

Overview

On February 28, 2023, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Brainerd Dam, owned by Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU), will expire. BPU has already begun to plan for relicensing, which will take approximately 5 years.

What is a FERC license?

A FERC license authorizes operation of a hydroelectric plant for 30 to 50 years and contains conditions for plant operations and mitigation of potential environmental impacts. The project's current 30-year license was issued on March 2, 1993. A new license will authorize continued operation of the plant under specified conditions.

What is the purpose of relicensing?

During relicensing, FERC will reassess how the dam affects resources such as water supply, habitat, land, endangered species, recreation, and historical and cultural values. In making its assessment, FERC gives equal consideration to power and non-power uses and makes sure that the new license is consistent with a comprehensive plan for use of affected resources.

How does the licensing process work?

BPU will soon file a proposal or pre-application document with FERC to begin the relicensing process. The proposal will provide important details about the dam, surrounding resources, and how we plan to operate under a new license. For more information on the individual steps required, see the timeline on page 2.



Hydroelectric facilities such as the Brainerd Dam (circled in orange), are valued for their longevity, reliability, and ability to provide renewable energy. The current generating capacity of the dam, operated by BPU, is approximately 2.9 megawatts. The portion of the map outlined in yellow is the boundary of the area that will be considered during FERC relicensing. The public will have several opportunities for input in the relicensing process (see back page for timeline).

We welcome your input

As a company, we're concerned about the impact our decisions have on our community. Relicensing provides you with a unique opportunity to let us know how you feel about environmental and social issues related to the dam. BPU will work with you, FERC, and other interested stakeholders to develop a plan for studying the potential effects of a relicensed dam. The results of those studies will be used to create the licensing application. See page 2 for information on how to contact us about relicensing.



Four ways to connect

To connect with us during this relicensing process:

- 1. Visit www.bpu.org for updates.
- Sign up for FERC's
 eSubscription service at
 www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/
 esubscription.asp to receive
 notifications when new
 documents are filed into the
 relicensing record (Docket
 number P-2533).
- Ask to be on our mailing list by emailing Shanna Braun (sbraun@barr.com).
- Provide written comments that FERC considers when reviewing the license application. For instructions, visit www.ferc.gov/ docs-filing/efiling.asp.

