

Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Pittsburgh District

In Reply Refer to Notice No. below US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District 1000 Liberty Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Application No. LRP-2012-0384

Date: 10/24/2016

Closing Date: 11/23/2016

Notice No. 16-57

1. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

2. APPLICANT: Mark R. Stover

Hydro Green Energy, LLC

P.O. Box 385

Westmont, IL 60559

AGENT: Jim B. Gibson

HDR Engineering, Inc.

1304 Buckley Road, suite 202

Syracuse, NY 13212

- 3. LOCATION: Monongahela River, Mile 11.2, left bank. West Mifflin, Borough of Braddock, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (coordinates: 40.389240, -79.858737).
- PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Hydro Green Energy proposes 4. construction and maintenance of a power-generating modular facility on the Monongahela River. The facility, consisting of a new 105' by 22' steel-frame powerhouse with seven turbine generators, a switchyard and control room, a trash rack, and a distribution-level powerline, would be located on the existing weir adjacent to the spillway gates. The powerhouse would be laid on a new concrete foundation on rock that would be anchored to the left closure weir. This construction (e.g., placement of cofferdams, temporary dewatering and excavation for the installation of concrete) will result in disturbance and displacement of the river bottom. Most of the project work would be conducted from a barge upstream and downstream from the weir. Erosion and sedimentation controls are to be in place during construction. Upon completion, the proposed project would operate in run-of-release mode, meaning it would not impound water or control the flows of the River. The facility would be a permanent structure in the River, requiring long-term maintenance dredging. Maps of the project are attached.
- 5. **ENCROACHMENT PERMIT**: For the DA permit, an Applicant must obtain a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit which includes 401 Water Quality Certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This was done by the

Applicant as of February 10, 2015.

- 5. IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: The Monongahela River is classified as a low-gradient, seventh-order stream, draining 7,340 square miles of Mid-Atlantic States. Water quality modeling by the Applicant in 2012 estimated that water quality impacts from the project would be negligible. A Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index (PNDI) survey was conducted on August 30, 2016, and found no known federal impacts for the proposed project. The District Engineer has determined that the project will have no effect on federally-listed endangered species or threatened species, and will not result in destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. This Public Notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).
- 6. <u>IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: In a letter dated April 17, 2012, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission concluded that the proposed activity would have no adverse effect on archeological resources nor on the Monongahela River Navigation System. If we are made aware, as a result of comments received in response to this Notice, or by other means, of specific archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical sites or structures which might be affected by the proposed work, the District Engineer will immediately take the appropriate action necessary pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Public Law 89-665 as amended (including Public Law 96-515).
- 7. <u>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in the paragraph below entitled "RESPONSES," that a public hearing be held to consider this application. The requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.
- 8. <u>EVALUATION</u>: Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposals must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the

public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

9. <u>RESPONSES</u>: A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest. Written statements concerning the proposed activity should be received in this office on or before the closing date of this Public Notice in order to become a part of the record and to be considered in the final determination. Any objections which are received during this period may be forwarded to the Applicant for possible resolution before the determination is made whether to issue or deny the requested DA Permit. All responses to this Notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, attn: Alani Taylor at the above address, by telephoning (412)395-7107, or by e-mail at alani.taylor@usace.army.mil. Please refer to CELRP-OP-F LRP-2012-0384 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

//SIGNED//

Jon Coleman Chief, Southern Section Regulatory Branch



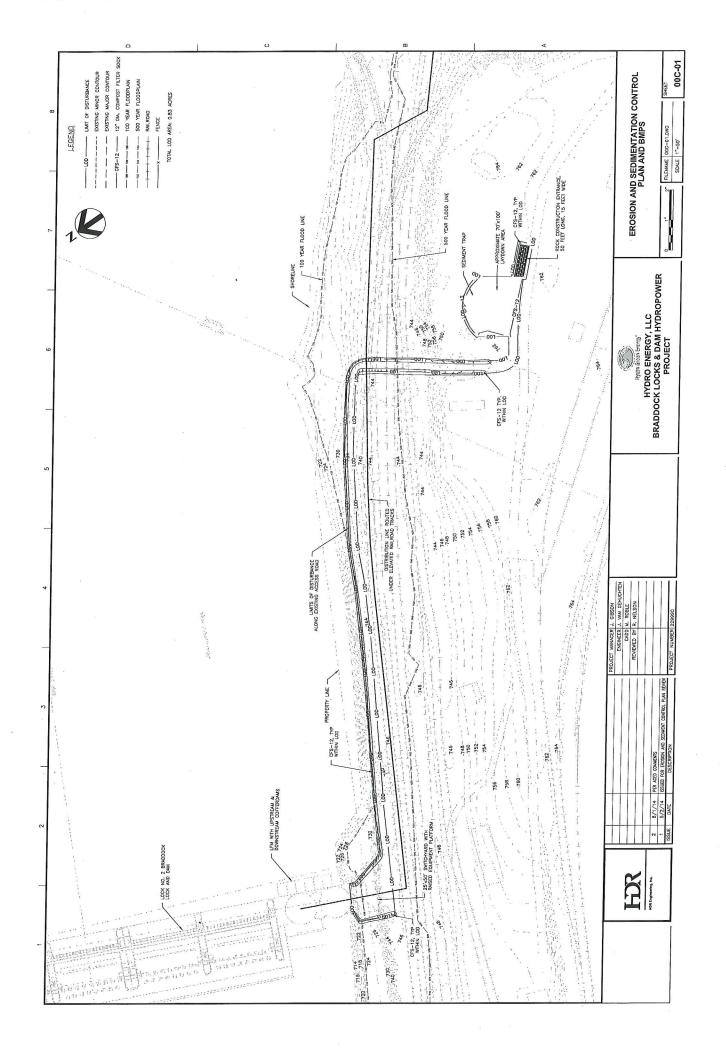
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LONGITUDE 79° 51' 28.90" W; LATITUDE 40° 23' 21.03"N

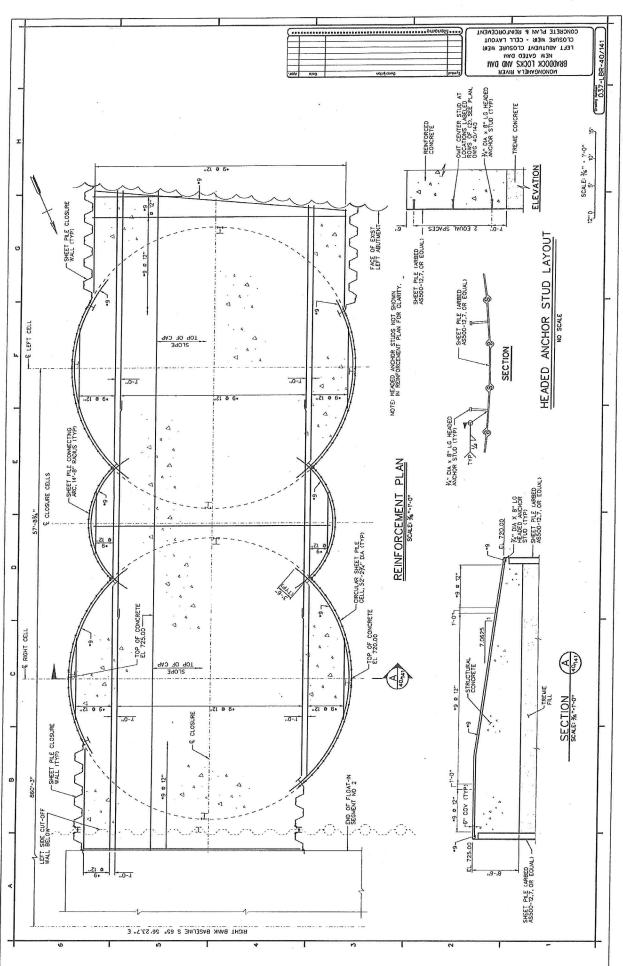
LOCK+ HYDRO FRIENDS FUND XLII

BRADDOCK LOCKS AND DAM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project Area Location Map



MXX1817 8-1



Ex41817 8-2