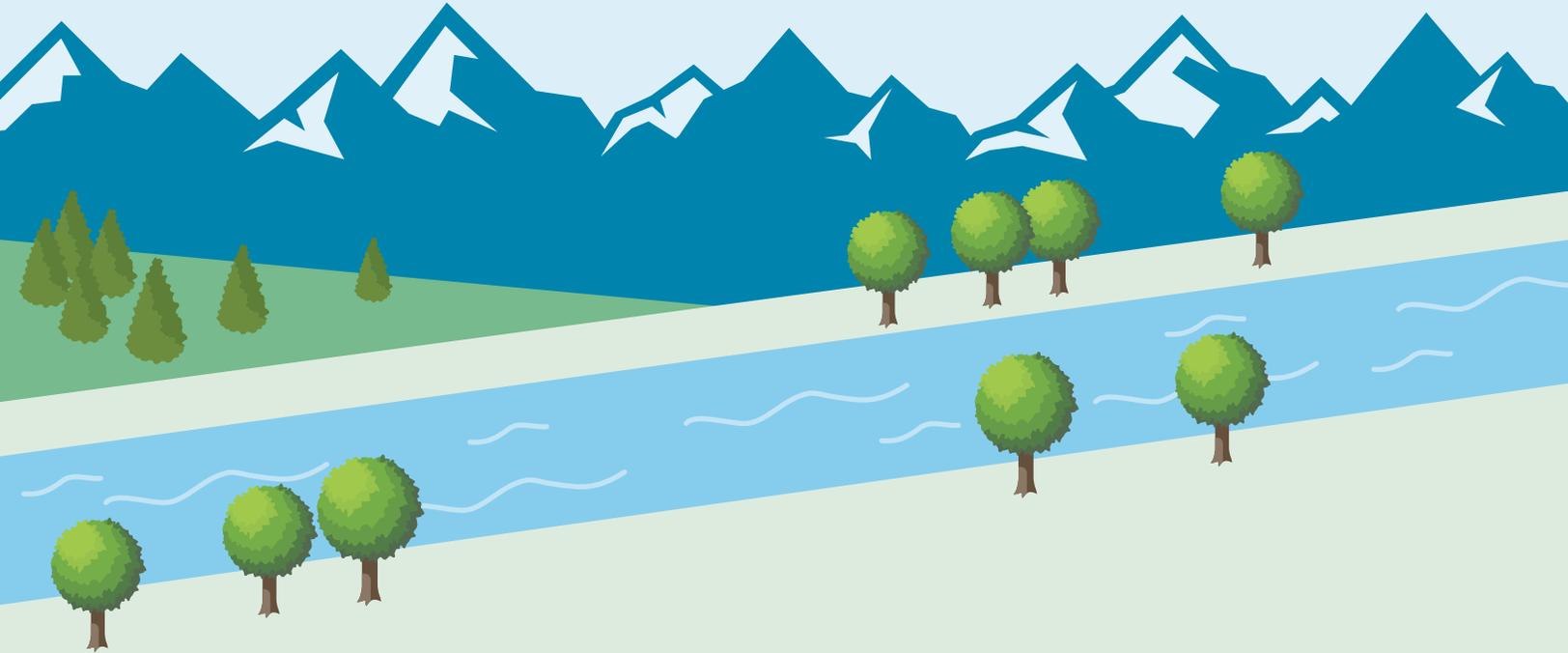




# FACT SHEET | Energy Recovery Hydropower—Federal Regulatory Approval Process

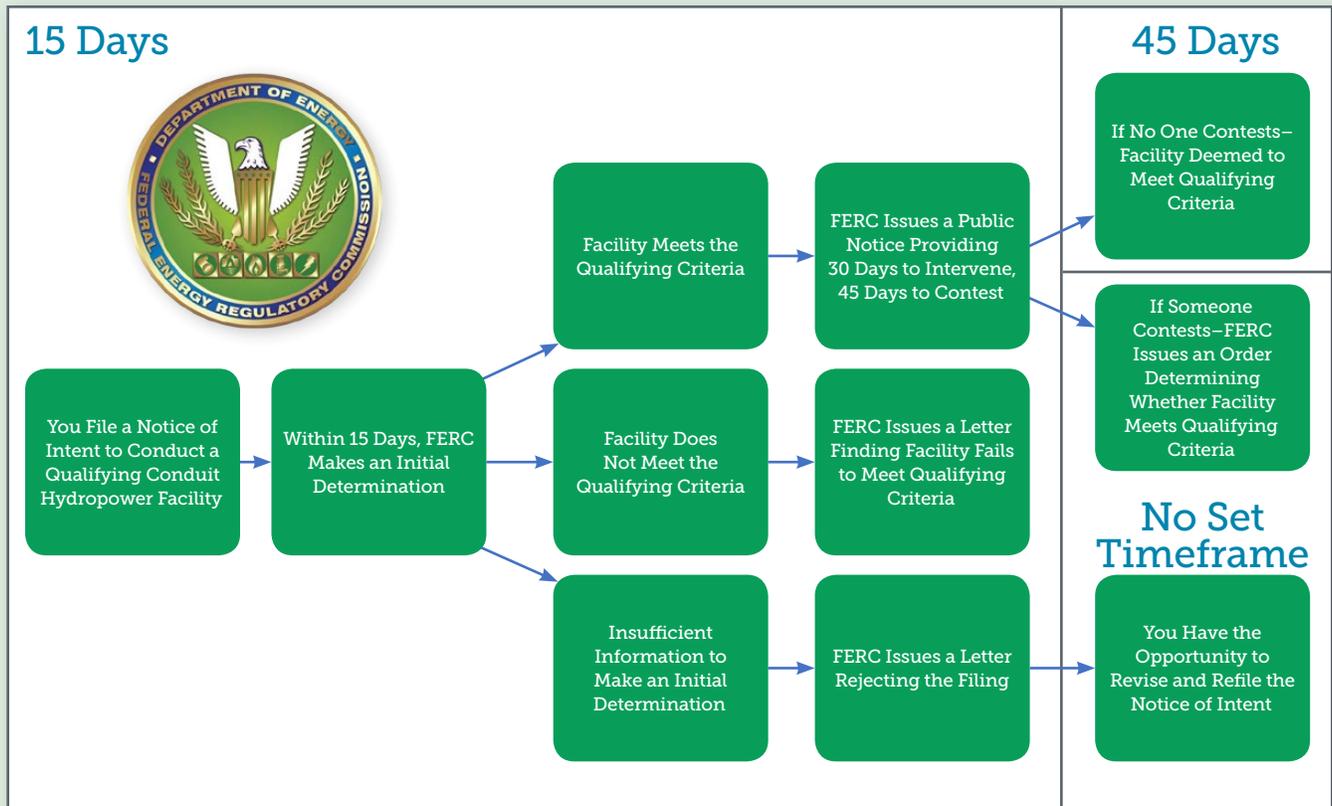


Energy recovery hydropower can typically complete federal regulatory approval in 60 days, provided that the project meets the following criteria:

- ▶ The project uses the hydroelectric potential of an existing conduit, which means any tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar man-made water conveyance that is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity;
- ▶ The project generates electric power using only the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit;
- ▶ The project has an installed capacity that does not exceed 5 MW;
- ▶ The project was not licensed under, or exempted from, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license requirements on or before August 9, 2013.

**A qualifying conduit application to FERC requires the following information:**

- ▶ Applicant contact information;
- ▶ Statements that the project meets the eligibility criteria as noted above;
- ▶ Project summary information, including how the turbine/generator connects to an existing conduit;
- ▶ Drawings/maps/diagrams showing the project's location and configuration relative to existing infrastructure;
- ▶ An attestation, under penalty of perjury, that all information in the application is correct.



It is typical to require the assistance of a consultant in preparing a FERC qualifying conduit application. The *Colorado Small Hydropower Handbook*, available on the Colorado Energy Office’s website, includes an appendix with a list of small hydro consultants who may be able to provide assistance.

To start the process, visit the FERC small hydro website at [www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/indus-act/efficiency-act/qua-conduit.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/indus-act/efficiency-act/qua-conduit.asp) and download the template for a “Notice of Intent to Construct a Qualifying Conduit Facility.”

Once the application has been completed, it can be mailed to FERC or electronically submitted through FERC’s online e-Filing system. Registration and filing instructions are available on FERC’s website at [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eregistration.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eregistration.asp).

### Additional Information

FERC Online Support  
 1-866-208-3676  
[FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov)

Samantha Reifer  
 Colorado Energy Office  
[sammy.reifer@state.co.us](mailto:sammy.reifer@state.co.us)  
 303-866-2418

See the Colorado Energy Office Small Hydropower webpage at [www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/hydropower](http://www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/hydropower)

