

November 7, 2024

VIA Electronic Filing

Ms. Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Amendment to Final License Applications
Gile Flowage Storage Reservoir Project (FERC Project No. 15055-001)
Saxon Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2610-012)
Superior Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2587-066)**

Dear Secretary Reese:

On August 18, 2023, Northern States Power Company - Wisconsin (NSPW) submitted its Final License Application (FLA) ([FERC Accession No. 20230818-5221](#)) for an original hydropower license for the Gile Flowage Storage Reservoir Project (FERC Project No. 15055). The application was supplemented via letter dated December 18, 2023, ([FERC Accession No. 20231218-5221](#)) in response to the Commission's Deficiency of License Application and Additional Information Request ([FERC Accession No. 20230918-3024](#)).

Gile Storage Reservoir Final License Application - Amendment 1

In Section 3.8.3 of Exhibit E of the FLA, NSPW noted that it intended to pursue a sale of its islands to Iron County, or other interested public entity, with the stipulation they remain open to the public in perpetuity. NSPW further noted that should a sale agreement be reached, it would pursue a license amendment seeking removal of its islands from the Project boundary.¹

NSPW is working on the details to transfer ownership of its islands above elevation 1490 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) to Iron County. The sale would also include NSPW's upland ownership along the reservoir above elevation 1490 feet NGVD. Any transfer of ownership would require that the lands remain open to the public in perpetuity for recreational use. Therefore, NSPW is removing the islands it currently owns in fee title above elevation 1490.0 feet NGVD from the proposed Project boundary. NSPW has conducted an environmental review of the proposed action which is enclosed as Appendix 1.

Gile Storage Reservoir Final License Application - Amendment 2

In response to the pending change in island ownership, NSPW is also removing the proposed measure to develop a Land Management Plan for the islands as was described in Section 3.8.3 of Exhibit E of the FLA.

Gile Storage Reservoir Final License Application - Amendment 3

Due to the anticipated costs associated with the pending spillway modifications at the Gile Dam, NSPW hereby requests a 49-year, five month license term for the Gile Storage Reservoir Project.

¹ Islands not owned by NSPW were previously excluded from the project boundary as part of the filing of the final license application (Accession # 20230818-5222).

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The three application amendments discussed above require revisions to the following:

- Exhibit A,
- Exhibit E (including Appendices E-11 and E-25),
- Exhibit G, and
- Exhibit H

The revised exhibits are included as Appendices 2-7.

Saxon Falls and Superior Falls – Final License Application Amendments

To align license expiration dates with the Gile Project, NSPW further requests that the FLA for the downstream Saxon Falls and Superior Falls Projects be amended to reflect our desire for a 50-year license term for both projects. This would ensure coordination of future relicensing efforts by providing for a comprehensive, basin-wide analysis of all three projects on the Montreal River.

Should you wish to access the information provided in this submittal, it is posted at the following website: <https://hydrorelicensing.com/Gile/>. Should you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at 715-737-1353 or matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

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Digitally signed by Scott
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Date: 2024.11.07 15:04:37
-06'00'

Scott Crotty
Senior Hydro Operations Manager

Enclosures

CC: Stakeholder List

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I, on behalf of Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin, have served by mail or via email (if a mailing address was not available), a link to access the foregoing documents in electronic format upon each person designated on the attached distribution list.

Dated this 7th day of November, 2024

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrin Johnson".

Darrin Johnson
Mead & Hunt, Inc.

Gile Flowage Storage Project

FERC Project No. 15055

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Appendix 1 – Environmental Review

This information has been submitted as a separate file.

Appendix 2 – Amended Exhibit A

This information has been submitted as a separate file.

Appendix 3 – Amended Exhibit E

This information has been submitted as a separate file.

Appendix 4 – Amended Exhibit E-Appendix E-11
This information has been submitted as a separate file.

Appendix 5 – Amended Exhibit E-Appendix E-25
This information has been submitted as a separate file.

Appendix 6 – Amended Exhibit G

This information has been submitted as a separate file.

Appendix 7 – Amended Exhibit H

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