#### FILED ELECTRONICALLY

September 17, 2012

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: BRADDOCK LOCKS AND DAM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL LICENSE

(FERC No. 13739)

### Dear Secretary Bose:

Lock+TM Hydro Friends Fund XLII (Hydro Friends Fund), a wholly owned project development entity of Hydro Green Energy, LLC of Westmont, Illinois, is hereby applying for an original 50-year license for the Braddock Locks and Dam Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 13739) (Project), and requests timely issuance of an original 50-year license. Please note that Hydro Green Energy, LLC is acting as the Agent for Hydro Friends Fund on all licensing activities.

Hydro Friends Fund is distributing electronic copies of this License Application to the entities listed on the attached distribution list. In addition, a copy of these documents will be made available by Hydro Friends Fund through the following web site: www.hgenergy.com.

In conjunction with the electronic filing of this License Application, Hydro Friends Fund is providing the Commission with two courtesy copies of the License Application.

The following provides a summary of the documents associated with this License Application.

Volume I contains the public Exhibits and information associated with this License Application, which includes the following.

- **■** Table of Contents
- **■** Initial Statement
- **Exhibit A Project Description:** Describes the proposed Project facilities.
- Exhibit E Environmental Report: Discusses the existing environmental, recreational, cultural, and land resources in the vicinity of the Project.
- Exhibit G Project Map: Includes a project map showing the Project boundary for the Braddock Locks and Dam Hydroelectric Project.

- **Appendices** Due to file size, the following Volume I appendices are being e-filed and distributed to Project Stakeholders as separate documents:
  - o Appendix E-1a Water Quality Study Report
  - o Appendix E-2 Fish Entrainment and Survival Assessment Report

# **VOLUME II OF II (CONTAINS CEII – NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE)**

Volume II contains the Exhibit F general design drawings and the Preliminary Supporting Design Report (PSDR) for the Project. Consistent with 18 CFR Part 388, given that these drawings and PSDR contain Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII), Hydro Friends Fund is requesting that the documents contained in this volume be given privileged treatment and not be released to the public. Therefore, this volume is being filed with the Commission under separate cover and is not being distributed to the public.

#### FILING OF THE FINAL LICENSE APPLICATION

As defined further in Appendix E-3, Hydro Friends Fund has been engaged in direct consultation with the parties who have expressed interest in the proposed Project. In particular, following the March 7, 2012 Joint Agency/Public Meetings, Hydro Friends Fund has been engaged in substantive consultation with the key Federal and State agencies involved in the review of the proposed projects – the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC).

In lieu of filing a draft license application with the Commission, Hydro Friends Fund is filing a final license application at this time. The decision to file a final license application is based on the high level of consultation and study work performed to date. In particular, through a series of emails and a mailing starting on August 8, 2012, Hydro Friends Fund distributed a draft version of the license application and associated study reports to USACE, PADEP, USFWS, and PAFBC (i.e., the parties who have indicated interest in the project). Subsequent to this distribution, Hydro Friends Fund met in Pennsylvania with representatives of the USACE on August 29<sup>th</sup> to review the project and on August 30<sup>th</sup> with USACE, USFWS, and PADEP to walk the parties through the content of the application and the study reports, and to discuss the project in detail.

During these meetings, Hydro Friends Fund requested if the parties would concur with the filing of the license application and study reports with the Commission as final in order to initiate the formal comment periods and formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities under the Traditional Licensing Process. Following the August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, Hydro Friends Fund received correspondence from USFWS, PADEP and USACE (see Appendix E-3 for copies of the correspondence) indicating that these parties are comfortable with the level of consultation to date and are in agreement with filing the license application at this time, as compared to initiating an additional draft application comment period.

Therefore, Hydro Friends Fund seeks the Commission's acceptance of the final application at this point in time so that the formal comment process at the Commission may begin, and so

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Hydro Friends Fund may turn its immediate focus to beginning the approval processes associated with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (i.e., 401), as well as the Corps of Engineers (i.e., 404 and 408).

As the Commission is aware, to demonstrate new, innovative, low-impact approaches to developing hydropower at non-powered dams, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) in 2011 awarded \$1.5 million in competitive grants to Hydro Green Energy for the Braddock Project. This DOE funding, which could expire in early 2014, is critical to the project's economic performance, as is the Federal Section 45 Production Tax Credit, which expires 12/31/2013. The Applicant appreciates the Commission's understanding of the importance of these renewable energy incentives and looks forward to working with the Commission and other stakeholders to ensure a timely, thoughtful review and approval of the Braddock Project.

If there are any questions or comments regarding the license application or the proposed project, please do not hesitate to contact me at (877) 556-6566 x-711 or via email at mark@hgenergy.com

Sincerely,

Mark R. Stover

Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Hydro Green Energy, LLC Designated Representative of Lock+TM Hydro Friends Fund XLII

cc: Attached Distribution List

Enclosures

# Distribution List for the Braddock Locks and Dam Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 13739)

Cynthia Wilkerson, Northeast Regional Director National Park Service, Northeast Regional Office Custom House 200 Chestnut St., Fifth Floor Philadelphia, PA 19106-2913

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Ohio River Basin Commission 403 Bradley Hall Lexington KY 40506-0058 Jason Heath, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission 5735 Kellogg Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45228

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Pennsylvania Game Commission 2001 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17110 Pennsylvania Game Commission Southwest Regional Office 4820 Route 711 Bolivar, PA 15923 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Bureau for Historic Preservation Commonwealth Keystone Building, Second Floor 400 North St. Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

# Distribution List for the Braddock Locks and Dam Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 13739)

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The Allegheny Valley Trails Association P.O. Box 264
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The Allegheny Watershed Network 22 Terminal Way Pittsburgh, PA 15219 The Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring Dickinson College-Environmental Studies Dept. College & Louther St. P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

The American Waterways Operators 801 North Quincy St., Suite 200 Arlington, VA 22203 John Dawes, The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds 9697 Loop Road Alexandria, PA 16611

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