

News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Idaho Water Resource Board Seeks Preliminary Permit from FERC for the Weiser-Galloway Storage Project

The Idaho Department of Water Resources issued the following new release:

On March 24, 2014, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) filed an application for preliminary permit with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The IWRB is evaluating strategies for improving water management throughout Idaho, including the feasibility of a storage and hydropower project on the Weiser River at the previously identified Galloway Dam Site. The project under consideration includes a new dam approximately 13.5 miles upstream from the confluence of the Weiser and Snake rivers with a 750,000 acre-foot capacity reservoir and 40-60 MW hydropower plant. An analysis is being conducted to determine whether the project is feasible based on anticipated benefits. The benefits being evaluated include water supply for irrigation within the Weiser River Basin, hydropower, flood risk reduction, recreation and flow augmentation for salmon recovery purposes.

Filing for a preliminary permit is part of the FERC licensing application process. It enables prospective applicants for a hydropower license to secure data and perform the investigations necessary to determine the project feasibility. This information is required if a hydropower license is pursued.

The Idaho Legislature recently approved funding to pursue additional study of the Galloway project. The IWRB will decide whether to move forward with a FERC hydropower license application based on the outcome of the feasibility studies.

The FERC process for reviewing a preliminary permit application provides an opportunity for public comment and involvement in the proceedings.

Please contact Cynthia Bridge Clark at 287-4817 for additional information.

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