



1414 West Hamilton Avenue  
PO Box 8  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

July 30, 2020

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

Subject: **Preliminary Application Document, Notice of Intent, Request to Use Traditional Licensing Process and Request for Designation of Non-Federal Representative**  
**White River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2444)**

Dear Secretary Bose:

In accordance with 18 CFR § 16.6 and Section 15 of the Federal Power Act, Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin (NSPW or Licensee), d/b/a Xcel Energy, is hereby electronically filing a Notice of Intent to File a License Application (NOI) and a Pre-Application Document (PAD) for the relicensing of the White River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2444). The current license for the Project expires on July 31, 2025.

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, NSPW hereby declares its unequivocal intent to relicense the White River Hydroelectric Project by filing the enclosed NOI and PAD. In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.5(c), the Licensee will also provide a copy of the NOI and PAD in electronic format to appropriate federal, state, and interstate resource agencies as well as Indian Tribes, local governments, and members of the public likely to be interested in the relicensing process. A distribution list of all known potential stakeholders receiving copies of the NOI and PAD is attached. Licensee will also provide two paper courtesy copies of the NOI and PAD to Commission Staff in the Office of Energy Projects and the Office of General Counsel-Energy Projects as outlined in the Commission's filing guidelines.

Under 18 CFR § 5.3, the Licensee hereby requests Commission approval to use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP). The TLP should provide cost and time savings to both the Licensee and stakeholders due to the limited areal extent of the project boundary, the limited number of anticipated stakeholders, and the lack of controversial issues brought forward in the questionnaire responses. Experience also indicates that the TLP is less costly than the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP).

Due to the limited number of responses to the questionnaire provided to the stakeholders, and the lack of any expressed opposition, there does not appear to be any objection to the use of the TLP. There also does not appear to be any complex resource issues or anticipated controversy. Therefore, the Licensee anticipates the Commission will be able to complete the timely issuance of a subsequent license for the Project.

Under 18 CFR § 5.3(d)(1), comments concerning Licensee's request to use the TLP must be filed with the Commission within 30 days of the filing date of this request and must include either the FERC Project No. 2444 or the name and address of the Licensee as included in the PAD.

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose

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To assist in open communication with the stakeholders, the Licensee plans to use electronic communication, where feasible, as the primary source of communication. If electronic communication is not feasible, hard copy communication will be utilized as a secondary form of communication throughout the licensing process. Documents filed with the Commission and provided to the stakeholders will also be posted on a website at <http://hydrorelicensing.com/>.

Under 18 CFR § 5.3(d)(2), the Licensee shall file no later than the date of this filing a notice in a daily or weekly newspaper of general circulation in Ashland County, Wisconsin. The notice shall include the date of the PAD and the request to use the TLP. The notice shall also summarize the documents filed, justification for requesting to use the TLP, Licensee's name, address and telephone number, and indicate that comments are due within 30 days of the public notice filing date. Comments filed in response to the public notice must include the project number and/or the Licensee's name and address, and state that respondents must submit Comments to the Secretary of the Commission in accordance with filing procedures outlined in the Commission's website at <http://FERC.gov>.

The public notice shall also state that comments regarding Licensee's request to use the TLP should address as appropriate the likelihood of timely license issuance, complexity of resource issues, level of anticipated controversy, relative cost of the TLP compared to the ILP, the amount of available information and potential for significant disputes over studies and other factors believed to be pertinent.

A public scoping meeting and site visit will be held between 30 and 60 days of the Commission's decision regarding the use of the TLP. Written comments on the PAD must be filed with the Commission, and a copy sent to NSPW, within 60 days of the public scoping meeting.

Under 18 CFR § 5.5(e), the Licensee hereby further requests to be designated as the Commission's non-federal representative in the relicensing of the White River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2444) for the purposes of consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint regulations under 50 CFR Part 402, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations at 50 CFR § 600.920, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the implementing regulations under 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at 715-737-1353 or [matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com](mailto:matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com).

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Zyduck  
Director, Hydro Plants

cc: Distribution List

## Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I, on behalf of NSPW, a Wisconsin corporation, have this day served by First Class Mail the foregoing documents in electronic format upon each person designated on the attached distribution list.

Dated this 30th day of July 2020.



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Darrin M. Johnson  
Mead & Hunt, Inc.

# White River Hydroelectric Project Licensing

FERC Project No. 2444

## Notice of Intent to Relicense Request to Use the Traditional Licensing Process Pre-Application Document Distribution List

### TRIBES

**Mr. Chad Able, Treaty Natural Resource Administrator**

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
88385 Pike Rd., Hwy 13  
Bayfield, WI 54814

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**Mr. Brian Bainbridge, Chairperson**

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**FEDERAL**

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**Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary**

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**Honorable Glenn Grothman, U.S. Representative**

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1427 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

**Honorable Ron Johnson, Senator**

U.S. Senator from Wisconsin  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
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U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Midwest Regional Office  
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timothy.lapointe@bia.gov

**Ms. Mary Manydeeds, Environmental Specialist**

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114 East State Capital  
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**LOCAL**

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**OTHER**

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Walleye for Tomorrow  
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**Mr. Scott Crotty**

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**Mr. Matthew Miller**

Hydro License Compliance Consultant  
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**Mr. Raj Shukla or Ms. Allison Werner**

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**Mr. James Zyduck**

Director of Hydro Plants  
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1414 W Hamilton Ave  
Eau Claire, WI 54701-7252  
James.Zyduck@XcelEnergy.com

**NOTICE OF INTENT  
BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
TO FILE AN APPLICATION  
FOR SUBSEQUENT LICENSE  
WHITE RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
FERC PROJECT NO. 2444  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY-WISCONSIN, d/b/a Xcel Energy**

In accordance with 18 C.F.R. Section 5.5, Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin, d/b/a Xcel Energy, hereby declares its intent to file an application for a subsequent license for an existing minor hydroelectric development at the White River Hydroelectric Project as described below.

**Information Required Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §§ 5.5 and 16.6(b)**

**1. Potential License Applicant's Name and Address**

The licensee's name and address are:

Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin  
Attn: James Zyduck  
Director of Hydro Plants  
1414 W Hamilton Ave  
PO Box 8  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
James.Zyduck@XcelEnergy.com

**2. Project Number**

The FERC project number is 2444.

**3. License Expiration Date**

The license expiration date is July 31, 2025.

**4. Statement of Intent**

Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin, d/b/a Xcel Energy, unequivocally intends to file an application for a subsequent license for the White River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2444) and has requested permission to use the Commission's Traditional Licensing Process.

**5. Principal Project Works and Project Description**

The principal project works consist of a 775-foot long, 46-foot high dam consisting of four sections, a 7-foot diameter reinforced concrete conduit that extends 1,345 feet from the dam to the surge tank, a 16-foot diameter by 62-foot high surge tank, two 5.5-foot diameter steel penstocks extending 30 feet from the surge tank to the power house, a 39 foot long by 69 foot wide by 25-foot high powerhouse, and a 2.4 kV/69 kV step up transformer in the adjacent non-project substation.

The dam consists of four sections: 1) a 37-foot high, 400-foot long left earthen embankment section which extends to the left abutment of the headworks structure with a crest elevation at or above 720.4

feet NGVD, 2) a 20-foot wide intake section with 14.25-foot wide by 20-foot high trashracks with a 1.25 inch clear spacing between bars, 3) a 55-foot wide by 35-foot high by 70-foot long gated spillway section with two gates each 25 feet wide and 19.75 feet high with sill crest elevations of 685.2 feet NGVD, and 4) a 37-foot high, 300-foot long right earthen embankment section which extends to the right abutment of the gated spillway section with a crest elevation of at or above 720.4 feet NGVD.

The powerhouse contains two horizontal type units. Unit 1 has double Francis runners with 15 blades manufactured by Kiser and is rated at 940 hp. Unit 2 has double Francis runners with 16 blades manufactured by S. Morgan Smith Company and is rated at 667 hp.

The powerhouse also contains two generators with a total rated capacity of 1,200 kW. Unit 1 is a GE, 2300-volt, 450 rpm, 1.0 power factor AC generator with a nameplate capacity of 700 kW. Unit 2 is a Westinghouse, 2300-volt, 450 rpm, 1.0 power factor AC generator with a nameplate capacity of 500 kW.

## **6. Location of the Project**

The location of the project is as follows:

State: Wisconsin  
County: Ashland County  
Stream: White River approximately 13 miles upstream of its confluence with the Bad River  
Nearby Communities: City of Ashland, Wisconsin; Town of White River, Wisconsin  
Other: Located in northwestern Ashland County; approximately 5 miles from the city of Ashland, WI; and approximately 113 miles northeast of the City of Eau Claire, WI.

## **7. Installed Plant Capacity**

The plant has an installed capacity of 1.2 MW.

Unit 1: 700 kW

Unit 2: 500 kW

## **8. Names and Mailing Addresses**

- *Every county in which any part of the project is located, and in which any Federal facility that is used or to be used by the project is located:*

County: Ashland  
Contact name: Heather Schutte, County Clerk  
Mailing Address: 201 Main St, Room 202,  
Ashland, WI 54806  
[Heather.schutte@clerk@co.wi.us](mailto:Heather.schutte@clerk@co.wi.us)

The Project uses no federal facilities and occupies no federal lands.

- *Every city, town, or similar local political subdivision*

- (A) *in which any part of the project is or is to be located and any Federal facility that is or is to be used by the project is located:*

Brant Kucera  
City Administrator  
City of Ashland  
601 Main St. W.  
Ashland, WI 54806  
bkucera@coawi.org

Matthew Lehto  
Chairman  
Town of White River  
65617 Charles Johnson Rd.  
Ashland, WI 54806  
14ledo81@gmail.com

The Project uses no federal facilities and occupies no federal lands.

- (B) *that has a population of 5,000 or more people and is located within 15 miles of the existing proposed project dam:*

Brant Kucera  
City Administrator  
City of Ashland  
601 Main St. W.  
Ashland, WI 54806  
bkucera@coawi.org

- *Every irrigation district, drainage district, or similar special purpose political subdivision*

- (A) *in which any part of the project is or is proposed to be located and any Federal facility that is or is proposed to be used by the project is located;*

Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
1400 S. River St.  
Spooner, WI 54801-8692

The Project uses no federal facilities and occupies no federal lands.

- (B) *that owns, operates, maintains, or uses any project facility or any Federal facility that is or is proposed to be used by the project:*

None.

- *Every other political subdivision in the general area of the project or proposed project that there is reason to believe would likely be interested in, or affected by, the notification:*

None.



- *Indian tribes:*

**Mr. Chad Able, Treaty Natural Resource Administrator**

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
88385 Pike Rd., Hwy 13  
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**Mr. Marcus Ammesmaki, THPO**

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
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