

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Kinetic Power LLC

Project No. 15034-001

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TERM FOR
PRELIMINARY PERMIT

(February 27, 2025)

On October 28, 2024, Kinetic Power LLC, filed an application for a four-year extension of its existing preliminary permit for the proposed Carrizo Four Corners Pumped Storage Hydro Center (formerly Beclabito Hydroelectric Energy Storage Center Project), issued on January 12, 2021, and expiring on January 1, 2025.¹ The proposed project would be located about 20 miles west of Shiprock, New Mexico. For the reasons discussed below, the request to extend the term of the preliminary permit for an additional four years is granted.

Section 5(b) of the Federal Power Act (FPA),² allows for a preliminary permit term to be extended once for not more than four additional years if the Commission finds that the permittee has carried out activities under the permit in good faith and with reasonable diligence.

In its annual progress reports, Kinetic Power LLC indicates that it has: (1) reached out to each intervening party and held discussions with the Navajo Nation and other local engaged organizations; (2) conducted extensive desktop studies; (3) carried out project studies in the area of weather impacts on highly decarbonized grids and underground geological characterization technologies; (4) revised the development plan after discussions with funding sources; (5) engaged with the Public Service Co. of New Mexico Integrated Resource Plan processes in 2023; (6) partnered with New Mexico State University, Columbia University, Colorado School of Mines, Argonne National Lab, and Los Alamos National Lab to apply for DOE FOA 2802 which focused on supporting pumped storage hydroelectric projects located on or near tribal lands; and (7) participated in collaborative planning efforts between the Navajo Nation, Colorado School of Mines, Columbia University, Baylor University, Argonne National Lab, and Los Alamos National Lab to conduct the comprehensive studies and other activities required to prepare a development application.

¹ See 174 FERC ¶ 62,023 (2022).

² 16 U.S.C. § 798(b)(1).

Upon review of the application for extension, as well as the four progress reports submitted under the preliminary permit, Kinetic Power LLC has demonstrated that it has carried out activities under the permit in good faith and with reasonable diligence. Therefore, the request for extension of the preliminary permit term is granted. It is expected that during the remaining term of the permit, as extended, agency consultation will continue, studies will be completed, and a development application will be prepared.

The Director orders:

(A) Ordering paragraph (A) of the preliminary permit for the Carrizo Four Corners Pumped Storage Hydro Center (Formerly Beclabito Hydroelectric Energy Storage Center Project) Project No. 15034 is amended to read as follows:

(A) A preliminary permit is issued for the Carrizo Four Corners Pumped Storage Hydro Center (Formerly Beclabito Hydroelectric Energy Storage Center Project) Project No. 15034 to Kinetic Power LLC for a period effective the first day of the month in which this permit is issued, and ending either 96 months from the effective date or on the date that a development application submitted by the permittee has been accepted for filing, whichever occurs first.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days of the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. § 825*l*, and section 385.713 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2022). The filing of a request for rehearing does not operate as a stay of any date specified in this order.

Ryan Hansen, Chief
West Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing