



FERC Seeks Comments by November 6 on Badger Mountain Pumped Storage, a Proposed 500-Megawatt Two-Reservoir Hydro Project Near East Wenatchee, Washington

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FERC is taking comments, protests and motions to intervene through November 6, 2026 in Docket DI26-5 on Badger Mountain Hydro's Declaration of Intention for a closed-loop pumped storage project near East Wenatchee in Douglas County, Washington — an 8,000-foot earthen embankment forming a 78-acre, 3,090-acre-foot upper reservoir and a 40-foot earthen dam forming a 3,380-acre-foot lower reservoir, filled with treated wastewater and driving two 250-megawatt pump-turbines.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is taking comments, protests and motions to intervene through 5 p.m. Eastern on November 6, 2026 on a Declaration of Intention filed by Badger Mountain Hydro, LLC for the proposed Badger Mountain Pumped Storage Project near East Wenatchee in Douglas County, Washington. The notice was published in the Federal Register on October 13, 2026 (FR Doc. 2026-20883, 91 FR 64914), Docket No. DI26-5-000.

What a Declaration of Intention decides

This is not a license application. Under Section 23(b)(1) of the Federal Power Act, FERC must decide whether the project falls under its licensing authority. FERC looks at whether the project would sit on a navigable waterway, occupy federal lands, use surplus water or power from a government dam, or affect interstate commerce on a stream Congress regulates. If FERC finds it has jurisdiction, the project would need a FERC license.

What is proposed

The filing describes a closed-loop pumped storage plant. It would not sit on a river. Initial fill and makeup water would come from treated wastewater from Douglas County Sewer District No. 1's treatment plant.

- Upper reservoir: a 15- to 75-foot-high, 8,000-foot-long earthen embankment forming a 78-acre reservoir holding 3,090 acre-feet.
- Lower reservoir: a 40-foot-high, 650-foot-long earthen dam forming a reservoir holding 3,380 acre-feet, with a possible 15-foot-high, 900-foot-long secondary embankment on the east end.
- Tunnels: a 17-foot-diameter, 200-foot-high vertical shaft, a 5,600-foot lined headrace tunnel and a 200-foot tailrace tunnel.
- Powerhouse: in a 220-foot-high, 100-foot-diameter vertical shaft beside the lower reservoir, with two 250-megawatt reversible pump-turbines (500 MW total).
- Grid tie: a 0.25-mile transmission line to nearby lines.
- Estimated output: about 832,200 megawatt-hours a year.

Pumped storage works like a large battery: it pumps water uphill when power is cheap or plentiful and releases it through turbines when demand is high.

How to comment

- File through FERC's eFiling, or send brief comments (up to 6,000 characters) through eComment at ferc.gov, citing DI26-5-000. Include your name and contact information.
- Paper filings go to the Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Only people who file a motion to intervene become parties to the case.
- FERC contact: Maryam Akhavan, (202) 502-6110. The applicant's agent is listed as rPlus Energies, LLC of Salt Lake City.

Source

- Federal Register, October 13, 2026, FR Doc. 2026-20883 (91 FR 64914), FERC, "Badger Mountain Hydro, LLC; Notice of Declaration of Intention and Soliciting Comments, Protests, and Motions To Intervene," Docket No. DI26-5-000 (filed July 31, 2026).

Notes

- Image: The Columbia River valley at Wenatchee, Washington, seen from Badger Mountain (file photo, illustrative; not the project site). Photo: Todd Petit via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY 2.0).
- Author: Ryan Standley / Record of Sale, LLC / Notice Nearby.
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