

**CORBETT WATER DISTRICT  
FERC HEARING  
Written Summary  
December 13, 2011**

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**Board members present:** Robert Gaughan, Sonny Boyd.

**Staff present:** James Jans, Shanti Kraai, Jeffery Busto, Hans Rathjen.

**Audience members present:** David Jacob, Malcolm Freund, Jonathan Unger, John Zauner, Les Perkins, Carnetta Boyd, Lee Strickland.

Vice chairman **Robert Gaughan** called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Agenda was approved as written.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC) – NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE PRELIMINARY APPLICATION DOCUMENT, AND REQUEST TO USE TRADITIONAL LICENSING PROCESS**

**James Jans** said that Corbett Water District's treatment plant was originally built in 1980, and was upgraded in 2003. Copies of the improvement packet containing details on the upgrade are available to anyone who would like to review it. He said that the filter ponds have a slow sand filtration system, as well as all the requirements made by Multnomah County. Nothing has changed on the intake of North Fork, located two miles from the treatment plant. We have a 3/32" fish screen approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department (ODFW). There is 180 feet of head at the treatment plant. The weir box takes the water coming into the filter ponds and splits it to either filter pond 1, 2 or 3. With the hydro generator, water that flows in will help generate power, roughly around \$400 per month. For the water to flow in, it has to go through the intake screen with 3/32" holes, travel two miles to the filter ponds, then go through an 8" yee strainer. Installed after the yee strainer is an 8" Cla-val, which we are able to open in order to operate the turbine. Shanti Kraai distributed informational packets to all present at the meeting. The packet included pictures, descriptions on how the turbine works, maps of North and South Fork, pictures of the hydro system, and a copy of a recent PGE bill to show electrical consumption. The 8" Cla-val located at the inlet of the treatment plant to mechanically reduce the pressure. If it is open, the turbine will slow down pressure and create electricity. We will still have the Cla-val online as a backup. The PGE transformer will be located on the existing treatment plant office building. The District currently has water rights of 900 gallons per minute from both North and South Fork. The combined water with drawl cannot exceed 900 gallons per minute. Since the treatment plant is on Bureau of Land Management property, a FERC conduit exemption was unauthorized, therefore we had to apply for the FERC traditional license. He states that our goal is to get through the FERC licensing process by April 2012. He requests that all correspondence is electronically to cut down on paperwork. He stated that this meeting is being recorded and a copy will be sent to everyone in attendance. The District would like to solve any issues there may be in a timely manner. Multnomah County took about five months for their permit and we would like to speed up the process in any way possible in order to meet our

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deadline. The conditions of the Multnomah County permit is that there needs to be room for at least two parking spaces, maintain erosion control, and follow emergency fire safety. The requirement for the emergency fire safety is that all tree branches around the filter ponds need to be removed up to 10 feet and all weeds over 2 feet tall need to be cut. There are currently no trees or shrubs around the filter ponds. The District will be installing a Farmers Screen at North Fork, which will allow fish to travel downstream. In the future, the District will need to install a fish ladder at North Fork to allow fish to travel upstream as well. Around 2004 South Fork washed out, at which time the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife approved an emergency repair, under the conditions that it is fixed within 10 years. **John Unger** from the State of Oregon Water Resources Department said that the federal agency, FERC, is required to submit or issue a license and the State of Oregon Water Resources Department is required to issue a certificate of water rights before the project can be operational. Corbett Water District would like to add the hydro generator project onto the existing water rights as an expedited process. This pertains to statute 543765. He states that before the FERC application was submitted, the State of Oregon Water Resources Department received their application and noticed that the District could not get a FERC conduit exemption, therefore the traditional process was used. Their rules require that if the proposed hydro electric project qualifies for FERC exemption, then the applicant may use their expedited process. There are two different kinds of FERC exemptions, the conduit exemption and the under 5 megawatt exemption. The conduit exemption requires to have the property under ownership, but the under 5 megawatt FERC exemption may not have that requirement, he states however this will be something he will need to look into more. Even though the District did not apply for the FERC exemption, the rules say that you simply have to qualify. So if the project qualifies for the under 5 megawatt exemption, but it was chosen to use the traditional process they may still be able to process it under the expedited process, which would still require the screen to allow fish passages as required by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The District is expecting to generate 8 kw, however if pipe was to be replaced it could produce more power. Even with more power, the District will still be well under 5 megawatts. **James Jans** said that with net metering, we will only receive enough to offset our electricity bill, and all additional electricity will be provided to PGE customers in need of financial assistance. **Sonny Boyd** asked how many Cla-vals in the District could be replaced with hydro generators. **James Jans** replied that Pace Engineers located 10 Cla-vals in the system that could be replaced. He states that he is working with Kris Kranzush for the FERC licensing, who has experience working with other water systems that have installed turbines on their water distribution system. He states that we have a deadline of April 2012 because we have an energy pass through tax credit of \$22,600. **John Unger** states that they cannot issue a certificate until FERC issues their license. Other agencies have commission authority over their certificate as well. **John Zauner** from ODFW asked if the District is going to use the FERC schedule. **James Jans** replied that the District will use the FERC schedule. He said that the notice of intent was in November, the scope meeting was to be on December 13, there will be a FERC hearing in January or February, any additional studies will be finished by January 31, the draft license will be in February and we hope to have the license ready by March 31, 2012. We have already put

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the footings in for the hydro building. The structure is 4' x 8' and we are in the process of putting in 2" electric conduit. Once the electric conduit is in we will run the electric and then the City of Gresham will be able to sign off on the electrical permit. He said that the District had to get a water permit for 16' of pipe, as well as a plumbing permit. The PGE application requires a building permit from the City of Gresham, and they are currently waiting for the Oregon Department of Water Resources and FERC. **John Zauner** informed James Jans that he has already commented on the concerns that the ODFW has, which is the upstream and downstream fish passage. **James Jans** said that the current North Fork screen is vertical and plugs up often due to small holes and a large surface area. The new Farmer's screen will eliminate required maintenance. The District will have to focus on South Fork in the next two years. There are no anadromous fish in North Fork, therefore there are no grants available to assist with this project. **Malcolm Freund** asked if every turbine is custom built. **David Jacob** said that the turgo turbines are adjustable in flow rate and are essentially custom. **John Zauner** said that since the project is now going through the traditional FERC process, the ODFW might have to consider how much water will be left in the creek channel after it is diverted for water use. **James Jans** said that the creek does not have a flow meter. He states that even during the high consumption months, the difference of water in North Fork after we draw from it is not noticeable. South Fork does not have enough water to use during the summer, and is currently only used for emergencies during Spring and Fall. **David Jacob** said that North Fork is only 4" across a 20' weir, so only a minimal amount of water is being drawn from the creek for our water system. **James Jans** said that even if the District did not use the hydro generator, we would still be drawing the same amount of water from the creek since the hydro generator will be located on our distribution system. **John Zauner** said that the FERC process will be more rigorous than the State process. He feels that this is a great project and hopes that the District eventually installs a generator on all 10 of our Cla-val sites. **James Jans** states that anyone interested can follow him after the meeting to the treatment plant in order to view the hydro site or North Fork.

Meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.