust@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Gordon Butte Project may be obtained from the Commission's website, www.ferc.gov.

7.0 EA PREPARATION SCHEDULE

At this time, we anticipate the need to prepare a draft and final EA. The draft EA will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the project. The EA will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as environmental protection and enhancement measures that should be part of any original license issued by the Commission. All recipients will then have 30 days to review the EA and file written comments with the Commission. All comments on the draft EA filed with the Commission will be considered in preparation of the final EA. The major milestones, including those for preparing the EA, are as follows:

<u>Major Milestone</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
Scoping Meetings	June 2014
Scoping Document 2 Issued (if necessary)	August 2014
License Application Filed	September 2015
Ready for Environmental Analysis Notice Issued	November 2015
Deadline for Filing Comments, Recommendations and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions	January 2016
Draft EA Issued	July 2016
Comments on Draft EA Due	August 2016
Final EA Issued	January 2017

If Commission staff determines that there is a need for additional information or additional studies, the issuance of the Ready for Environmental Analysis notice could be delayed. If this occurs, all subsequent milestones would be delayed by the time allowed for GB Energy to respond to the Commission's request.

8.0 PROPOSED EA OUTLINE

The preliminary outline for the Gordon Butte Project EA is as follows:

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 - 5.4 Recommendations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 - 5.5 Consistency with Comprehensive Plans
- 6.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (OR OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACT)
- 7.0 LITERATURE CITED
- 8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

APPENDICES

A–Response to Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment

9.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal or state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. Staff has preliminarily identified and reviewed the plans listed below that may be relevant to the Gordon Butte Project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR section 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the Gordon Butte Project:

- Montana Board of Natural Resources and Conservation. n.d. Order of the Board of Natural Resources establishing water reservations. Helena, Montana.
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality. 2004. Montana water quality integrated report for Montana (305(b)/303(d)). Helena, Montana. November 24, 2004.
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality. 2001. Montana non-point source management plan. Helena, Montana. November 19, 2001.
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Montana's State water plan: 1987-1999. Part I: Background and Evaluation. Part II: Plan Sections – Agricultural Water Use Efficiency; Instream Flow Protection; Federal Hydropower Licensing and State Water Rights; Water Information System; Water Storage; Drought Management; Integrated Water Quality and Quantity Management; Clark Fork Basin Watershed Management Plan; Upper Clark Fork River Basin Water Management Plan; and Montana Groundwater Plan. Helena, Montana.
- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2003-2007. Helena, Montana. March 2003.
- Montana State Legislature. 1997. House Bill Number 546. Total Maximum Daily Load. Helena, Montana.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American

waterfowl management plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1989. U.S. Prairie Pothole joint venture implementation plan: A component of the North American waterfowl management plan. April 1989.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. U.S. Prairie Pothole joint venture implementation plan - update. Department of the Interior, Denver, Colorado. January 1995.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

10.0 MAILING LIST

The list below is the Commission’s official mailing list for the project. If you want to receive future mailings for the project from the Commission and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to efiling@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written and emailed requests to be added to the Commission’s mailing list must clearly identify the following on the first page: Gordon Butte Pumped Storage Project No. 13642-001. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659

Mailing List

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<p>Montana Dept. of Agriculture Agriculture & Livestock Bldg. Capitol Station Helena, Montana 59620-0201</p>	<p>Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Habitat Bureau P.O. Box 200701 Helena Montana 59620-0701</p>	<p>Montana Dept. of Natural Resources P.O. Box 201601 Helena, Montana 59620-1601</p>
<p>Montana Dept. of State Lands Capitol Station Helena, Montana 59620</p>	<p>Montana Historical Society P.O. Box 201201 Helena, Montana 59620-1201</p>	<p>Montana Office of Attorney General Atty. General State Capitol Helena, Montana 59601</p>
<p>Montana State Historic Preservation Office State Historic Preservation Officer 225 N Roberts St. Helena, Montana 59601-4514</p>	<p>Montana Dept. of Natural Resources Montana Water Resources Division 1424 9th Ave. Helena, Montana 59601</p>	<p>Paradise Valley Irrigation District District Manager P.O. Box 1417 Chinook, Montana 59523-4926</p>
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