



CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER®

Heard County Proposed Hydroelectric Project Fact Sheet

What has been proposed?

Bost1 Hydroelectric LLC, a subsidiary of Nelson Energy LLC, has filed an application for a preliminary permit to develop a closed-loop pumped storage facility to generate electricity.

What does the project look like?

Unlike traditional hydropower projects, this proposal does not include a dam across a river. Instead, this project proposal is for a “closed-loop” system, meaning it would continue to circulate the same water between its upper above-ground reservoir and its lower below-ground reservoir. The upper reservoir would have a height of around 76 feet above ground. The lower reservoir would be approximately 2,100 feet below ground. The project will withdraw water from Hilly Mill Creek to fill the upper above-ground reservoir. The above-ground reservoir will have a capacity of nearly two billion gallons of water.

What are the implications of the issued preliminary permit?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a preliminary permit on October 19, 2023, to determine the feasibility of the project. This permit does not guarantee that the project will move forward to completion.

This permit gives the applicant the ability to perform a prefeasibility and feasibility study at the site. The prefeasibility study requires no access to the land. In this part of the process, the developer will be analyzing whether the project is economically viable. If it is not feasible, the project will end.

If there is economic viability, the project will move on to the feasibility study, which does require land access. In this part of the process, the developer will begin subsurface excavation, which will include land disturbing activities and drilling for core samples. **In order to begin the feasibility study, the developer must have permission from the landowner to access the property.** The permit itself does not give the developer permission to access the property.

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The licensing process is believed to take around four years, and will include economic, geological, environmental, and cultural assessments. At this time, we do not know any of the potential impacts.

Why was this site proposed?

This site was selected because of its granite bedrock and proximity to transmission lines.

Where can I view the preliminary permit?

You can view the entirety of the permit application by searching the permit number, P-15300, at FERC's eLibrary here:

https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_num=20231019-3057

What can I do?

Any questions about the specific proposal can be directed to Doug Spaulding at Nelson Energy: doug@nelsonenergy.us

Questions about CRK's response can be directed to Stephanie Stutts at sstutts@chatthoochee.org