

John Smith
(WMA Project Manager)

August 30, 2019
(Date Summary Completed)

Brookfield Power Piney & Deep Creek LLC
(Applicant Name)

GA1992S009/09
(File No.)

PRELIMINARY IMPACT ANALYSIS SUMMARY

I. REASONABLENESS OF THE AMOUNT OF WATER REQUESTED IN RELATION TO THE ANTICIPATED LEVEL OF USE DURING THE PERMIT PERIOD.

The permittee has applied to increase an existing allocation from an annual average of 94,000,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 128,000,000 gpd. There is no proposed change to the maximum daily withdrawal of 420,000,000 gallons. The reason for the requested average annual increase is to account for higher flow volumes into Deep Creek Lake during years of high precipitation recorded since the original permit was issued. Previous years have documented the need to release more than an annual average of 94,000,000 gpd (94 MGD) in order to maintain lake levels in the Rule Band. Previous years above 94 MGD are 1996 (128 MGD), 2003 (113 MGD) and 2018 (122 MGD). Water will be withdrawn from Deep Creek Lake and used for the operation of the Deep Creek Station hydroelectric facility. The project is located at Deep Creek Lake and the withdrawal point is north of the Deep Creek Lake Dam, about three miles west of Thayerville, Garrett County, Maryland. The requested quantities are reasonable for the proposed use.

II. REASONABLENESS OF THE IMPACT OF THE REQUESTED WITHDRAWAL ON THE RESOURCE.

The current permit has many requirements regarding protection of resources. All requirements were reviewed extensively by many stakeholders and some changes are proposed. The proposed changes are expected to have a more beneficial impact on the natural resources by minimizing adverse temperature impacts for the cold water fishery in the Youghiogheny River, reducing the allowable period of high water above the upper rule band, and identifying good practices to ensure the best opportunity for maintaining sufficient water in the lake through the warm weather recreation season.

III. REASONABLENESS OF THE IMPACT OF THE REQUESTED WITHDRAWAL ON OTHER USERS OF THE RESOURCE.

Various user groups participated the permit review process and contributed to consensus building on multiple issues. A more specific description of operating procedures are expected to maintain water levels on the lake near the upper rule band (except under very dry years), ensure that the permittee continues to use predictive methods for decisions for releases, and adjust the timing of the whitewater releases to provide enhanced recreational benefit. Management of lake levels ensures dam safety as the highest priority, and also must ensure the continued benefit of renewable power generation.