

PM&Es: Through the Looking Glass FERC Perspectives



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Issue

- Applicants do not always have well-defined PM&E measures in their application.
- It is difficult for Commission staff to assess the benefits and costs of vague measures.
- Implementation of environmental measures are delayed.

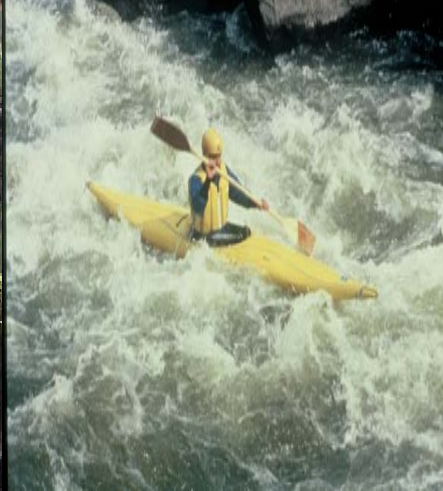
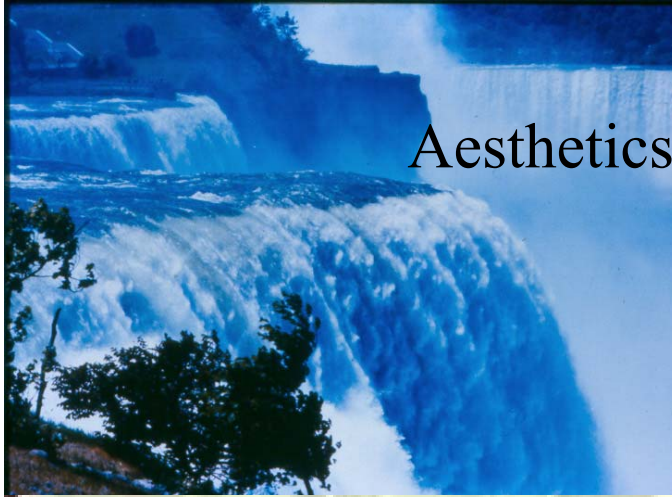


What are PM&Es?

Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures (PM&Es) could be:

- Modifications to project facilities and operations
- Construction and O&M of new facilities
- Protection or mitigation measures for addressing project-related effects

Typical Environmental PM&Es for Hydro

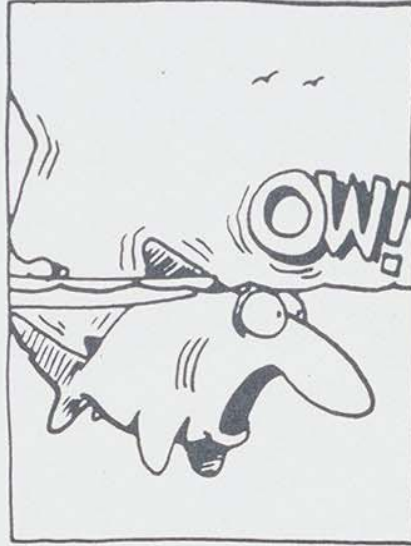
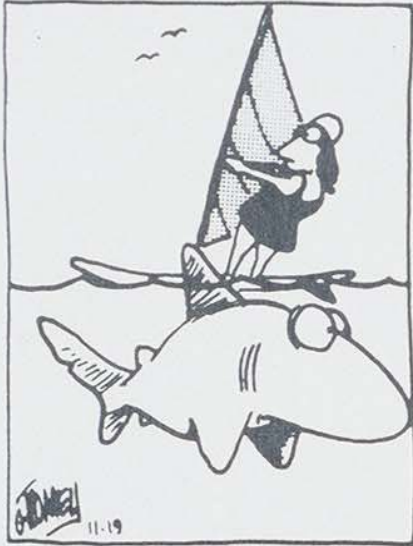




Environmental Concerns and Developmental Concerns

Competing Environmental Concerns

Sherman's Lagoon



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



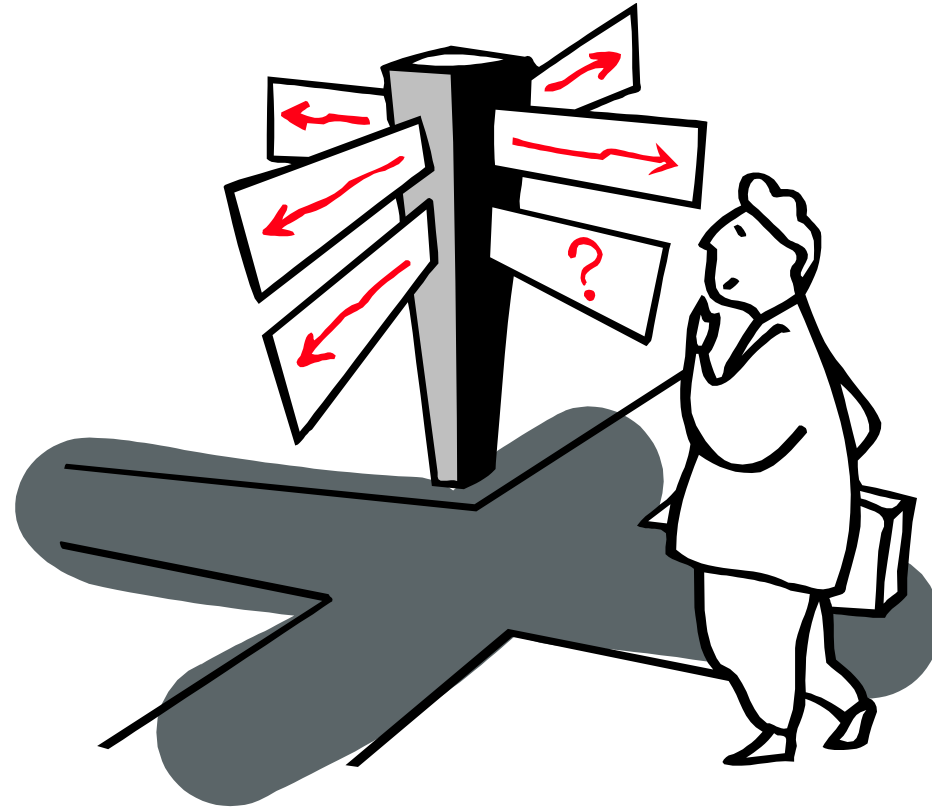
Goal



- Sufficient information on PM&E measures to be able to recommend to the Commission implementation of those measures that are best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or developing the waterway in any license issued.

Information Requirements

- What?
- Where?
- When?
- How?
- Why?



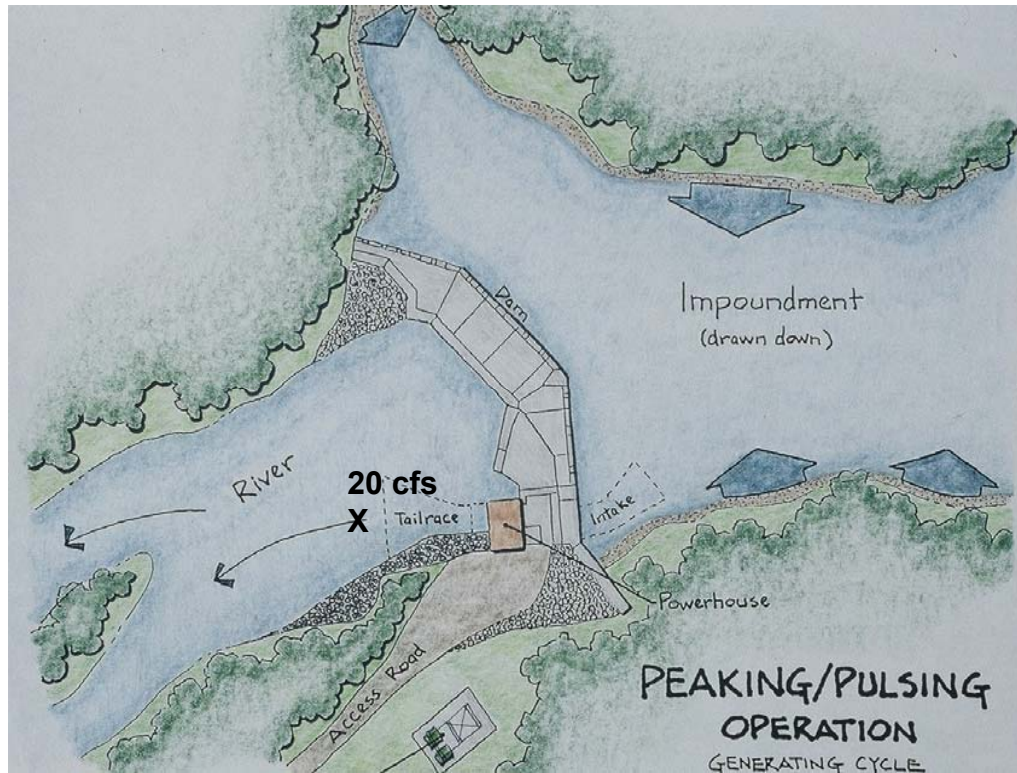
What?

- A description of the specific measures to be implemented, including conceptual drawings, depictions, or similar graphic information for any facilities proposed to be constructed.



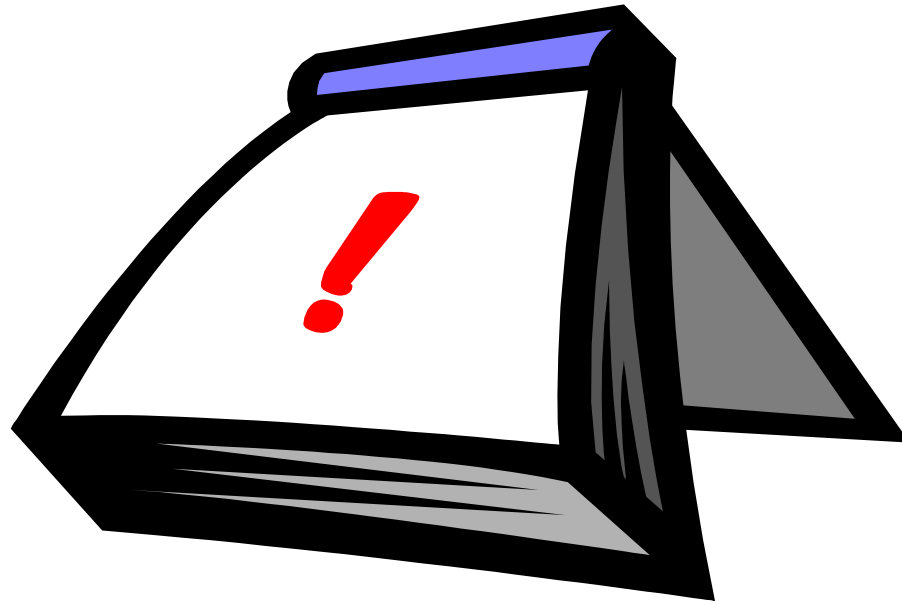
Where?

- A clear description of where any proposed measures are to be implemented, including reference to the project boundary.



When?

- Preliminary schedules for implementing the measures should be referenced to the license issuance date.



How?

- A preliminary description of any steps necessary to implement measures.



Why?

- A description of the purpose of the measures and the benefits that they would provide.
- The consultation record leading to the measures.



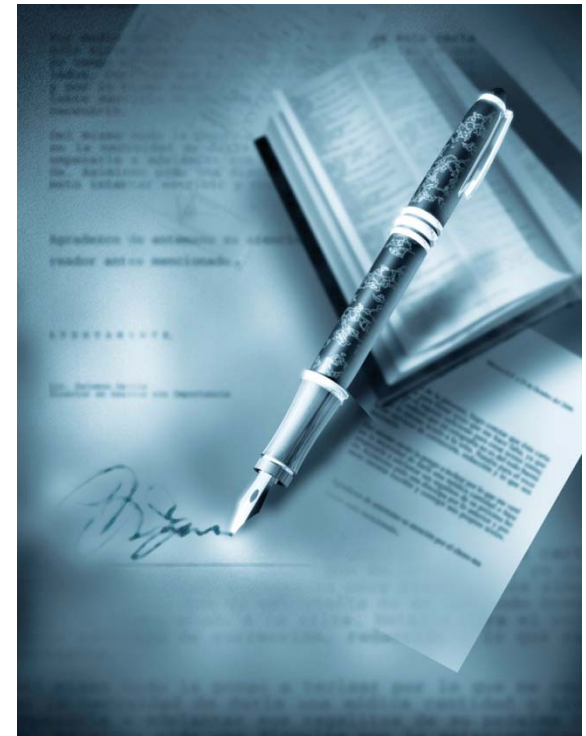
Cost?

- To facilitate Commission staff's comprehensive development analysis, costs for implementing each measure should be provided.



When should this information be provided?

- After studies
- Preliminary Licensing Proposal or Draft Application
- License Application



Benefits



- Allows for a comprehensive NEPA analysis in a reasonable time frame
- Sets the stage for early agreement on PM&Es and possible settlement (possibly avoiding the need for EPA Act hearings)
- Can expedite license decisions
- Gives certainty on the measures and costs at licensing