

Tacoma Power Hydro Project Relicensing

Government Performance and Finance Committee
August 4, 2026

1

Introductions

Chris Mattson – Generation Manager

Matt Bleich – Natural Resources Manager

Shannon Luoma – FERC License Program Manager

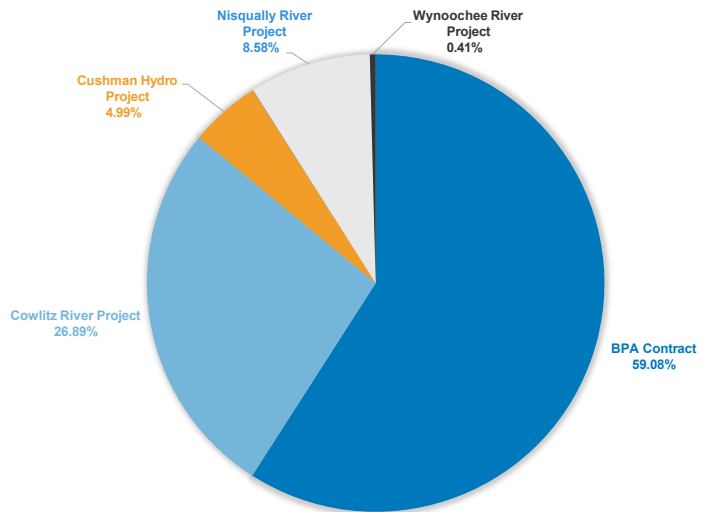


2

1

Tacoma Power's Supply Portfolio

- Roughly 40-45% of our customers' energy supply comes from our 4 hydro projects
- 3 of our 4 licenses to operate those projects expire in 2037 and 2038
- This is most of our owned supply
- Relicensing is a 10-year effort resulting in a 40-50 year commitment and license to operate



3

Why Relicensing Now

- Tacoma Power FERC License Expirations

Hydropower Project	Current License Term	Expiration
Wynoochee	50 years	2037
Cowlitz	35 years	2038
Nisqually	40 years	2037
Cushman	50 years	2048

- Regulations Require Initial Relicensing Filings for Each Project in 2031-2032
 - Typical 5+ years of preparation prior to filing (staffing, planning, budgeting, organizing documentation, identifying relicensing goals)



4

2

FERC Relicensing – What is it

- Required statutory process that authorizes the continued operation of a non-federal hydropower facility for the next 30 to 50 years
- Brings each hydropower project “up to code” with current regulations and requirements.
- The hydropower industry is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under authority granted by the Federal Power Act (FPA).
- Amended the FPA with the Electric Consumers Protection Act of 1986 (ECPA)
- Issuance of a New License is a Federal Action



5

Relicensing – Regulations, Key Documents, Key Participants

Laws / Regulations

- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EP Act)
- Federal Power Act (FPA)
- Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Documents/Permits

- 401 Water Quality Certification (401 WQC)
- Additional Information Request (AIR)
- Biological Assessment (BA)
- Biological Opinion (BO)
- Draft License Application (DLA)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Final License Application (LA/FLA)
- Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)
- Initial Study Report (ISR)
- Resource Management Plans
- Notice of Intent (NOI)
- Pre-Application Document (PAD)
- Programmatic Agreement (PA)
- Proposed Study Plan (PSP)
- Revised Study Plan (RSP)
- Scoping Document 1 (SD1)

Participants

Tribes

- Federally and non-Federally recognized

Agencies

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Department of Ecology (Ecology)
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- United States Fisheries and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- United States Forest Service (USFS)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

Local Governments

Communities

Local Businesses

NGOs

Recreation

- Angling
- Hunting
- White Water
- Hiking/Camping/boating

Interveners

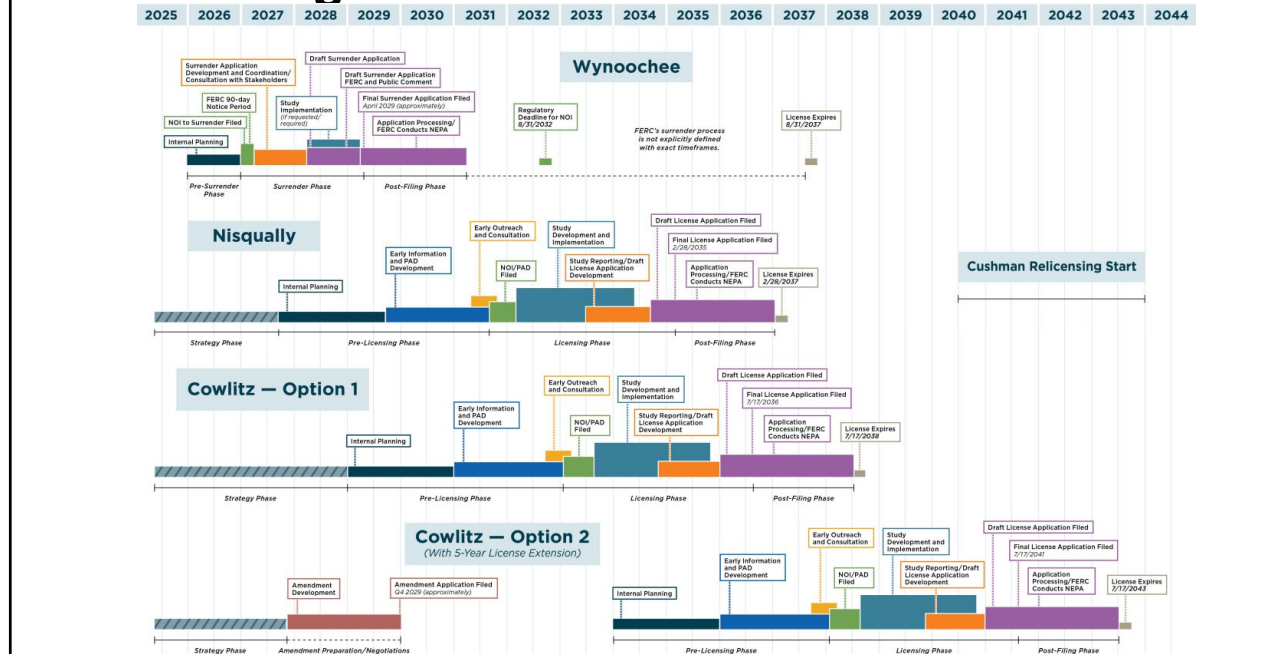
Public



3

6

Relicensing Timeline Forecast



7

Next Steps

- **Hire Internal Team**
- **Establish Support Contracts**
 - Technical Consultant Licensing Support
 - External Counsel for Licensing Legal Support
- **Identify relicensing strategy and roadmap**
 - Includes both internal planning and external relationships

4