

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: July 8, 2020

FROM: Heather Campbell
Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer
Office of Energy Projects

TO: Public Files for the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project
(FERC Project No. 14227)

SUBJECT: FAST-41 Initiation Notice and Acceptance

On June 18, 2020, Nevada Hydro submitted a FAST-41 Initiation Notice (FIN) for the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (p-14227). This hydropower project would be located on Lake Elsinore and San Juan Creek near the city of Lake Elsinore in Riverside and San Diego Counties, California. The project would occupy about 845 acres of federal land administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

After review of the information provided in the FIN, Commission staff determined that the project meets the requirements to become a covered project under the provisions of FAST-41.

From: cms_notifications@dot.gov on behalf of [Permitting Dashboard](#)
To: [FERC-FAST41](#); fast.fortyone@fpisc.gov
Subject: Webform submission from: FAST-41 INITIATION NOTICE
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 6:55:48 PM

Greetings,

Pursuant to Title 41 of Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act 42 U.S.C. § 4370m (2016) ("FAST-41"), you have received an Initiating Notice for consideration to determine eligibility for coverage under FAST-41. You will have 14 days from the date of this submission to render a determination.

Review the submission details below. This submission is also stored on the Permitting Dashboard and can be found in the "FIN Submissions" view page upon logging in.

Permitting Dashboard user log in link: <https://cms.permits.performance.gov/user>

Project Information

Project Title:

The Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) project

Sector: [Renewable Energy Production](#) Type: [Non-Federal Hydropower - Licenses \(including Non-Federal Marine and Hydrokinetic Projects\)](#)

Project Location Address:

- **City:** Lake Elsinore
State: California
Zip: 92530
County: Riverside
-

Coordinates:

- **Latitude:** 33.648370
Longitude: -117.364293
-

Project Sponsor Contact Information:

- **Company Name/Agency:** The Nevada Hydro Company
Project Sponsor: The Nevada Hydro Company
Street Address: 2416 Cades Way
City: Vista
State: California
Zip: 92081
POC Name: David Kates
POC Title: Manager
POC Work Phone: [707-570-1866](tel:707-570-1866)
POC Email Address: david@leapshydro.com
-

Alternative Point Of Contact (Optional):

- **Company Name/Agency:** The Nevada Hydro Company
Project Sponsor: Rexford Wait
Street Address: 2416 Cades Way
City: Vista
State: California
Zip: 92081
POC Name: Rexford Wait
POC Title: President
POC Work Phone: [760-599-0086](tel:760-599-0086)
POC Email Address: Rex@leapshydro.com
-

Project Purpose:

LEAPS will be an electric storage resource with the ability to both charge and discharge electricity and provide transmission and a variety of grid support services to the CAISO. These services include reactive power (i.e., VAR) support, load and resource balancing services (i.e., regulation-up and regulation-down services), moment-to-moment load following service, spinning reserve service and black start service. LEAPS will be able to switch from providing one service to another almost instantaneously. Other grid support services that CAISO has recognized pumped storage facilities

like LEAPS can provide include:

- Renewable generation integration (i.e., balancing variability and over-generation)
- Frequency regulation
- Power system stability
- Load following
- Contingency reserves
- Inertial response
- Cycling and ramping protection of thermal generation
- Relieving transmission congestion

Project Description:

LEAPS is an advanced pumped storage hydropower facility located in southwestern Riverside County, southeastern Orange County, and northwestern San Diego County.

LEAPS will pump surface waters from an existing inland lake (Lake Elsinore) into a new water body to be constructed within the Decker Canyon area of the United States Forest Services' Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District. The project includes: (1) existing Lake Elsinore (afterbay); (2) new Decker Canyon Reservoir (forebay); (3) new underground LEAPS Powerhouse; (4) associated electrical and water systems and conduits (e.g., power shafts, power tunnels, penstocks, tailrace tunnels, and inlet/outlet structures); and (5) generation interconnection (gen-tie) facilities.

Summary of Financing, Reviews and Authorizations:

The is no federal financing at this time.

FERC is the lead agency and is to issue a license to construct this major hydroelectric pumped storage project under the Federal Power Act

Project Assessment:

The project will require authorization or environmental review by a Federal agency (FERC) involving construction of infrastructure for renewable energy production and transmission that—

(i)(I) is subject to NEPA;

(II) is likely to require a total investment of more than \$200,000,000; and

(III) does not qualify for abbreviated authorization or environmental review processes under any applicable law; or

(ii) is subject to NEPA and the size and complexity of which may make the project likely to benefit from enhanced oversight and coordination, including a project likely to require—

(I) authorization from or environmental review involving more than 2 Federal agencies; or

(II) the preparation of an environmental impact statement under NEPA.

Form Submitter Contact Information:

- **Name:** David Kates
- Title:** Manager
- Work Phone:** [7075701866](tel:7075701866)
- Email:** david@leapshydro.com

From: [Heather Campbell](#)
To: [Fast Fortyone](#)
Cc: [David Kates](#); [Timothy Konnert](#); [Kyle Olcott](#); scott.vandegrift@usda.gov; james_cason@ios.doi.gov; thomas.p.smith@usace.army.mil; [Joshua Fitzpatrick](#); michael_freeman@ios.doi.gov; [FERC-FAST41](#)
Subject: FAST-41 initiation notice for Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project
Date: Thursday, July 02, 2020 1:28:28 PM

Good Afternoon,

On June 18, 2020, Nevada Hydro submitted a FAST-41 Initiation Notice (FIN) for the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (p-14227). This hydropower project would be located on Lake Elsinore and San Juan Creek near the city of Lake Elsinore in Riverside and San Diego Counties, California. The project would occupy about 845 acres of federal land administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

After review of the information provided in the FIN, I have determined that the project meets the requirements to become a covered project under the provisions of FAST-41.

The project also qualifies as a Major Infrastructure Project under the One Federal Decision Memorandum of Understanding. The Commission staff has been working with the agencies and issued the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on June 18, 2020.

Based on the guidance from OMB and FPISC OED, the Commission staff will be following the FAST-41 process for developing the permitting dashboard and the Coordinated Project Plan, and will complete these steps within 60 days of FPISC-OED putting up a project landing page.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Heather Campbell
CERPO
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission