

6063 Baker Lake Road
Conover, WI 54519
July 31, 2008

Secretary
Federal Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1-A
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Comments on the Environmental Assessment dated 07/02/08 Cataract Hydroelectric Project No 10854-080

Dear Secretary Bose,

In light of revelations that have surfaced concerning the legal dispute between UPPCO and Naterra, it is obvious that Naterra expects to make significant change to the shorelines in order to sell building lots for development. In fact if the SMP is not deleted or amended, these provisions would preclude non-project uses of the project lands that UPPCO had promised to Naterra in December 2005 when selling Naterra 250 acres of non-project lands near the Cataract impoundment.

This program has major implications and therefore the National Environmental Policy Act would require a full Environmental Impact Statement for the Cataract project.

Since the mission of The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is to regulate and oversee the energy industries in the economic and environmental interest of the American public, a public meeting allowing the public to comment is warranted as well.

The EIS would remove any public perception that a deal was done under the table, and a Public meeting is a harmless but important way to allow the public to feel that at least they were given the opportunity to speak their mind.

To avoid an EIS and public meetings circumvents the very public interests that FERC is charged to oversee.

Our members have been encouraged to contribute to our comments through this whole process, and frankly most feel very isolated as to how little the FERC has even recognized this effort.

It appears that this entire SMP process is no more than corporate pandering. Just a few years ago we contributed to the relicensing effort at some of these flowages, and to amend these licenses in short order to accommodate a development scheme is in itself an indication of public distrust further arising.

In short your EA is poorly done, slanted toward corporate profits and disregards public input and compromises the integrity of the existing license.

Sincerely,

Joe Hovel
Acting Director
The Northwood Alliance Inc.
(Electronically filed)

Document Content(s)

NWAcataract.DOC.....1-2