

November 25, 2025

DEBBIE-ANNE A. REESE  
ACTING SECRETARY  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
888 1ST STREET NE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

**Re: Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project No. 2705 - Notice Regarding Section 4(e) Condition 4**

Dear Acting Secretary Reese:

Seattle City Light (City Light) is providing notification to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that Section 4(e) Condition 4 of the Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project (No. 2705) will not be implemented this year due to a landslide continuing to block access to the dam. Section 4(e) Condition 4 requires City Light to excavate accumulated gravel from behind the diversion dam and place it downstream according to a prescribed method (Method #3). Gravel is passed during low flow, which is August through September, to minimize turbidity.

In the past, the road accessing the Newhalem Creek dam has been annually cleared of landslide debris in late spring/early summer. However, in the spring of 2020, there was a larger than normal event resulting in massive boulders blocking the roadway and more hanging precariously on the slope above. The slope has continued to unravel since then, depositing additional rock material on the road. City Light has determined that it is unsafe to clear the roadway to allow heavy equipment through without considerable slope stabilization and/or other measures. The condition affecting dam access is one of the factors that prompted City Light to decide to surrender the license. Thus, an Application for Surrender of License was filed with FERC on January 28, 2022, and FERC's Notice of Application for Surrender of License was issued on April 29, 2022. On March 29, 2024, FERC issued the draft Environmental Assessment. City Light continues to work diligently with FERC, the intervening parties, and other resource agencies to advance the decommissioning plan so that FERC can issue an Order to decommission.

City Light notes that accumulated gravel does not impact operations because the Project has not operated since the large landslide occurred. Also, since the accumulated gravel has reached the top of the dam, gravel is passing over the dam, replenishing downstream habitat, and will continue to do so until the dam is removed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 684-3117 or by email at shelly.adams@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,

*Shelly Adams*

Shelly Adams  
Decommissioning Project Manager  
Seattle City Light

Cc:      Mark Ivy, FERC  
          Diana Shannon, FERC

# FERC Notification\_Gravel passage\_2025

Final Audit Report

2025-11-25

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