



Seattle City Light

RELICENSING THE SKAGIT RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Delivering A Clean Energy Future

Hydropower is the leading renewable energy source in the U.S., and the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project provides about 20% of Seattle City Light's power.

Seattle City Light, a publicly owned utility, is in the process of obtaining a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project. The project is a series of three dams (Gorge, Diablo, Ross) and powerhouses on the Skagit River that generate enough power to meet 20% of the utility's load. The project also includes a 100-mile-long transmission line. The current license expires in 2025.

The new license will allow City Light to continue producing **clean, carbon-free energy** while also updating the utility's stewardship of the watershed's cultural and natural resources. The relicensing process is an opportunity to reset the management of complex environmental ecosystems. City Light is working hard to support the species and the communities of the Skagit River. City Light expects FERC will issue a new license in 2026.



AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO IMPROVING THE WATERSHED

Collaboration: City Light's Final License Application, filed in April 2023, includes the input of the many agencies and organizations who have been meeting since 2019. Dozens of meetings with Tribes and regulators focused exclusively on the interests of those with treaty rights and regulatory authority.

Science: In March 2023, City Light published study results from an intensive two years of research. Some of this research will continue as we ensure effective stewardship of our natural resources, especially in the face of climate change.

City Light completed 33 research projects related to all aspects of the ecosystem. These studies underpin the proposals for new license measures included in the Final License Application. Even after the license application is filed, City Light will continue to work with Partners to refine and provide additional detail on measures in the new license.

SEATTLE CITY LIGHT FILED THE FINAL LICENSE APPLICATION ON APRIL 28, 2023

Improving the watershed ecosystem is not strictly limited to the relicensing process. City Light is working to move more quickly on key priorities, including:

- **Developing a comprehensive fish program**—City Light has worked with Tribes and federal, state and local governments to develop a comprehensive fish program that commits City Light to measures that protect and restore salmon and other fish species. These measures include implementing fish passage and habitat enhancement and flow management plans.
- **Managing wildlife habitat**—City Light is working with Tribes and others to manage its 10,000 acres of habitat lands and 100 miles of transmission corridor for the benefit of birds, fish and wildlife.
- **Preserving cultural resources**—We are increasing measures to protect tribal cultural resources from recreation and project operations impacts.
- **Improving the visitor experience in North Cascades National Park where the dams are located**—Partnering with the Park, City Light will identify and support recreation, education and other opportunities to improve the experience of visitors in the park and at the project.



The Environmental Learning Center, operated by North Cascades Institute in partnership with City Light and the National Park Service, provides unique environmental education opportunities for people of all ages, including programs focused on reaching children from underserved communities.

SHARED PRINCIPLES, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

CORE PRINCIPLES

- Adopt ecosystem management principles
- Contribute to salmon recovery
- Respect Treaty Tribes & First Nation interests
- Adapt to climate change
- Preserve clean energy resources

● Bellingham

● Mt. Vernon

■ Implement Skagit River Estuary restoration projects

▲ US/Canadian Border

- Implement fish passage program
- Improve visitor experience in the national parks
- Support the Environmental Learning Center

GORGE DAM

DIABLO DAM

ROSS DAM

- Fine tune flow regimes to optimize fish habitat
- Restore natural ecosystem functions such as gravel and wood transport
- Develop a long-term monitoring and adaptive management program
- Partner on estuary restoration projects
- Collaborate on adaptive management

* Puget Sound Energy



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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