



*Through the Federal Power Act, National Park Service recommends provisions to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to mitigate and enhance conservation and recreation resources associated with licensing dams.*

## Cuyahoga River, Ohio

### Recreational studies planned for proposed hydropower facility

**The Metro Hydroelectric Project** is a proposed new hydroelectric project on the Cuyahoga River near Cuyahoga Falls, OH, eight miles upstream from Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). The project proposes to restore electric generation to the Ohio Edison Gorge Dam, which hasn't generated hydroelectric power for over 50 years. The combined nominal capacity would be up to 2.4 Megawatts and operations would divert water out of the natural river bed through 600 feet of new penstock and into a new powerhouse.

The proposed project falls entirely within and constitutes the bulk of Gorge Metro Park, a unit of MetroParks Serving Summit County. The primary focus of the park is the deep gorge and the river that formed it. The gorge is rich with Native American and pioneer history, and served as a popular recreation area served by trolley during the Victorian Era. Recreational opportunities continue to draw residents and visitors to hike the river's paralleling trails and kayak its rapids downstream of the dam. Together, Gorge Metro Park and CVNP staff collaborate to protect and enhance the integrity of the river corridor they both share.

**Robust Studies** The license applicant is using the Integrated Licensing Process; NPS Hydropower Assistance staff is providing technical assistance to private non-profit groups and to local, state, and federal government agencies involved in the process. The NPS also provided detailed recommendations to the license applicant for conducting and improving study plan proposals regarding aesthetic flows, changes in natural sound generation, whitewater flows, and recreational use and facilities. Between the license applicant's study plan revisions based on the NPS recommendations and the recommendations made by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, all of the NPS recommendations will be included in the approved study plans. These studies will result in a more complete license application.

*The National Park Service's Hydropower Assistance Program has provided invaluable technical assistance to Cuyahoga Valley National Park and our gateway partners as we face some complicated challenges with the Metro Hydroelectric project.*

John Debo, Superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley National Park



*Gorge dam on the Cuyahoga River*



*Existing whitewater boating put in; to be relocated to other side of river*

National Park Service provides technical assistance on recreation and conservation issues to all participants in Hydropower Licensing Proceedings of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. NPS makes recommendations on recreation access and facilities, instream flows for recreation, and protection for riparian corridors and conservation buffer zones. More information on Hydropower Assistance at <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/hydro/>

For more information about National Park Service project involvement, contact Angie Tornes, [angie\\_tornes@nps.gov](mailto:angie_tornes@nps.gov). For more information on the project, please go to <http://www.advancedhydrosolutions.com/MetroGorge.html>.