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**FERC**  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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With respect to hydroelectric projects, FERC safeguards the environment by:

- Ensuring that planned projects will minimize damage to the environment;
- Requiring that all hydropower applicants communicate with federal and state Natural Resources agencies, Indian tribes, and state water quality agencies prior to submitting an application to FERC - [Initial Consultation Contact List](#)
- Ensuring that all license applicants perform the necessary studies to base an informed decision on the project;
- Issuing draft Environmental Assessments (EAs) or draft [Environmental Impact Statements \(EISs\)](#) for comment. FERC makes electronic copies of the draft and final EISs available to the public. A limited number of paper copies are also available from the Public Reference Room (call toll-free 1-866-208-3676);
- Incorporating license requirements designed to reduce environmental impacts;
- Visiting projects that are requesting relicenses or license amendments. Scoping meetings are held to determine the most important environmental resources to address in an EA or EIS; and
- Maintaining a [licensing handbook](#) PDF with guidelines for preparing the Exhibit E, the environmental information exhibit required to be included with each application.

QUICK LINKS

Find information about projects in your area



- [Hydropower Staff Reports](#)
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