

Kankakee Hydroelectric Project (P-8632)

FERC Relicensing

Socioeconomic Resources

Study Plan

(Final – August 2023)

The City of Kankakee, Illinois (City), is the Licensee of the Kankakee Hydroelectric Project (Project, FERC no. P-8632), located along the Kankakee River in Kankakee County, Illinois. The Project was issued an original, 40-year license by the Commission on May 27, 1988. The current license expires on April 30, 2028. The Licensee has initiated a relicensing process to obtain a new license with an application due to FERC by March 20, 2026.

The Project generating facilities are situated at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Kankakee Dam on the south shoreline. IDNR owns the dam and leases it to the Licensee for hydropower purposes. The licensed Project facilities include a concrete powerhouse with three turbine generating units, generator leads, step-up transformer, a 2.4-mile-long transmission line extending from the powerplant to the Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency Wastewater Treatment Plant (KRMA WWTP) downstream of the Project Dam. Five segments of the transmission line (1.5-miles total, including the bridge crossing in a conduit) are located underground in existing rights-of-way, while the remaining four segments (0.9-mile total) are suspended aboveground on standard, 40-45-foot-tall, wooden poles. The transmission line right-of-way varies from 3 to 20 feet in width. There are no federal lands within the FERC Project boundary.

The Project is licensed as run-of-river mode (in accordance with existing License Article 401) with releases made in coordination with IDNR. The Licensee operates of the inflatable rubber dam that sits atop the Kankakee Dam. This rubber dam, which is 24 inches high when fully inflated, allows the Licensee to vary the surface of the reservoir. The rubber dam is fully inflated during normal Project operation and a 500 cubic feet per second (cfs), or inflow, whichever is less, flow maintained over the Kankakee Dam (in accordance with existing License Article 402) to protect fishery resources in the Kankakee River. Maintenance of flow over the dam also enhances the aesthetics of the dam, as seen from the river downstream and from adjacent portions of downtown Kankakee.

The Project's turbine-generator units are currently non-operational. The Licensee is in the process of making repairs to these units and intends to have them operational in 2024 and/or 2025. In addition, the Licensee proposes to continue (as previously) providing Project electricity to the KRMA WWTP, and to provide a new connection to the City's Stone Street Wastewater Lift Station (which feeds the KRMA WWTP) to offset electrical

use and associated pumping costs at this City facility. To make this connection a new 12.5 kV overhead transmission line (on 40 to 45-foot-tall wood poles) is proposed that would tap into the existing Project Primary Transmission Line and run along the residential Stone Street for approximately 600 feet before terminating at a transformer in the existing Stone Street Wastewater Lift Station. This new transmission line would be added to the existing FERC Project boundary.

More information about the Project and existing resource information is available in the Licensee's Pre-application Document (PAD), which was filed with FERC and distributed to agencies, tribes and other stakeholders on January 27, 2023. The PAD is available on the Licensees' public relicensing website (<https://citykankakeeil.gov/departments/esu-dpw/notice-of-intent.php>) and from FERC's eLibrary (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp>) by searching under FERC Project No. P-8632.

In considering a new license for the Project, FERC is the lead agency for compliance with applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to socioeconomic resources.

Executive Order (EO) 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, and Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, as amended, require federal agencies to consider if impacts on human health or the environment would be disproportionately high and adverse for environmental justice (EJ) communities in the surrounding community resulting from the programs, policies, or activities of federal agencies. This Study Plan addresses the requirements of EO 14008.

Section 1. Project Nexus

As described above, the Licensee is in the process of making repairs to the Project turbine-generator units and intends to have them operational in 2024 and/or 2025. In addition, the Licensee proposes to continue (as previously) providing Project electricity to the KRMA WWTP, and to provide a new connection the City's Stone Street Wastewater Lift Station (which feeds the KRMA WWTP) to offset electrical use and associated pumping costs at this City facility. No proposed changes are proposed to the Licensee's existing run-of-river operation or to the minimum release flow of 500 cfs (or inflow, whichever is less) from the project reservoir over the dam, which protects fisheries and enhances aesthetics.

Continued Project operations and maintenance (O&M) have the potential to directly and/or indirectly affect socioeconomic resources. Information derived from this study will assist the Licensee in assessing the socioeconomic impacts of the Kankakee Hydroelectric Project (beneficial and/or adverse) on identified Environmental Justice (EJ) communities.

Section 2. Study Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Study is to assess the socioeconomic impacts of the Kankakee Hydroelectric Project (beneficial and/or adverse) on identified Environmental Justice (EJ) communities.

The objectives of this Study are to gather the information necessary to meet the Study goal by: 1) identifying EJ communities within a one-mile radius of the FERC Project boundary using the most recent American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate for each US Census Bureau Block Group and methods included in the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews (2016); and 2) identifying "sensitive receptor locations" (schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes, *etc.*) within a one-mile radius of the FERC Project boundary (*i.e.*, the geographic scope of the Project).

Section 3. Existing Information and Need for Additional Information

Adequate existing information exists to achieve the study goals and objectives. No additional information is required.

Section 4. Study Methods and Analysis

The Study will include the following activities: 1) Identify census tracts and group blocks within a one-mile radius area of the Project Boundary, using the most recent American Community Survey 5-year Estimate for each block group from the US Census Bureau; 2) Examine race, ethnicity, and poverty data for the identified census tracts and block groups; 3) Determine EJ communities within a one-mile radius area of the Project Boundary using USEPA's 2016 "fifty percent", "meaningfully greater, and "low income threshold" methods; 4) Identify sensitive receptors within a one-mile radius area of the Project Boundary using available digital and hardcopy maps; 5) Analyze collected information; and 6) Reporting.

Section 4.1. Reporting

Socioeconomic information and analyses will be summarized and incorporated into the Draft License Application and Final License Application.

Section 4.2. Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Information gathered during this Study will be reviewed and field checked for accuracy and completeness. Data gathering will be overseen by qualified recreation planners to confirm that techniques, documentation, and other efforts meet current professional standards. Senior socioeconomic planners will provide oversight and reviews for socioeconomic resources document preparation.

Section 5.0. Schedule

It is the Licensee's understanding that updated American Community Survey 5-Year estimates for each US Census Bureau Block Group will be released in December 2023. The Licensee will initiate the Socioeconomics Study immediately following the release of these updated estimates. Furthermore, the Licensee anticipates completing the Socioeconomics Study in early 2024, and preparing draft/final study reports in Spring 2024.

Section 6.0. Consistency of Methodology with Generally Accepted Scientific Practices

As noted in Section 4, the study methodology is consistent with generally accepted practices in the scientific community and employed during other hydropower relicensings in the Midwest.

Section 7.0. References Cited

US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2016. Practices for Environmental Justice Methodologies in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews.