

onstrate a separation of staff cooperating with the Commission under the National Environmental Policy Act¹ (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and staff participating in the applicable proceeding under this subchapter.

(f) Developing abandoned mines for pumped storage

(1) Workshop

Not later than 6 months after October 23, 2018, the Commission shall hold a workshop to explore potential opportunities for development of closed-loop pumped storage projects at abandoned mine sites.

(2) Guidance

Not later than 1 year after October 23, 2018, the Commission shall issue guidance to assist applicants for licenses or preliminary permits for closed-loop pumped storage projects at abandoned mine sites.

(g) Qualifying criteria for closed-loop pumped storage projects

(1) In general

The Commission shall establish criteria that a pumped storage project shall meet in order to qualify as a closed-loop pumped storage project eligible for the expedited process established under this section.

(2) Inclusions

In establishing the criteria under paragraph (1), the Commission shall include criteria requiring that the pumped storage project—

(A) cause little to no change to existing surface and ground water flows and uses; and

(B) is unlikely to adversely affect species listed as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.].

(h) Savings clause

Nothing in this section affects any authority of the Commission to license a closed-loop pumped storage project under this subchapter.

(June 10, 1920, ch. 285, pt. I, §35, as added Pub. L. 115-270, title III, §3004, Oct. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 3865.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), (3)(A), is act Mar. 10, 1934, ch. 55, 48 Stat. 401, which is classified generally to sections 661 to 666c-1 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 661(a) of this title, Short Title note set out under section 661 of this title, and Tables.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, referred to in subsec. (e), is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, which is classified generally to chapter 55 (§4321 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in subsec. (g)(2)(B), is Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§1531 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of this title and Tables.

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by “of 1969”.

§ 823g. Considerations for relicensing terms

(a) In general

In determining the term of a new license issued when an existing license under this subchapter expires, the Commission shall take into consideration, among other things—

(1) project-related investments by the licensee under the new license; and

(2) project-related investments by the licensee over the term of the existing license.

(b) Equal weight

The determination of the Commission under subsection (a) shall give equal weight to—

(1) investments by the licensee to implement the new license under this subchapter, including investments relating to redevelopment, new construction, new capacity, efficiency, modernization, rehabilitation or replacement of major equipment, safety improvements, or environmental, recreation, or other protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures required or authorized by the new license; and

(2) investments by the licensee over the term of the existing license (including any terms under annual licenses) that—

(A) resulted in redevelopment, new construction, new capacity, efficiency, modernization, rehabilitation or replacement of major equipment, safety improvements, or environmental, recreation, or other protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures conducted over the term of the existing license; and

(B) were not expressly considered by the Commission as contributing to the length of the existing license term in any order establishing or extending the existing license term.

(c) Commission determination

At the request of the licensee, the Commission shall make a determination as to whether any planned, ongoing, or completed investment meets the criteria under subsection (b)(2). Any determination under this subsection shall be issued within 60 days following receipt of the licensee's request. When issuing its determination under this subsection, the Commission shall not assess the incremental number of years that the investment may add to the new license term. All such assessment shall occur only as provided in subsection (a).

(June 10, 1920, ch. 285, pt. I, §36, as added Pub. L. 115-270, title III, §3005, Oct. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 3867.)

SUBCHAPTER II—REGULATION OF ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES ENGAGED IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE

§ 824. Declaration of policy; application of subchapter

(a) Federal regulation of transmission and sale of electric energy

It is declared that the business of transmitting and selling electric energy for ultimate distribution to the public is affected with a public interest, and that Federal regulation of matters relating to generation to the extent provided in