

# Relicensing the Upriver Dam Project

## FERC Project No. 3074



### Fact Sheet

#### Project Overview


The Upriver Dam is owned and operated by the City of Spokane. It is a **run-of-river** hydroelectric facility located on the Spokane River east of downtown and provides essential power for the City's Water Department. The primary use of electric generation is to power the City's well water pumps that deliver drinking water to the residents of Spokane. Upriver Dam generates approximately **70 million kilowatt-hours** annually. During times of lower water demand, surplus power is sold through a power purchase agreement to Avista Corporation (Avista). Upriver Dam helps the City keep water rates reasonable for its customers through the Upriver Dam Project's power generation for the Water Department's direct use.

*The other hydroelectric facilities on the Spokane River include Post Falls, Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Long Lake, Nine Mile, Little Falls. These are all owned and operated by Avista. Upriver Dam is located between downtown Spokane and the Idaho state border.*

#### Why is the City going through relicensing now?

The current license for the Upriver Dam Project will expire on **May 31, 2031**. To continue operating the dam, the City must apply for a **new license** through a process called relicensing, which typically lasts **5-7 years**.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission **regulates** hydroelectric dam licensing and safety and oversees the relicensing process. Licenses typically last **30 to 50 years** and set the conditions for future operations.



#### What is a Run-of-River Project?

A run-of-river project is a type of hydropower generation facility that uses the **natural flow** and **elevation drop** of the river to **produce electricity** without creating a large reservoir for water storage. This means that the Upriver Dam Project relies on the flow of the Spokane River, including natural river flows and flows impacted by Post Falls Dam operations upstream.

# Relicensing Schedule

The relicensing process is expected to take approximately five to seven years and includes numerous opportunities for coordination and public involvement.

## Key phases of the relicensing process

- Early engagement and outreach
- Preparation and filing of pre-application documents
- Agency, Tribal, and public scoping and study requests
- Development and implementation of environmental and technical studies
- Preparation of draft and final license applications
- Environmental review and license issuance by FERC

A detailed schedule will be updated as the process progresses.



## Goals and Process

The City of Spokane's goal for relicensing the Upriver Dam Project is to obtain a new FERC license that:

- Aligns with **current regulatory requirements**
- Supports continued **clean energy generation**
- Protects **riverine and aquatic resources**
- Maintains **public recreation opportunities**
- Reflects input from **Tribes, agencies, stakeholders, and the community**

The City will use the **Integrated Licensing Process (ILP)**, FERC's default licensing process. The ILP is a structured, transparent framework that emphasizes early coordination and ongoing engagement to inform development of the license application.

To learn more about the Upriver Dam Project and the relicensing process, or to sign up for project updates, scan the QR code:

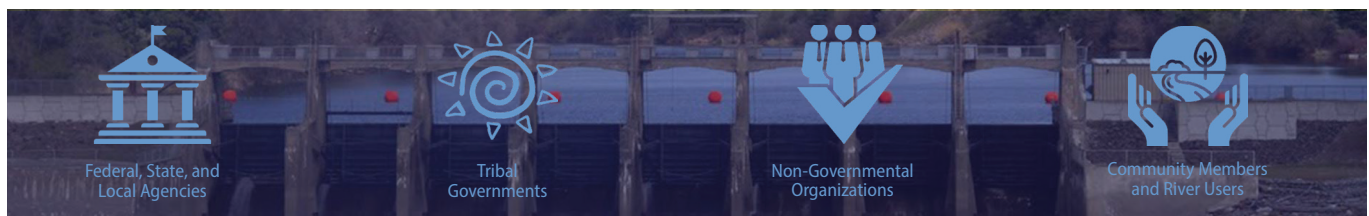


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## Engagement Opportunities

The City is using the ILP which provides clear FERC-mandated timelines. Interested licensing participant engagement opportunities include:



Attending public meetings



Reviewing and commenting on documents



Sharing feedback with FERC and the City

*Input from licensing participants helps to shape studies, informs the license application, and ultimately, a new License.*