

**Forest Service Handbook  
National Headquarters - Washington Office  
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Handbook 2709.15 – Hydroelectric Handbook  
Chapter 20 - Forest Service Procedures**

**Amendment:** 2709.15-Amendment 1

**Effective date:** February 01, 1987

**Duration:** This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

**Approved by:**

**Date approved:**

**Responsible Staff:**

**Last Change:**

**Superseded Document(s):**

**Digest:**

**Forest Service Handbook 2709.15 – Hydroelectric Handbook**  
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**24.1-Exhibit 1**

TIMELINE COMPARISON OF LICENSES AND EXEMPTIONS  
FOR PROJECTS NOT REQUIRING AS EIS

COMMON TIMELINE

AFPP  
FERC Notice  
FS Response (critical items)

STAGE I

Application for Investigation SUP  
FS Scoping (issues, pub. invol. needs, study needs, alts.)  
Investigation SUP Issued

STAGE II

Feasibility, Studies, Scoping, Public Invol.,  
Alternatives, Consultation, Conceptual design

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SEPARATE TIMELINE COMPARISONS

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APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION

\*\*\*STAGE II CONTINUED\*\*\*

Draft AFL / AFSUA  
Detailed FS IDT Review  
Response to Applicant

Draft AFE / AFSUA  
Brief of Detailed IDT Review  
Response to Applicant

\*\*\*STAGE III\*\*\*

AFL / AFSUA    AFE / AFSUA  
Notice

Notice

Formal FS IDT Analysis  
4(e) Preparation  
Comments  
EA / DN / FONSI  
(unless CE)  
Consistency Recommendation /  
SUA Decision  
License Conditions

FS IDT Analysis for Recommendation  
to FERC  
FS Response to FERC on Critical  
items  
  
FS May Defer Detailed Review  
Until SUA Process

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**24.1-Exhibit 1-- Continued**

\*\*\*POST STAGE III\*\*\*

FERC Analysis of information  
completed  
FERC License Decision(w/EA etc.)  
FS ACTION  
    No Decision (already made)  
    Issue SUA

FERC EA With FS Input  
  
FERC Exemption Decision  
FS ACTION  
    Use FERC EA  
        Use AFSUA  
    Do or Finalize analysis  
    Verify Documentation  
    Issue EA, DN, FONSI  
    Issue SUA

CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION

**KEY OF TERMS IN TIMELINE COMPARISON CHART**

AFPP - application for preliminary permit  
FERC - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
FS - Forest Service  
SUP - special-use permit  
pub. invol. - public involvement  
alts. - alternatives  
AFL - application for license  
AFE - application for exemption  
AFSUA - application for special-use authorization  
IDT - interdisciplinary team  
EA - environmental assessment  
DN - decision notice  
FONSI - finding of no significant impact  
CE - categorical exclusion  
SUA - special-use authorization