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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

415.973.7145
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Hon. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st Street, N.E., Docket Rm, #1A-East
Washington, D.C. 20426-0001

P-13049

Re: Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Application for Preliminary Permit for Development of the Rock Creek Dam Streamflow Incremental Generation Project

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to 18 CFR §§ 4.32 and 4.81 (2006) of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("FERC" or "Commission") regulations, enclosed for filing are an original and nine (9) copies of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's ("PG&E" or "Applicant") Application for Preliminary Permit, Rock Creek Dam Streamflow Incremental Generation Project ("Application"). As explained in the Application, PG&E proposes to develop a new power-generating facility at Rock Creek Dam, an existing feature of PG&E's Rock Creek-Cresta Project (FERC No. 1962). Also enclosed is a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope for the return of an endorsed, file-stamped copy.

In support of California's Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS") program, PG&E is dedicated to expanding its portfolio of clean, renewable energy. PG&E hopes the proposed Project will support the RPS program and submits this Application to secure and maintain priority of application for license while undertaking activities to determine the feasibility of the proposed Project and to support an application for license or amendment of existing license.

PG&E looks forward to working with the Commission while developing this important new source of clean renewable power. If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Alan Soneda, Project Manager, at (415) 973-4054 or Annette Faraglia at (415) 973-7145.

Very truly yours,

Annette Faraglia

Enclosures

cc's with enclosures:

- Mr. Takeshi Yamashita, Regional Engineer, FERC's San Francisco Regional Office
- Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Affairs - Washington, D.C.
- Division of Hydropower, Administration & Compliance - Washington, D. C. Office
- Bureau of Land Management, Branch of Adjudication and Records, California Director, Sacto.
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Office - San Francisco

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

**APPLICATION
FOR
PRELIMINARY PERMIT
FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT
OF**

**ROCK CREEK DAM STREAMFLOW INCREMENTAL GENERATION
PROJECT**

FERC PROJECT NO. _____

**Prepared By
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**

October 4, 2007

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

**APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY PERMIT
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
ROCK CREEK DAM STREAMFLOW INCREMENTAL GENERATION PROJECT
(FERC PROJECT NO. _____)**

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("PG&E" or "Applicant") applies to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a preliminary permit for the proposed development of the Rock Creek Dam Streamflow Incremental Generation Project ("Project"), as described in the attached exhibits. This Application is made in order that the Applicant may secure and maintain priority of application for a license for the Project under Part I of the Federal Power Act while obtaining data and performing the acts required to determine the feasibility of the Project and to support an application for a license or license amendment.

2. The location of the proposed Project is:

State or Territory:	California
County:	Plumas
Township or Nearby Towns:	Belden, Tobin, Storrie
Stream or Other Body of Water:	North Fork Feather River, upstream of Lake Oroville

3. The exact name and business address of Applicant is:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street
P. O. Box 7442
San Francisco, CA 94120-7442

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The exact name and business address of each person authorized to act as an agent for the Applicant in this Application is:

Randal S. Livingston
Vice President - Power Generation
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
245 Market Street, N11E-1137
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177-0001
Telephone: (415) 973-6950
Facsimile: (415) 973-5323
E-Mail: RSL3@pge.com

Annette Faraglia, Esq.
Law Department
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, B30A-2479
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4. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is a domestic corporation of the United States and is not claiming preference under Section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act.

5. The proposed term of the requested permit is thirty-six (36) months.

6. The existing Rock Creek Dam is one of two dams comprising the existing Rock Creek-Cresta Project (FERC No. 1962); it is owned, licensed and operated by PG&E. In addition to dams, the Rock Creek-Cresta Project, as described in the current Exhibit A for Project No. 1962, includes two powerhouses and associated facilities, including four generating units with a combined operating capacity of 182 MW and an average generation output of approximately 860 GWH per year.

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The Rock Creek Dam Streamflow Incremental Generation Project would add a new single-unit powerhouse at the existing Rock Creek Dam site, with an expected capacity of 3.6 MW and an expected annual average energy production of 23.1 GWH.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Applicant has caused its name to be hereunto signed by its Vice President of Power Generation this 4 day of OCTOBER, 2007.


Randal S. Livingston
Vice President – Power Generation

EXHIBITS

The following exhibits are filed herewith and hereby made part of this Application:

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|------------------|--|
| EXHIBIT 1 | Description of the Proposed Project |
| EXHIBIT 2 | Study Plan and Work Schedule |
| EXHIBIT 3 | Costs and Financing |
| EXHIBIT 4 | Maps and Drawings |
| EXHIBIT 5 | Entities That May Have Interest |

EXHIBIT 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

1. **Existing and Proposed Facilities:**

Rock Creek Dam is the furthest upstream dam of the Rock Creek-Cresta Project (FERC No. 1962) and impounds Rock Creek Reservoir. The dam consists of concrete gravity overflow sections 248 feet in length, with a maximum height of 126 feet. The dam was completed in 1950, is in good condition, and was re-authorized in 2001 for continued operation under terms of the new hydropower license issued for Project No. 1962 (97 FERC ¶ 61,084).

The proposed Project consists of one powerhouse with a turbine and generator to be constructed on the right (west) abutment at the downstream side of the existing Rock Creek Dam. The proposed Project will be run-of-river; the required minimum instream flow downstream of Rock Creek Dam will be passed through the proposed powerhouse without change in volume or timing.

2. **Reservoir Statistics:**

The current Exhibit A for Project No. 1962 lists Rock Creek Reservoir's surface area as 118 acres and its storage capacity as 4,400 acre-feet at a reservoir elevation of 2216.2 feet. No changes of any kind are proposed to this reservoir by the Project.

3. **Transmission Lines:**

Electrical interconnection details are not firm. The initial plan is to connect the proposed Project to a PG&E 21 kV line in the immediate area to the west of the Rock Creek Dam site. The new generation at the site would be 4160 volts and would be transformed to appropriate voltage or 21 kV at an appropriate point of interconnection.

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4. Energy and Capacity:

The estimated average annual energy production and estimated capacity of the new unit are 23.1 GWH and 3.6 MW, respectively. The proposed turbine and generator would be new; none currently exist at the dam. The capacity of the site is limited by head and flow. Design assumptions are 93 feet of net design hydraulic head and 525 cubic feet per second (cfs) of design flow.

5. Lands of the United States:

The proposed Project is planned to be located entirely within the existing Project boundary for PG&E's Rock Creek Dam site as shown on Exhibit Drawing G-4, Rock Creek Reservoir, Project No. 1962. At the present time it appears that most of the features will be on land owned by the Licensee although portions of some features of the proposed Project may need to be located partially on lands owned by the USFS.

6. Purpose of the Project:

This application is for the study of additional capacity located at the site of PG&E's licensed Project No. 1962. The proposed Project would develop, conserve and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region; specifically, the new generating unit would use the minimum instream flow already required, under the 2001 license for Project No. 1962, to be maintained in the North Fork Feather River downstream of the existing Rock Creek Dam. This is a relatively simple new power-production project proposal, neither requiring nor causing any change in the baseline streamflow regime. No change in volume or timing of flow, or rate of change of flow, will be requested or expected. The proposed Project will lessen the need for fossil-fueled power generation in California.

The proposed Project would be constructed so as not to affect the performance of Project No. 1962. Construction of the Project will be closely coordinated with other activities at the site. Accordingly, the Applicant will conduct all construction activities so as to conserve and utilize in the public interest all natural and other resources, whether water, environmental, financial or human resources.

EXHIBIT 2

STUDY PLAN AND WORK SCHEDULE

1. **Work Already Undertaken:**

The Project site has been recently studied for the Project No. 1962 relicensing proceeding. These studies included extensive environmental analysis and studies of the power potential of sites at Project No. 1962.

2. **Work To Be Carried Out:**

Other than ongoing and future studies concerning operational impacts to environmental and cultural resources at this site, it is known that two studies will be required for the proposed Project: an electrical interconnection study and an engineering feasibility study. Additional environmental studies beyond those conducted for relicensing may be required by review agencies. This will be determined when consultation begins.

3. **Proposed Work Schedule:**

No new roads will be needed to construct, operate or maintain the proposed Project. A stairway will be built from the top of the dam down to the proposed powerhouse.

No new dam will be required. Instream flow requirements at Rock Creek Dam are currently being met through releases from an outlet at the center of the dam and through the radial gate. Construction of the proposed Project will better utilize the energy potential of the water that passes through the outlet facilities.

Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to be carried out over a 12-month time frame, and the construction schedule would need to be programmed to fully consider weather and winter access considerations.

EXHIBIT 3

COSTS AND FINANCING

1. **Estimated Cost of Work:**

The cost of the electrical interconnection study is estimated to be \$3,000 per megawatt. The cost of the engineering feasibility study is estimated to be \$50,000.

Any additional environmental studies will be undertaken as required by review agencies in the consultation process, and are unknown at this time. Every effort will be made to utilize the findings of existing or planned environmental studies conducted for the recent relicensing of existing Project No. 1962.

2. **Source of Financing:**

PG&E will finance all engineering-feasibility, electrical-interconnection and environmental studies to complete the application for license.

3. **Market for Power:**

Power generated at the project would be used to serve PG&E customers. Securing confirmation of eligibility for certification in the California market as renewable power under the state Renewable Portfolio Standards definition is one of several factors that would be evaluated during the permit period.

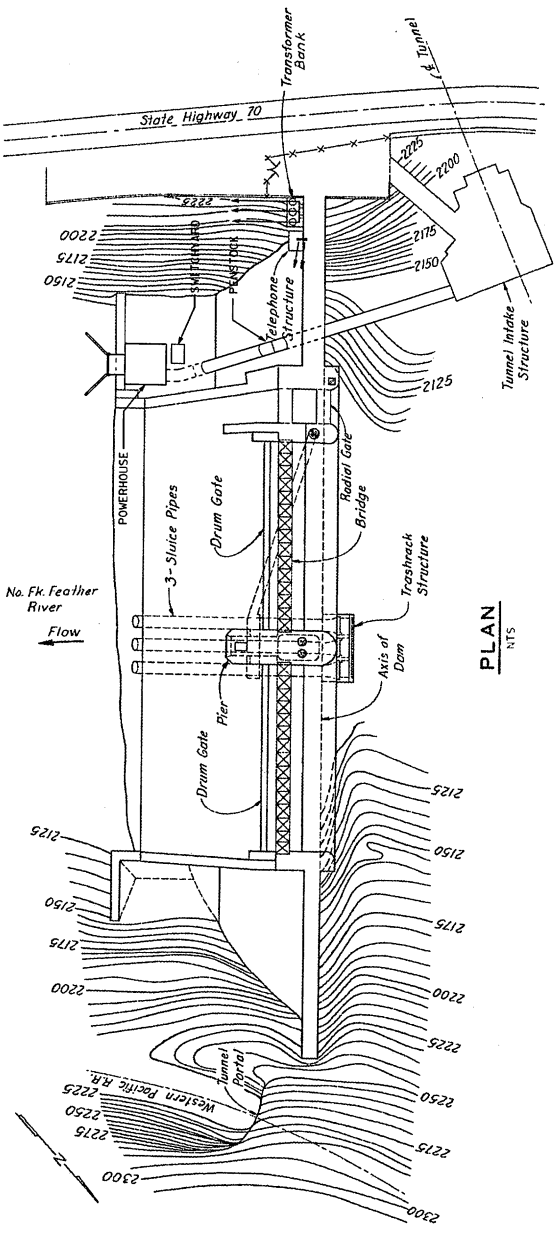
EXHIBIT 4

MAPS AND FIGURES

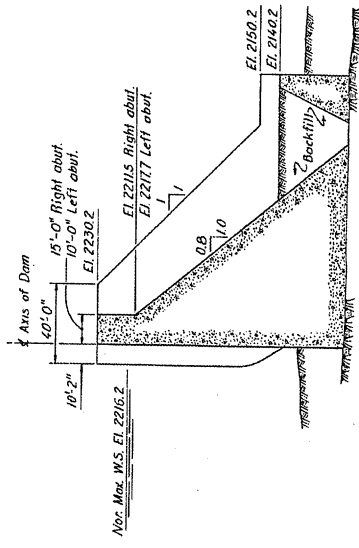
Attached are drawings of Rock Creek Dam Powerhouse showing the proposed layout of the new Project. The proposed Project will be sited at Rock Creek Dam, which is located in Township 25 North, Range 6 East, Sections 26 and 35, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The proposed Project site is on the right (west) abutment of the downstream side of Rock Creek Dam.

The North Fork Feather River is not included in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

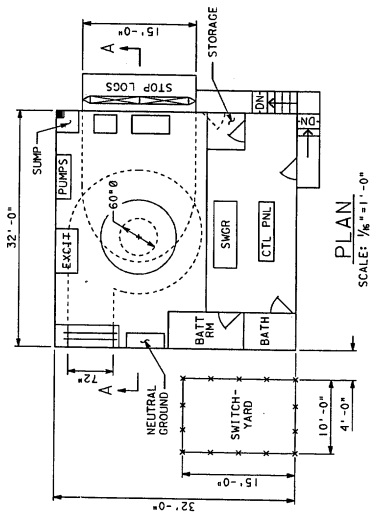
There are no wilderness areas, designated wilderness areas, or wilderness study areas in the vicinity of the proposed Project.



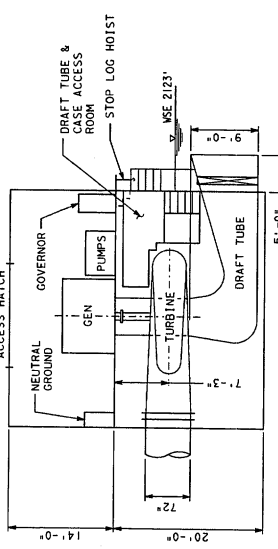
PLAN
NTS



TYPICAL SECTION THRU ABUTMENTS



PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



SECTION A-A
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

ELEVATIONS ARE IN N.G.V.D. DATUM

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO.
ROCK CREEK DAM POWERHOUSE

DRAWING NO.	EXHIBIT 4A
DATE	9-13-07
CHECKED BY	
DESIGNED BY	
DRAWN BY	
SCALE	NTS
REV.	

EXHIBIT 5

ENTITIES THAT MAY HAVE INTEREST

Ms. Sandra Morey Manager, Region 2 CA Dept. of Fish and Game 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4503	Mr. Curtis Knight California Trout P. O. Box 650 Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0650	Ms. Susan Moore, Field Supervisor Fish and Wildlife Service 2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-2605 Sacramento, CA 95825-1888
Ms. Mary Lisa Lynch CA Dept. of Fish and Game 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4503	Mr. Stephen Bowes National Park Service 1111 Jackson Street Oakland, CA 94607-4816	Ms. Sharon Stohrer State Water Res. Control Board P. O. Box 2000 Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
Ms. Lori Powers CA Dept. of Fish and Game P.O. Box 1858 Portola, CA 96122-1858	Mr. Brian Morris Plumas County Flood Control & Water Conservation Dist. 520 Main Street, Rm 212 Quincy, CA 95971-9114	Mr. John Beuttler Calif. Sportfishing Protection Alliance 1360 Neilson Street Berkeley, CA 94702-1116
Ms. Cheryl Mulder Plumas National Forest 159 Lawrence Street Quincy, CA 95971	Ms. Kelly Catlett, Policy Advoc. Friends of the River 915 20 th Street Sacramento, CA 95814-3115	Mr. Chris Shutes CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance 1608 Francisco Street Berkeley, CA 94703-1217
Ms. Terri Simon-Jackson Plumas National Forest 159 Lawrence Street Quincy, CA 95971	Mr. Nate Rangel California Outdoors P. O. Box 401 Coloma, CA 95613-0401	Ms. Deborah Giglio U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605 Sacramento, CA 95825-1888
Mr. Richard Roos-Collins Natural Heritage Institute 100 Pine Street, Suite 1550 San Francisco, CA 94111-5117	Mr. Davd Steindorf American Whitewater 1325 Deadara Way Paradise, CA 95969-4808	Mr. Dennis Smith U. S. Forest Service 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-200 Sacramento, CA 95814-4706
Mr. Robert Baiocchi, President Anglers Committee P. O. Box 1790 Graeagle, CA 96103-1970	Mr. Keith Nakatani, Director California Hydropower Reform Coalition 436 14th St. Suite 801 Oakland, CA 94612-2726	Ms. Dorothy Rice, Executive Director State Water Res. Control Board P. O. Box 2000 Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
Administrative Office Plumas County 520 Main Street, Room 309 Quincy, CA 95971-9115	Mr. Richard D. Ely Davis Hydro, LLC 27264 Meadowbrook Drive Davis, CA 95618 -5049	Mr. Chuck Bonham, Hydro Coordinator Trout Unlimited, Inc. 1808 5 th Street, Suite B Berkeley, CA 94710-1915

VERIFICATION STATEMENT

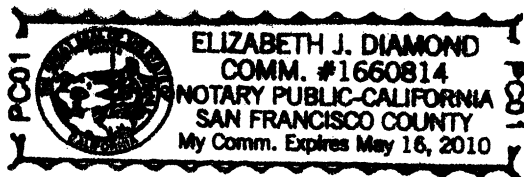
This Application for a Preliminary Permit for the Proposed Rock Creek Dam Streamflow Incremental Generation Project is executed in the State of California, City and County of San Francisco.

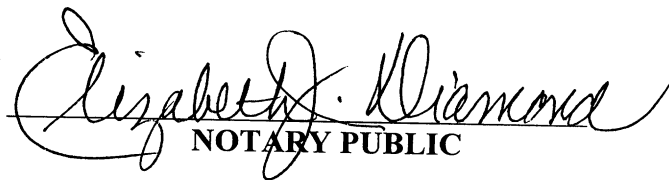
Randal S. Livingston, Vice President – Power Generation of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, located at 245 Market Street in San Francisco, California, being duly sworn, deposes, and says that the contents of this Application for a Preliminary Permit are true to the best of his knowledge or belief.

The undersigned Applicant has signed the Application on this 4 day of OCTOBER, 2007.


RANDAL S. LIVINGSTON

Subscribed and sworn before me, a Notary Public of the State of California, County of San Francisco, this 4th day of October, 2007.




NOTARY PUBLIC