

FAST-41 INITIATION NOTICE: Submission #41

The **View** page displays a submission's general information and data.

► SUBMISSION INFORMATION

PROJECT INFORMATION

Title
Seminole Pumped Storage Project

Sector
Sector:[Renewable Energy Production](#)
Type :[Energy Storage](#)

► PROJECT LOCATION

PROJECT COORDINATES

Coordinates

- **Latitude:** 42.163 N
Longitude: 106.874 W

PROJECT SPONSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Company Name/Agency:** Black Canyon Hydro, LLC
Project Sponsor: rPlus Hydro
Street Address: 201 South Main Street, Suite 2100
City: Salt Lake City
State: Utah
Zip: 84111

POC Name: Luigi Resta
POC Title: President/CEO
POC Work Phone: 801-456-1575
POC Email Address: lresta@rplusenergies.com

ALTERNATIVE POINT OF CONTACT (OPTIONAL)

- **Company Name/Agency:** Black Canyon Hydro, LLC
Project Sponsor: rPlus Hydro
Street Address: 800 W Main Street, Suite 640
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip: 83702
POC Name: Lars Dorr
POC Title: Program Manager
POC Work Phone: 858-925-3743
POC Email Address: ldorr@rplusenergies.com

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed Project is to develop, construct, and operate a pumped storage hydroelectric facility near Rawlins, Wyoming.

The Project would provide hydroelectric generation and storage capacity to meet a portion of regional utilities' power requirements, resource diversity, and capacity needs. Pumped storage is a commercially proven grid-scale energy storage and grid-stabilization technology, which is increasingly needed in the West as new renewable energy sources are added to the grid to replace fossil-fueled generation facilities and meet utility, corporate and industrial energy transition mandates.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Seminoe Pumped Storage Project is a new open-loop pumped hydroelectric energy storage facility located in Carbon County, WY. The Project site is approximately 35 miles northeast of Rawlins, Wyoming, on the North Platte River. It will use the existing U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Seminoe Reservoir as the lower reservoir and will construct a new upper reservoir that will support approximately 972-megawatt (MW) pumped storage facility exhibiting approximately 1,000 feet of head.

Other proposed features include underground water conveyance tunnels, underground powerhouse with generator step-up (GSU) transformer cavern, a switchyard, two 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line circuits, an outdoor grid connection, access roads and tunnels, transmission cable tunnel, and other appurtenant facilities.

The Project facilities will be located predominantly on lands managed by the BLM. A new project transmission line will span approximately 29 miles, located predominantly adjacent to an existing transmission line corridor formed by two WAPA transmission lines.

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ABILITY

Black Canyon Hydro, LLC is a subsidiary of rPlus Energies, LLC (rPlus). rPlus is based in Salt Lake City, Utah and is an experienced developer of large-scale renewable energy projects. Officers of rPlus have collectively developed and completed hundreds of megawatts of renewable energy capacity. The company is currently developing a portfolio of over 30 projects located across the United States and representing over 10 GW in renewable energy capacity. rPlus has retained or is in negotiations with strategic industry-leading providers of environmental resource analysis, engineering, procurement, financing, construction and operation of renewable energy infrastructure projects, and pumped storage hydroelectric projects, specifically.

rPlus has sufficient financial and technical capability to bring this project through the development process and into operations.

SUMMARY OF FINANCING, REVIEWS AND AUTHORIZATIONS

Summary of Financing, Reviews and Authorizations

This will be a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed project. Additionally, a Lease of Power Privilege (LOPP) will be required from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for use of the existing Seminole Reservoir. All environmental reviews and authorizations will be obtained from Federal, State, and local authorities. Most major project elements, including the upper reservoir and underground water conveyance and powerhouse will be located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed land. Black Canyon Hydro, LLC submitted an SF-299 right of way (ROW) application, including a preliminary plan of development to the BLM. BLM processing of ROW grants under serial numbers WYW-191971, WYW-19197101 and WYW-19197102, is running in parallel with the FERC licensing process. WAPA will need to authorize the rerouting of an approximately 1-mile segment of the existing Miracle Mile-Snowy Range 115kV and Miracle Mile-Snowy Range 230kV transmission lines, which currently traverse the footprint of the proposed new upper reservoir.

Black Canyon Hydro, LLC has submitted a Final License Application with the FERC as of January 18, 2022. Upon acceptance of the Final License Application, FERC will formally initiate the NEPA process.

All current project development costs are privately funded.

PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Project Assessment

This activity will require authorization and environmental review by FERC and involves the construction of renewable energy production/storage and electricity transmission. The project is subject to NEPA, will require a total investment of well over \$200,000,000 and does not currently qualify for abbreviated authorization or environmental review processes under any applicable law.

The Project supports the BLM's mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands by contributing to establishment of a diverse, sustainable, and modernized energy resources. The Applicant estimates a project cost of approximately \$3.1 billion. The Applicant will continue to refine the final cost estimations through the advanced engineering phases of the Project as is customary with the long lead time of pumped storage hydropower projects.

Expected direct public benefits include the creation of construction phase jobs, permanent operations jobs, an increase of tax revenues for the local and state communities. Other public benefits include the improved ability to integrate diverse sources of electricity to the bulk power system to achieve affordable, reliable, sustainable, and resilient electricity supply.

FORM SUBMITTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Submitter Contact Information

- **Name:** Paris Colton
Title: Development Coordinator
Work Phone: 208-861-3109
Email: pcolton@rplusenergies.com

AGREEMENT

Agreement

Yes