



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
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**December 30, 2025**

**DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ISSUE A SECTION 401 WATER QUATLITY CERTIFICATION**

**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The purpose of this public notice is to declare the State of Utah's intention to issue a Section 401 Water Quality Certification with Conditions under the authority of the Federal Clean Water Act (33U.S.C. § 1341), and consistent with the Utah Water Quality Act, Title 19, Chapter 5, Utah Code and Utah Administrative Code R317-15.

**PERMIT INFORMATION**

PERMITTEE NAME:	PacifiCorp
MAILING ADDRESS:	825 NE Multnomah, Suite 1500
PROJECT LOCATION:	Cottonwood Heights, Salt Lake County, Utah, approximately 40.623453 and -111.753627
CERTIFICATION NO.:	DWQ-2025-05002
WATERCOURSES:	Big Cottonwood Creek-2 AU UT16020204-020_00 (includes Big Cottonwood Creek and tributaries from Big Cottonwood WTP to headwaters)

**BACKGROUND**

PacifiCorp (project proponent) is seeking to reclassify its 1.2-megawatt Stairs Hydroelectric Project (proposed project) from a minor FERC project license (FERC License No. 597) to a conduit exemption under the Federal Power Act, a process started in February 2024. The project, located on Big Cottonwood Creek in Salt Lake County, Utah, was first licensed in 1957. The change is administrative; operations will not be altered, and there is no proposed construction for the facility. PacifiCorp asserts there will be no fill, stream alteration, or water-quality impacts, though the administrative shift requires reissuing the 401 Water Quality Certification. The facility operates as a run-of-river project, diverting flows from Big Cottonwood Creek via the Storm Mountain Dam into a penstock that leads to the powerhouse. After generating power, the water is released into a tailrace canal, which feeds directly into PacifiCorp's Granite Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 14293) and then into Salt Lake City's Big Cottonwood Canyon Water Treatment Plant (BCCWTP), the city's largest drinking water supplier.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments are invited at any time prior to the deadline of the close of business on **January 28, 2026**. Written public comments can be submitted to: Linsey Shafer, General Permitting Section, Utah Division of Water Quality, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870 or by email at: [wqcomments@utah.gov](mailto:wqcomments@utah.gov). After considering public comments the Utah Division of Water Quality may

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execute the Certification issuance, revise it or abandon it. The Certification is available for public review under <https://deq.utah.gov/public-notices-archive/water-quality-public-notices> A copy may be obtained by contacting Utah Division of Water Quality at (801) 536-4300.