

Niagara Power Project License Implementation

Ecological Standing Committee

Availability of Funds for Ecological Projects in the Niagara River Basin Through the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Fund

As part of the New York Power Authority's (NYPA's) license commitments for the Niagara Power Project in Lewiston, NY, funds are currently available through a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Fund (HERF) for future ecological projects to address the impacts of water level fluctuations that are due, in part, to Niagara Power Project operations. In particular, the HERF will fund future projects such as land acquisition; habitat improvement; habitat research; fish, wildlife and indigenous plant species restoration; and stewardship activities throughout the Niagara River, including within the Niagara Gorge, its headwaters at Lake Erie, the mouth of the river at Lake Ontario, its tributaries between these two points, and their associated watersheds (the "Niagara Basin"). HERF administration, including project evaluation and selection, is the responsibility of the Ecological Standing Committee (ESC).

Guidelines for Fund Applications are provided in pdf format at the following web page:

[HERF Fund Application Guidelines](#)

The guidelines address applicant eligibility, eligibility criteria for proposed projects, a two-stage conceptual pre-proposal and detailed proposal submittal process, evaluation guidelines for the Ecological Standing Committee, and the yearly schedule for acceptance and evaluation of proposed projects.

This \$16.2 million HERF fund is available to support projects for the life of the new Niagara Power Project license, i.e., until 2057. While there is no limit on the share of the available HERF funds that might be approved for any single project, it is contemplated that the available funds would be awarded to a variety of projects.

Important Note Regarding 2011 Schedule for HERF Fund Applications:

For 2011 only, the yearly submittal due dates specified in the HERF Fund Application Guidelines for conceptual pre-proposals (normally March 15) and for detailed proposals (normally July 15) are extended to April 30 and August 31, respectively. The ESC response date for pre-proposals submitted by April 30, 2011, will be May 31, 2011. The ESC response date for written responses regarding the status of detailed proposals submitted by August 31, 2011, will be December 15, 2011.

The fund application submittal and review schedule for 2012 and following years will be as stated in the HERF Fund Application Guidelines.

For additional information, please contact Steve Schoenwiesner, ESC Chairman, at 914-287-3457.