



**File Code:** 2720  
**Date:** March 4, 2019

Tim Williamson  
FreedomWorks, LLC  
525 Wren Lane  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Dear Mr. Williamson:

I am responding to your 01/27/2019 written proposal (and additional information submitted 02/03/2019) to perform feasibility studies of a pump storage hydroelectric project on Monongahela National Forest System (NFS) lands. The location being in Tucker County, West Virginia, near the Big Run Bog and Mill Run area. Specifically, you have proposed to use NFS roads for access; perform core drilling; evaluate sub-surface geology; analyze the soil material removed/disturbed; and conduct geochemistry analyses, soil chemistry analyses, and biological studies on NFS lands that could be impacted if a hydroelectric pump storage project were approved.

I have evaluated the proposal against minimum requirements at 36 CFR 251.54(e) and must reject it for failure to meet initial screening criteria at 36 CFR 251.54(e)(1)(ii): The proposal is inconsistent, and cannot be made consistent, with applicable forest land and resource management plan standards and guidelines for management of the area.

Studies and surveys are proposed that would require vegetation and earth disturbance to occur within the Big Run Bog, a National Natural Landmark established in 1974 to preserve the bog's unique ecosystem and protect this area of national significance. Such disturbance would be inconsistent with the management objectives and standards of the Monongahela National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan:

#### **Management Prescription 8.2 – National Natural Landmarks**

The Park Service, Department of Interior, administers the National Natural Landmarks Program. The objective of the program is to assist in the preservation of a variety of significant ecological and geological natural areas which, when considered together, will illustrate the diversity of the country's natural heritage.

**Standard 8018** – Special uses may be authorized as long as they do not adversely affect the overall values and qualities for which the special area was established.

**Standard 8204** – Plants or plant parts may only be removed for scientific purposes and with written permission.

**Standard 8205** – Vegetation manipulation, planting, or introduction of non-native invasive species shall not be allowed within the bog.



Consistent with 36 CFR 251.54 (e)(2), the proposal shall not receive further evaluation and processing. I am returning it to you along with all supporting documentation.

Rejection of this unsolicited proposal is not subject to administrative appeal (FSH 2709.11, Sec. 12.4).

Sincerely,



SHAWN M. COCHRAN  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Regional Forester