



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
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August 30, 2022

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ISSUE A SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this public notice is to declare the State of Utah's intention to issue a Section 401 Water Quality Certification with Conditions under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341), and consistent with the Utah Water Quality Act, Title 19, Chapter 5, Utah Code and Utah Administrative Code R317-15.

PERMIT INFORMATION

PERMITTEE NAME: Beaver City
MAILING ADDRESS: 130 West 300 North Beaver, Utah 84713
PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located in Beaver City, Beaver County, Utah. The project is approximately located at 38.263889 and -112.547222
DWQ CERTIFICATION NO.: DWQ-2022-07002
WATERCOURSES: Beaver River

BACKGROUND

Beaver City proposes to renew their FERC license for the Beaver No. 2 Hydroelectric Project. The project is located on the Beaver River in Beaver City, Beaver County, Utah. The project has been in operation since 1942 and the original FERC license was issued in March of 1993. The project currently includes a diversion dam, penstock, powerhouse, tailrace channel, and related facilities. Under the new license the project proponent proposes to construct a new powerhouse and tailrace 50-ft upstream of the existing powerhouse. The new powerhouse would consist of a 27-ft by 40-ft metal building and the tailrace will be 50-ft long and 10-ft wide. Construction will impact 0.28 acres of developed land and 0.04 acres of upland shrubland. No construction is planned in riparian areas. The existing land is currently used for livestock grazing and as a trash collection site for the Forest Service. The new construction would increase the project capacity from 625 kW to 720 kW. The old powerhouse would be retired as a historic structure.

The project operates by diverting flows from the Beaver River for hydroelectric power. The water is then

returned to the Beaver River. There are no significant physical, chemical, biological, or thermal changes to the water that is discharged. The proposed project would not create any additional long-term impacts to the Beaver River. The project proponent proposes a variety of best management practices (BMPs) to minimize or mitigate any water quality impacts during construction of the new power plant and tailrace. The project proponent will apply for a construction general permit upon the issuance of the FERC license. No dewatering activity is proposed during the construction of the new powerhouse or tailrace. The project proponent will implement an Erosion Control Plan to minimize disturbance to vegetation and reduce erosion and sedimentation. Construction will be completed in the late summer when flows are at the lowest, shoreline stabilization will be maintained to reduce erosion, disturbed areas will be revegetated, concrete washout will be properly contained and disposed of, and silt fence will be installed along any banks of the Beaver River. The new tailrace will be rock-lined and shaped to return flow to the Beaver River with minimal turbulence. Minimum stream flows will be maintained to reduce washout and erosion. Beaver City plans to work closely with federal, state and local agencies to ensure that wildlife and vegetative habitats are preserved and maintained.

Beaver City did not present any alternative sites for the proposed project. The existing infrastructure and location make other sites infeasible. The proposed work will likely have a beneficial impact to water quality as the hydroelectric project will be updated and a new tailrace is being constructed. The tailrace would allow for fish to migrate past the dam as well as preventing bank erosion. The proposed construction would also include fishing access for recreational use on the Beaver River.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited any time prior to the deadline of the close of business on **September 30, 2022**. Written public comments can be submitted to: Andrea Kilbane, General Permitting Section, Utah Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by email at: wqcomments@utah.gov. After considering public comments the Utah Division of Water Quality may execute the Certification issuance, revise it or abandon it. The Certification is available for public review under <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/water-quality-public-notices>. If internet access is not available, a copy may be obtained by calling Andrea Kilbane at 385-501-9586.