

April 7, 2021

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Motion to Intervene of American Whitewater on the Application for a preliminary permit for the Ashokan Pumped Storage Project by Premium Energy Holdings, LLC, FERC Project No. P-15056.

Dear Secretary Bose,

Enclosed is a Motion to Intervene to the Application as filed for the above captioned project by American Whitewater pursuant to Rule 214 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214.

Sincerely,

Robert Nasdor
Northeast Stewardship & Legal Director
American Whitewater
65 Blueberry Hill Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776
Phone 617-584-4566
bob@americanwhitewater.org

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Premium Energy Holdings, LLC

Ashokan Pumped Storage Project
FERC Project No. P-15056

**MOTION TO INTERVENE
OF THE AMERICAN WHITEWATER**

By notice filed February 11, 2021, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) solicited comments and motions to intervene on the Premium Energy Holdings, LLC (applicant) application for a Preliminary Permit for the Ashokan Pumped Storage Project, FERC Project No. P-15056. Pursuant to Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 385.214, American Whitewater (AW) hereby files a “Motion to Intervene” (Motion) in this proceeding. In support of this Motion, AW states as follows:

1. Communications and Correspondence

AW requests that the following names be placed on the official service list maintained by the Commission for this proceeding with electronic service preferred:

Robert Nasdor
Northeast Stewardship & Legal Director
American Whitewater
65 Blueberry Hill Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776
Phone 617-584-4566
bob@americanwhitewater.org

2. Description of movant

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation and recreation organization founded in 1954. We have approximately 6,000 members and 100 affiliate organizations, representing tens of thousands of whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater’s mission is to protect and restore our nation’s whitewater

resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. As a conservation-oriented paddling organization, American Whitewater has an interest in enhancing boating opportunities in the vicinity of the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project on the Schoharie Creek.

American Whitewater has long been involved with FERC hydropower relicensing, advocating for PM&E measures to mitigate project impacts on non-power values including recreation. In the New York region, American Whitewater and its affiliate paddling clubs have participated in relicensing proceedings on the Mongaup, Beaver, Moose, Raquette, and numerous other rivers providing highly valued recreational boating opportunities. Through this process, we have provided comments, assisted with controlled flow studies, and entered into settlement agreements with licensees that protect access to rivers and project land used for recreation. American Whitewater has a significant number of members who reside a short driving distance from the proposed Ashokan Pumped Storage Project. Federal actions that affect flow, access to the river and navigation may potentially have an adverse impact on opportunities for American Whitewater members to utilize the rivers potentially impacted by the Ashokan Pumped Storage Project. As a conservation-oriented paddling organization, American Whitewater has a strong interest in the proposed Ashokan Pumped Storage Project.

3. Grounds for Intervention

AW and its members will be directly impacted by the outcome of this proceeding. The rivers potentially impacted by the proposed Ashokan Pumped Storage Project provide unique and cherished resources for the public, including boating, fishing, and other recreational, aesthetic, and environmental benefits. The proposed project, if

constructed, may impact lands and waters currently used by our members for whitewater paddling. AW requests intervenor status to participate in the proceedings.

4. Statement of Position

AW does not take a position on the application currently. AW believes that the project evaluation proposed under this preliminary permit should only proceed to a license proposal if the proposed studies can show that the licensee will maintain or enhance the recreational, aesthetic, and ecological benefits to the lands and rivers potentially affected by the Ashokan Pumped Storage Project such that there will be no net loss in these values. Should the studies find that there will be negative impacts of the project that are not avoided, minimized, or mitigated and the applicant proposes to proceed with a licensing proposal, AW may choose to take a position in opposition at that time. Participation in this proceeding will ensure that the interests of the public are represented during the assessment of feasibility for this project.

5. The Movant's Participation in the Public Interest

AW represents a large constituent base that uses the impacted resource and is a non-profit organization. Other potential parties and commenters to the proceedings are expected to be for-profit companies, public entities, individuals, or non-profit organizations with a different mission. AW's interests cannot adequately be represented by any single other party. As such, AW's participation is relevant and in the public's interest.

For the foregoing reasons, the AW requests intervention status in this proceeding with full rights as an intervener.

Dated: April 7, 2021`

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Nasdor
Northeast Stewardship & Legal Director
American Whitewater
65 Blueberry Hill Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776
Phone 617-584-4566
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day I have caused to be served electronically a copy of the foregoing Motion to Intervene of AW on all parties listed on the official service list compiled by FERC in this proceeding in accordance with the applicable FERC regulations.

Dated at 7, April, 2021

Robert Nasdor