

November 13th, 2014

The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Room 1-A Washington, DC 20426

RE: Submission of Revised Scoping Document and Request of Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership to Hold the Joint Agency and Scoping Meeting on the same date for the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project (No. 14628)

Dear Ms. Bose:

Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership ("Applicant") respectfully submits a revised scoping document to be issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") in connection with the Applicant's licensing proceeding. This revised scoping document reflects a scoping meeting date of December 4, 2014.

On November 13, 2014, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") issued an order authorizing use of the Alternative Licensing Process ("ALP"). The Applicant respectfully requests waiver of 18 C.F.R. § 4.38(b)(3)(ii) to hold the joint agency meeting less than thirty (30) days from the Commission's approval date of the Applicant's request to use the ALP. As noted in the attached schedule, the Applicant would like to combine the joint agency meeting and the scoping meeting to be convened pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.8 and hold those meetings on the same date/location. The Scoping Meeting is currently scheduled for December 4, 2015. Good cause supports this request. First, parties have been on notice of the Applicant's project and request to use ALP for many months and, the NOI and PAD contained a tentative date for the joint agency meeting August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Second, it is efficient for not only the resource agencies, the Commission and the Applicant to hold the meetings on the same date, but holding the two meetings on the same date allows the public an opportunity to attend as well. Third, holding the meeting well prior to the traditional holiday season at the end of December, will allow broader participation in the process and fewer conflicts. Finally, interested parties will receive sufficient notice of the meetings. The Applicant will serve this request to its email distribution list and publish the notice in the newspaper, ensuring that interested entities will have ample notice of the meeting.

The Applicant looks forward to working with the Commission and the interested parties during the ALP

Respectfully submitted,

Owen Metz

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A-Mill Hydropower Task List and Schedule	Wednesday, November 12, 2014	]		ω ι 5									
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Major Tasks	Start Date	End Date	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	N	ov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15
FERC Approval	Friday, June 27, 2014	Thursday, March 19, 2015		ERC									
Submit Communications Protocol to Agencies	Thursday, October 02, 2014	Thursday, October 02, 2014		! P									
Submit Draft Scoping Document to Agencies	Thursday, October 02, 2014	Thursday, October 02, 2014		DF									
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FERC Notice of Scoping Document	Thursday, November 13, 2014	Thursday, November 13, 2014		C L									
Public Review of Scoping Document	Thursday, November 13, 2014	Friday, November 28, 2014		al.									
Joint Agency Meeting	Thursday, December 04, 2014	Thursday, December 04, 2014		ц									
Scoping Meeting	Thursday, December 04, 2014	Thursday, December 04, 2014		1/:									
Collaborative Workgroup Kickoff	Thursday, December 04, 2014	Thursday, December 04, 2014		13/									
Public Comment Period of Scoping Materials	Thursday, December 04, 2014	Saturday, January 03, 2015		20									
Submit Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA)	Monday, January 05, 2015	Monday, January 05, 2015		14									
Submit Draft License Application	Monday, January 05, 2015	Monday, January 05, 2015		4:									
FERC Review of APEA & Draft Application	Monday, January 05, 2015	Monday, January 19, 2015		47									
Collaborative Workgroup Meeting 2	Thursday, December 18, 2014	Thursday, December 18, 2014		:50									
FERC Issuance of Notice of APEA & Application	Monday, January 19, 2015	Monday, January 19, 2015		P									
Public Comment Period of APEA & Application	Monday, January 19, 2015	Wednesday, February 18, 2015		N									
Collaborative Workgroup Meeting 3	Thursday, January 01, 2015	Thursday, January 01, 2015											
Collaborative Workgroup Meeting 4	Thursday, January 15, 2015	Thursday, January 15, 2015											
Respond to Comments and Amend Application	Monday, January 19, 2015	Wednesday, February 18, 2015											
Submit Final Application	Wednesday, February 18, 2015	Wednesday, February 18, 2015											
FERC Review of Application	Wednesday, February 18, 2015	Thursday, March 19, 2015											

### FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION Washington, DC 20426

Project No. 14628-000 – A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership

#### Subject: Scoping Document 1 for the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project Number 14628

To the Party Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping for an anticipated original license application to be submitted by Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership (Applicant) for the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project (Project), which has been assigned FERC project number 14628. The project would be located in Hennepin County, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The project would not occupy any federal lands.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Applicant intends to prepare an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue an original license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the environmental assessment (EA) is thorough and balanced.

We invite your participation in the scoping process, and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the Project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the APEA.

We will hold two scoping meetings for the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project to receive input on the scope of the APEA. The meetings will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota at 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The location of the meetings will be 1000 LaSalle Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota in room 202 in Terrence Murphy Hall.

We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or both of these meetings. Further information on our Environmental Site Review and scoping meetings is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to both the Applicant's distribution list and the Commission's official mailing list (see section 9.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed

from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to <u>efiling@ferc.gov</u> or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be removed or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: **A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project Number 14628.** 

Please review SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 5.0, *Requests for Information*. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the APEA for this project, please contact Janet Hutzel at (202) 502-8675 or janet.hutzel@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project may be obtained from our website, <u>http://www.ferc.gov</u>.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

cc: Mailing List Public Files

### **SCOPING DOCUMENT 1**

## A-Mill ARTIST LOFTS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

## MINNESOTA

### PROJECT NO. 14628-000

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Office of Energy Projects Division of Hydropower Licensing Washington, DC

November 2014

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#### **SCOPING DOCUMENT 1**

#### A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project, No. 14628-000

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

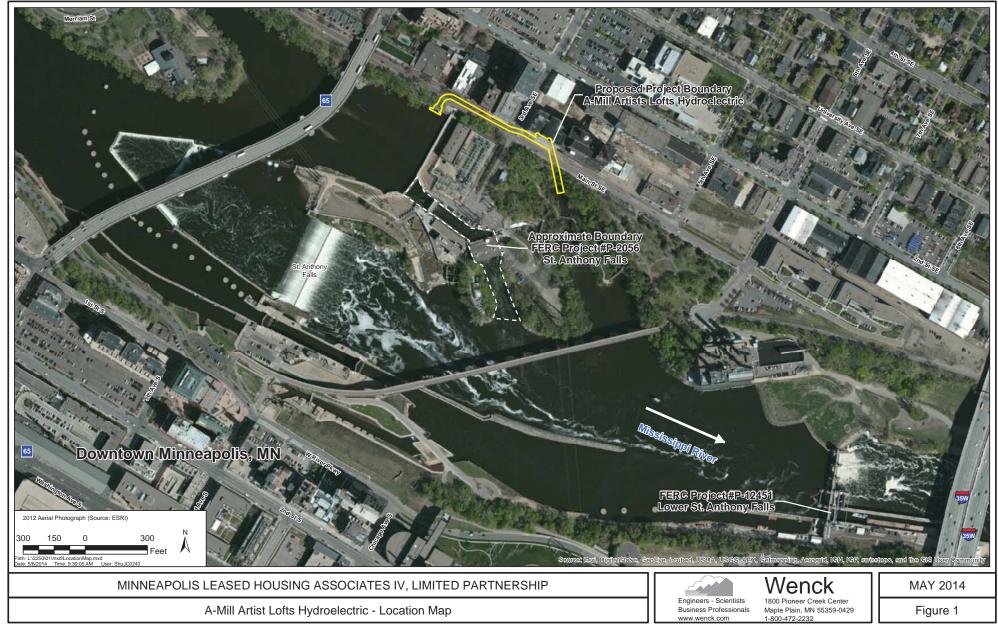
The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA), may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On July 28, 2014 and July 29, 2014 Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership (Applicant), filed with the Commission a Notice of Intent (NOI) and a Pre-Application Document (PAD) on July 28, 2014 and July 29, 2014, respectively to seek an original license for the construction and operation of the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project (Project). The Applicant is using the Commission's Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) to prepare the license application.

The Project would be located in Hennepin County, in Minneapolis, Minnesota (Figure 1). It would not occupy any federal lands. The Project would be operated as a run-of-river hydroelectric facility. The Project would have an annual energy production of 3,500 megawatt-hours (MWh). A detailed description of the Project is provided in section 3.0.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,<sup>1</sup> the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of licensing the Project as proposed, and also consider reasonable alternatives to the applicant's proposed action. At this time, the developer intends to prepare an Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA) that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the proposed action and alternatives. The APEA preparation will be supported by a scoping process to ensure identification and analysis of all pertinent issues. Although the current intent is to prepare an APEA, there is a possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. Nevertheless, this meeting will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether an APEA, or EIS is issued by the Commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f) (2012).

# Figure 1



#### 2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the applicant prepared APEA and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the APEA, (2) a description of the proposed action and alternatives, (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues, (4) a request for comments and information, (5) a proposed EA outline, and (6) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans which are applicable to the Project.

### 2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. According to NEPA, the process should be conducted early in the planning stage of the Project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the APEA;
- identify how the Project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the Project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the APEA;
- solicit, from participants, available information on the resources at issue; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

#### 2.2 COMMENTS, SCOPING MEETINGS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW

During the preparation of the APEA, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during the public scoping process when we solicit oral and written comments regarding scope of the issues and analysis for the APEA,
- after issuance of the APEA when we solicit written comments on the APEA.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold public scoping meetings and an Environmental Site Review in the vicinity of the proposed project. The meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGO's, and Indian tribes, and on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend the meeting to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the APEA. The time and location of the meeting is as follows:

#### **Scoping Meeting**

Date and Time:	The applicant will hold two scoping meetings for the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project to receive input on the scope of the APEA. The meetings will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota at 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm on December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Location:	1000 LaSalle Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota in room 202 of the Terrence Murphy Hall.
Contact:	Neal Route – (763) 354-5500 – nroute@dominiuminc.com

#### **Environmental Site Review**

Date and Time:	The applicant will hold an environmental site review on December 4 <sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.
Location:	Xcel Energy Water Power Park 206 Main Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55414
Contact:	Neal Route – (763) 354-5500 – nroute@dominiuminc.com

All participants interested in seeing the proposed project site should meet at the Xcel Energy Water Power Park, located at 206 Main Street SE in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Participants must provide their own transportation to the project site. The Environmental Site Review will include tours of the intake and outlet area. Anyone with questions about the Environmental Site Review should contact Neal Route by email at <u>nroute@dominuminc.com</u> or by phone at (763) 354-5500.

The scoping meeting will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the Project. Before the meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 5.0. The meeting is posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at <u>http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx</u>, along with other related information.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the licensing of the Project. It is advised that participants review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Copies of the PAD are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (<u>http://www.ferc.gov</u>), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-14628-000 for the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project, to access the documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at <u>FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov</u> or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made on the level of analysis needed. If the preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the APEA.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, a SD2 addressing any substantive comments received will be issued for informational use only by all participants or interested persons; no response will be required. The APEA will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

### 3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the applicant's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

# 3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The no-action alternative is license denial. Under the no-action alternative, the Project would not be built and environmental resources in the Project area would not be affected.

# 3.2 APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

# 3.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities

Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership proposes the following new project facilities for the Project: (1) removal of the concrete bulkhead presently blocking the majority of the old intake structure and installation of a trash rack at the intakes location thereby re-activating the existing intake structure (2) installation of a 600-foot-long, 5-footdiameter horizontal pipeline within the confines of the existing headrace channel (3) installation of approximately a 50-foot-long, 5-foot diameter vertical pipe down the existing downstream dropshaft (4) a 650-kilowatt (kW) turbine/generator set and related control system; and (5) sufficient re-construction to the existing downstream tailrace to ensure its stability and safe operation.

# 3.2.2 Proposed Project Operation

The A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project would operate as a run-of-river hydroelectric system. During normal operation, the Project would generate energy as required to meet the residential tenant's demands and to supply cooling and heating. Depending on the final design of the control system a small amount of power may be back-fed into the electrical supply for the building and interconnected grid to provide short term stability for the system and prevent constant adjustment to facility operation that may otherwise occur. The Project would have an installed capacity of 650 kW and an estimated annual energy production of 3,500 MWh.

# 3.2.3 Proposed Environmental Measures

Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership proposes to construct and operate the Project with the environmental protection and enhancement measures described below.

# **Geologic and Soil Resources**

• Employ best management practices during the design and construction to mitigate any potential adverse effects on soil resources.

# **Aquatic Resources**

• Develop a spill management plan to address potential effects on water quality during construction.

### **Terrestrial Resources**

• None proposed.

## Threatened and Endangered Species

• None proposed.

### **Recreation and Land Use**

• Coordination of scheduling of any sedimentation excavation and any external intake construction work wherein safety requirements may temporarily restrict public access with the Minneapolis Park Board.

### **Cultural Resources**

- Design the Project to avoid identified cultural properties or traditional cultural properties (TCPs).
- Mitigate any adverse effects on cultural resources or TCPs through planned data recovery of cultural resource properties.
- Develop an Historic Properties Management Plan (if warranted) to provide a formal framework for the future treatment of all known cultural properties within the Area of Potential Effect that are eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Aesthetic Resources**

- Construct the Project in a manner that would minimize any adverse effects on aesthetic resources. It is planned that the applicant will work cooperatively with other licensed projects at the Upper St. Anthony Falls to operate the facility in a manner consistent the priority of the applicant's water rights as pertains to other users to maintain aesthetic flows over the spillway at the Upper St. Anthony Falls.
- Nearly the entire project is out of site from the public. For those areas that are visible, Best Management Practices will be employed to address potential adverse visual effects.

#### Socioeconomics

• None proposed.

#### Air Quality

• None proposed.

### 3.3 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

The developer's consultant will consider and analyze all recommendations for operation or facility modifications, as well as for protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by the FERC, resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.

### 4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES

### 4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

### 4.1.1 Resources That Could Be Cumulatively Affected

Based on our review of the PAD and preliminary staff analysis, we have identified aquatic resources as resources that may be cumulatively affected by the proposed construction and operation of the Project.

### 4.1.2 Geographic Scope

Our geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected resources is defined by the physical limits or boundaries of: (1) the proposed action's effect on the resources, and (2) contributing effects from other hydropower and non-hydropower activities within the drainage basin. Because the proposed action would affect the resources differently, the geographic scope for each resource may vary.

### 4.1.3 Temporal Scope

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the APEA will include a discussion of past, present, and future actions and their effects on each resource that could be

cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of an original license, the temporal scope will look 30-50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect on the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

### 4.2 **RESOURCE ISSUES**

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the APEA. We have identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the PAD and the Commission's record for the Project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains those issues raised to date that could have substantial effects. After the scoping process is complete, we will review this list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the APEA. Those issues identified by an asterisk (\*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and site-specific effects.

### 4.2.1 Geologic and Soil Resources

• Effects of project Effects of project construction on soil

### 4.2.2 Aquatic Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation on the water quality of project waters and the Mississippi River
- Effects of project construction and operation on fisheries, mussels, and aquatic habitat in the project boundary.
- Effects of project operation on the spread of aquatic invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels).
- Effects of project operation on impingement, entrainment, and turbine-induced fish mortality.

### 4.2.3 Terrestrial Resources

• Effects of project construction and operation on vegetation

### 4.2.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

• No threatened or endangered species are known to exist in the Project area.

### 4.2.5 Recreation and Land Use

- Effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on recreation resources in the Project vicinity.
- Effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on other land use activities in the Project vicinity.

#### 4.2.6 Cultural Resources

• Effects of construction and operation of the proposed project on historic, archaeological, and traditional resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### 4.2.7 Aesthetic Resources

- Effects of project construction and operation on aesthetic resources, including views, in the Project vicinity.
- Effects of noise from project construction on recreational and residential use in the Project vicinity.

### 4.2.8 Socioeconomics

• Effects of the Project on the local economy of Hennepin County, Minnesota.

### 5.0 PROPOSED STUDIES

Depending upon the recommendations of the consulted entities, Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership will consider, and may propose certain other measures to enhance environmental resources affected by the Project as part of the proposed action. Applicant's initial study proposals are identified by resource area below. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and the applicant from interested participants, including Indian tribes. Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership proposes the following:

<b>Resource Area and Issue</b>	Proposed Study/Information Need
Geology and Soils	Existing condition study of tunnels has been recently completed and is included in the PAD, No additional studies proposed.
Aquatic Resources	Characterize benthic macroinvertebrate communities and aquatic habitat in the source

<b>Resource Area and Issue</b>	Proposed Study/Information Need
	waters and identify the potential project effects on aquatic resources.
Threatened and Endangered Species	None proposed.
Recreation and Land Use	Identify recreation and land use resources and needs in the Project area and evaluate the effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on those resources.
Cultural Resources	None Proposed.
Aesthetic Resources	Quantify and qualify the existing visual quality of the Project area and analyze potential visual effects of the Project. It is planned that the applicant will work cooperatively with other licensed projects at the Upper St. Anthony Falls to operate the facility in a manner consistent the priority of the applicant's water rights as it pertains to other users to maintain aesthetic flows over the spillway at the Upper St. Anthony Falls.
Socioeconomics	Evaluate the effects of project construction and operation on the local and regional economy and on local social conditions, goods, and services.

# 6.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the Project-specific and cumulative effects associated with licensing the Project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to:

• information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;

- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed licensing of the Project;
- existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the Project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- information that would help characterize the existing environmental conditions and habitats;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs) along with any implementation schedules;
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the Project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public; and
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration.

The requested information and comments on SD1 may be filed electronically within 30 days of the Commission's notice of this SD1. But, if the Commission is closed on this day, then the comments are due the close of business on the next day in which the Commission is open.<sup>2</sup> All filings must clearly identify the following on the first page: **A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project Number 14628**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <u>http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp</u>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <u>http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp</u>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at <u>FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov</u> or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 18 C.F.R § 385.2007(a)(2) (2014).

Washington, D.C. 20426.

Register online at <u>http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp</u> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at <u>FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov</u>. Any questions concerning the scoping meetings, Environmental Site Review, or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Janet Hutzel at (202) 502-8675 or janet.hutzel@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project may be obtained from the Commission's website, <u>www.ferc.gov</u>.

#### 7.0 APEA PREPARATION SCHEDULE

At this time, we anticipate the need to prepare an APEA. The APEA will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the Project. The APEA will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as environmental protection and enhancement measures that should be part of any original license issued by the Commission. All recipients will then have 30 days to review the APEA and file written comments with the Commission. The major milestones, including those for preparing the APEA, are as follows:

Major Tasks	Start Date	End Date		
FERC Approval	Friday, June 27, 2014	Thursday, March 19, 2015		
Submit Communications Protocol to Agencies	Thursday, October 02, 2014	Thursday, October 02, 2014		
Submit Draft Scoping Document to Agencies	Thursday, October 02, 2014	Thursday, October 02, 2014		
Receive Comments from Agencies	Thursday, October 02, 2014	Wednesday, October 15, 2014		
FERC Review of Agency Comments	Wednesday, October 29, 2014	Monday, November 03, 2014		
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FERC Notice of Scoping Document	Thursday, November 13, 2014	Thursday, November 13, 2014		
Public Review of Scoping Document	Thursday, November 13, 2014	Friday, November 28, 2014		
Joint Agency Meeting	Thursday, December 04, 2014	Thursday, December 04, 2014		
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Collaborative Workgroup Kickoff	Thursday, December 04, 2014	Thursday, December 04, 2014		
Public Comment Period of Scoping Materials	Thursday, December 04, 2014	Saturday, January 03, 2015		
Submit Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment (APEA)	Monday, January 05, 2015	Monday, January 05, 2015		
Submit Draft License Application	Monday, January 05, 2015	Monday, January 05, 2015		
FERC Review of APEA & Draft Application	Monday, January 05, 2015	Monday, January 19, 2015		
Collaborative Workgroup Meeting 2	Thursday, December 18, 2014	Thursday, December 18, 2014		
FERC Issuance of Notice of APEA & Application	Monday, January 19, 2015	Monday, January 19, 2015		
Public Comment Period of APEA & Application	Monday, January 19, 2015	Wednesday, February 18, 2015		
Collaborative Workgroup Meeting 3	Thursday, January 01, 2015	Thursday, January 01, 2015		
Collaborative Workgroup Meeting 4	Thursday, January 15, 2015	Thursday, January 15, 2015		
Respond to Comments and Amend Application	Monday, January 19, 2015	Wednesday, February 18, 2015		
Submit Final Application	Wednesday, February 18, 2015	Wednesday, February 18, 2015		
FERC Review of Application	Wednesday, February 18, 2015	Thursday, March 19, 2015		

Please note that this schedule is only accurate if a study season is not needed.

If Commission staff determines that there is a need for additional information or additional studies, the issuance of the notice requesting final terms and conditions, recommendations, and prescriptions could be delayed. If this occurs, all subsequent milestones would be delayed by the time allowed for Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership to respond to the Commission's request.

#### 8.0 PROPOSED APEA OUTLINE

The preliminary outline for the APEA is as follows:

TABLE OF CONTENTS LIST OF FIGURES LIST OF TABLES ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Application
- 1.2 Purpose of Action and Need for Power
- 1.3 Statutory and Regulatory Requirements
  - 1.3.1 Federal Power Act
    - 1.3.1.1 Section 10(j) Recommendations
  - 1.3.2 Clean Water Act
  - 1.3.3 Endangered Species Act
  - 1.3.4 National Historic Preservation Act
  - 1.3.5 Coastal Zone Management Act
- 1.4 Public Review and Comment
  - 1.4.1 Scoping
  - 1.4.2 Interventions
  - 1.4.3 Comments on the Application
  - 1.4.4 Comments on APEA

### 2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

- 2.1 No-action Alternative
- 2.2 Proposed Action
  - 2.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities
  - 2.2.2 Project Safety
  - 2.2.3 Proposed Project Operation
  - 2.2.4 Proposed Environmental Measures
  - 2.2.5 Modifications to Applicant's Proposal—Mandatory Conditions
- 2.3 Staff Alternative
- 2.4 Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions
- 2.5 Other Alternatives (as appropriate)
- 2.6 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study
- 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

- 3.1 General Description of the River Basin
- 3.2 Scope of Cumulative Effects Analysis
  - 3.2.1 Geographic Scope
  - 3.2.2 Temporal Scope
- 3.3 Proposed Action and Action Alternatives
  - 3.3.1 Geologic and Soil Resources
  - 3.3.2 Aquatic Resources
  - 3.3.3 Terrestrial Resources
  - 3.3.4 Threatened and Endangered Species
  - 3.3.5 Recreation and Land Use
  - 3.3.6 Cultural Resources
  - 3.3.7 Aesthetic Resources
  - 3.3.8 Socioeconomics
- 3.4 No-action Alternative
- 4.0 DEVELOPMENTAL ANALYSIS
  - 4.1 Power and Economic Benefits of the Project
  - 4.2 Comparison of Alternatives
  - 4.3 Cost of Environmental Measures
- 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
  - 5.1 Comparison of Alternatives
  - 5.2 Comprehensive Development and Recommended Alternative
  - 5.3 Unavoidable Adverse Effects
  - 5.4 Recommendations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
  - 5.5 Consistency with Comprehensive Plans
- 6.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (OR OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACT)
- 7.0 LITERATURE CITED
- 8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

APPENDICES

A-Response to Comments on the Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment

#### 9.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal or state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. The following plans have been preliminarily identified and reviewed that may be relevant to the Project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR section 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <a href="http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf">http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf</a>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the A-Mill Project:

- Minnesota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2003-2008. St. Paul, Minnesota.
- National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.
- Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission. 1981. Comprehensive master plan for the management of the Upper Mississippi River system environmental report. Minneapolis, Minnesota. September 1981.
- Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission. 1982. Comprehensive master plan for the management of the Upper Mississippi River system. Minneapolis, Minnesota. January 1, 1982.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

#### **10.0 MAILING LIST**

The list below is the Commission's official mailing list for the Project. If you want to receive future mailings for the Project from the Commission and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to <u>efiling@ferc.gov</u> or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written and emailed requests to be added to the Commission's mailing list must clearly identify the following on the first page: A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project No. 14628-001. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <u>http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp</u> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at <u>FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov</u> or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

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Tribe	Chairman	Grand Portage Reservation Business Committee	P.O. Box 428		and Portage, MN	55605
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NGO		Trout Unlimited	227 SW Pine Street, Suite 200		tland, OR	97204
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NGO	Lisa Hondros					

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