

*Filed Electronically*

December 19, 2024

The Honorable Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: **Brookfield Smoky Mountain Hydro Project (FERC No. 2169)**  
**Proposed Schedule of 2026 Cheoah River High Flow Events**

Dear Honorable Secretary Reese:

On January 25, 2005, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a New License, effective March 1, 2005, for Project No. 2169. Section 1.2.2 of Appendix A of the License requires Brookfield Smoky Mountain Hydropower LP (BSMH), as the licensee, to provide high flow events in the Cheoah River and to provide 12 months prior notice to FERC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), Graham County and American Whitewater of the proposed schedule of high flow events..

The high flow events for 2026 will follow the Year 2 schedule presented in Table OR-2.3 of Appendix A of the License, as presented below:

Month	Events	Total Days Per Month	Magnitude (cfs) <sup>1</sup>
January			
February	1	2	1000 <sup>2</sup>
March	1	3	1000 <sup>3</sup>
April	3	6	1000 <sup>4</sup>
May	2	4	1000 <sup>5</sup>
June	1	2	1000 <sup>5</sup>
July			1000 <sup>5</sup>
August			1000 <sup>6</sup>
September			1000 <sup>6</sup>
October	1	1	1000 <sup>6</sup>
November	1	1	1000 <sup>6</sup>
December			
Total	10	19	

<sup>1</sup>Hour 1 starts at 1 AM on the first day of the release; for multiple day releases, hours are counted continuously from the start of the release (e.g., Hour 16 starts on day 1 at 4 PM and Hour 32 starts on day 2 at 8 AM)

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<sup>2</sup>1,000 cfs from Hour 8 through Hour 11 (4 hours); 600 cfs from Hour 12 through Hour 16 (5 hours); 400cfs from Hour 17 through Hour 31 (15 hours); 200 cfs from Hour 32 through Hour 43; 100 cfs for Hour 44

<sup>3</sup>1,000 cfs from Hour 8 through Hour 15 (8 hours); 600 cfs from Hour 16 through Hour 35 (20 hours); 300 cfs from Hour 36 through Hour 63 (28 hours)

<sup>4</sup>For 2-day events: 1,000 cfs from Hour 8 through Hour 15 (8 hours); 350 cfs from Hour 16 through Hour 31 (16 hours); 1,000 cfs from Hour 32 through Hour 37 (6 hours); 850 cfs from Hour 38 through Hour 39 (2 hours)

For 3-day events: 1,000 cfs from Hour 8 through Hour 15 (8 hours); 350 cfs from Hour 16 through Hour 31 (16 hours); 1,000 cfs from Hour 32 through Hour 37 (6 hours); 850 cfs from Hour 38 through Hour 39 (2 hours); 300 cfs from Hour 40 through Hour 63 (24 hours)

<sup>5</sup>1,000 cfs from Hour 8 through Hour 15 (8 hours); 350 cfs from Hour 16 through Hour 31 (16 hours); 1,000 cfs from Hour 32 through Hour 37 (6 hours); 850 cfs from Hour 38 through Hour 39 (2 hours)

<sup>6</sup>1,000 cfs from Hour 8 through Hour 15 (8 hours)

)

**BSMH proposes the following schedule for the Cheoah River high flow releases in 2026:**

February 21 & 22 (Saturday & Sunday)

March 28, 29 & 30 (Saturday, Sunday and Monday)

April 11 & 12 (Saturday, Sunday)

April 18 & 19 (Saturday & Sunday)

April 25 & 26 (Saturday & Sunday)

May 9 & 10 (Saturday & Sunday)

May 30 & 31 (Saturday & Sunday)

June 27 & 28 (Saturday & Sunday)

October 24 (Saturday)

November 7 (Saturday)

## 2026 Cheoah River High Flow Event Calendar

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 2026							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			

**Holiday**  
**Release day**

As required by Section 1.2.3 of Appendix A of the License, BSMH held an annual high flow event planning meeting with agencies and other interested parties on November 7, 2024, virtually on Microsoft Teams. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), American Whitewater and a representative from Endless River Adventures, a outfitter that rafts the Cheoah, were present. The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians were provided the draft calendar for comment after them meeting, as they were not in attendance. During that meeting, BSMH reviewed the releases provided in 2024, the upcoming dates for the 2025 Cheoah River high flow releases and the proposed 2026 dates, based upon the Year 2 schedule presented in Table OR-2.3 of Appendix A of the License. The dates for the 2026 high flow events included herein were discussed and agreed upon in consultation with the abovementioned resource agencies during the November 7th meeting. A separate copy of the 2026 Cheoah River High Flow Events calendar is also attached to this filing.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 304-222-4321 or at [ashley.thomas@brookfieldrenewable.com](mailto:ashley.thomas@brookfieldrenewable.com)

Sincerely,



Ashley Thomas  
Senior Compliance Manager

Attachment

CC: Dave Bates, Jon Norris, Brad Myers, Robert Reed, Tanya Richardson, Brookfield  
Brian Browning, Heath Emmons, Jason Farmer USFS  
Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater  
Vann Stancil, NC Wildlife  
Fred Tarver, NCDEQ  
Bryan Tomkins, USFWS  
Michael J. LaVoie, EBCI