

**1. Why is Alcoa seeking a relicense to operate dams when there is no more smelter and the public interest cited by FPC (FERC) in 58 explicitly connected public interest to industrial/economic activity?**

FERC addressed the issue of public benefit in its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) issued in 2008. Here are two excerpts from the document:

*“If relicensed, the power from both Projects would continue to be useful in meeting part of the local and regional need for power and continue to displace the operation of fossil-fueled facilities thus avoiding significant fossil-fueled power plant emissions and creating an environmental benefit. If the electric output of the Projects (1,310,300 MWh) were replaced with coal-fired generation, greenhouse gas emissions would increase by 348,500 metric tons of carbon annually.”*

*“We recommend these alternatives because (1) issuing new licenses would allow Alcoa Generating and Progress Energy to continue operating the Projects as beneficial, dependable sources of electric energy; (2) the Projects, with a total installed capacity of 210 MW and 108.6 MW, respectively, would eliminate the need for an equivalent amount of fossil fuel-produced energy, which helps conserve these non-renewable resources and limits atmospheric pollution; (3) our recommended environmental measures would protect water quality and quantity, enhance fish and wildlife resources, protect cultural resources; and improve public use of the Projects’ recreational facilities and resources; and (4) the public benefit of these measures would exceed those of the No-action Alternatives.”*

FERC also addressed the issue of a federal takeover of the Yadkin Project:

*“We do not consider federal takeover to be a reasonable alternative for the Projects. Federal takeover of the Projects would require Congressional approval. While that fact alone would not preclude further consideration of this alternative, there is currently no evidence showing that a federal takeover should be recommended to Congress. No federal agency has suggested that federal takeover would be appropriate, and no federal agency has expressed an interest in operating the Projects.”*

The FEIS is available online at:

<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/enviro/eis/2008/04-18-08.asp>

As the rightful owner of the hydroelectric dams and surrounding property that comprise the Yadkin Project, APCI maintains the right to continue generating clean, renewable energy. APCI's relicensing has the support of 23 stakeholder organizations, including all local governments along the Yadkin River who are impacted by the project.