

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 123 FERC ¶ 62,100
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

Project No. 637-043

ORDER MODIFYING AND APPROVING STEHEKIN AREA IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN UNDER ARTICLE 403

(Issued May 06, 2008)

On November 6, 2007, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD), licensee for the Lake Chelan Project, FERC No. 637, filed the Stehekin area implementation monitoring plan (plan) pursuant to article 403 of the license.¹ The project is located on the Chelan River, near the City of Chelan, in Chelan County, Washington. The project occupies 465.5 acres of federal lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service (FS), and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS).

Article 403 requires the licensee to file, for Commission approval, a plan to monitor the measures implemented in accordance with the Stehekin Area Implementation Plan required by Article 4 of the Lake Chelan Settlement Agreement (SA)² and contained in Chapter 4 of the comprehensive plan attached to the SA. The purpose of the plan is to provide details on the measures that would be implemented to monitor reductions in dust emissions, establishment of native riparian vegetation, and reductions in non-native plants in the reservoir drawdown zone and along the reservoir shoreline in the area of Stehekin.

The plan is to include the following: (a) a detailed description of the methods that will be used to monitor the environmental effects of large woody debris placed in the drawdown zone to reduce dust emissions and establish native riparian vegetation; (b) a detailed description of the methods that will be used to monitor the success of efforts to establish native riparian plants and remove non-native plants; (c) a schedule for filing a report for Commission approval in years 5, 10, 15, and 20 of the license detailing the measures implemented to reduce dust emissions, results of the total suspended particulate sampling, and any recommendations for additional measures to achieve a reduction in the magnitude and duration of dust events by 50 percent by year 20 of the license; and (d) a schedule for filing a report for Commission approval every 5 years of the license

¹ Order on Offer of Settlement and Issuing New License, issued November 6, 2006 (117 FERC ¶ 62,129, and Order on Rehearing, issued April 19, 2007 (119 FERC ¶ 61,055).

² The Chelan PUD, on behalf of the signatories, filed a comprehensive settlement agreement on October 17, 2003. The SA includes articles that were included in the license.

describing the success of establishing native riparian vegetation and reducing non-native species and any recommendations for additional measures. The plan is to be developed in consultation with the NPS.

LICENSEE'S PLAN

Most of the actions for the Stehekin area implementation monitoring plan will be undertaken by the NPS. The licensee's plan states that all payments for work conducted by the NPS will be in accordance with section 19 of the SA. The licensee will submit an annual report to the Commission summarizing the work planned and completed by the NPS.

Dust Emissions

The goal of the licensee's plan is to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the magnitude and duration of dust events by year 20 of the license period, using the measurements from a 2001 study as a baseline. In 2008 and 2009, treatment options will be implemented to reduce dust events on a small scale to investigate their effectiveness, and then begin full-scale implementation in years 2010 through 2012. Treatments may include irrigation of the main dust producing areas and/or the placement and anchoring of large woody debris. The NPS will monitor the magnitude of dust events by measuring the concentration of total suspended particulates using a nephelometer. A weather station will also document weather conditions associated with dust events. Monitoring will be conducted annually from mid-March through mid-June during the experimental phase, and then every five years beginning in 2011. The licensee will file a report compiled by them and the NPS on the mitigation measures and monitoring results, as required by article 403, by November 6 of 2011, 2016, 2021, and 2026. The plan also includes anticipated costs for dust abatement efforts.

Riparian Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat

In its plan, the licensee indicates that the NPS will use an integrated pest management approach to control invasive and non-native plants along the shoreline within the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. To recreate a native riparian vegetation corridor along the lakeshore at the head of Lake Chelan, species such as willow, red alder, black cottonwood, big-leaf maple, red osier dogwood, western red cedar, and various sedges will be propagated at the NPS native plant nursery and planted in this area.

The licensee also states that a riparian zone plan will be developed for the expansion of existing riparian areas and the establishment of new riparian zones, with the goal of providing a continuous riparian corridor for wildlife. This plan will include wildlife habitat restoration, the reduction of non-native vegetation, and revegetation with

native plant species. The efficacy of the reduction and removal of reed canary grass populations will be discussed in the riparian zone action plan, and the removal of reed canary grass will occur from 2010 through 2019. The plan indicates that monitoring the results of the non-native species control efforts will be conducted annually until 2028, continuing after that time if necessary. The monitoring frequency and parameters for each planting site associated with revegetation efforts will be presented in the riparian zone plan.

Reports on the efforts to reduce non-native species and establish native riparian vegetation will be submitted to the Commission according to the following schedule:

Report	Date to FERC
Riparian Zone action plan completed	Nov. 6, 2009
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2011
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2016
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2021
Final Report for "Monitor wildlife in drawdown zone" survey	Nov. 6, 2023
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2026
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2031
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2036
Final Report for "Monitor wildlife in drawdown zone" survey	Nov. 6, 2038
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2041
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2046
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2051
Final Report for "Monitor wildlife in drawdown zone" survey	Nov. 6, 2052
Technical report, monitor mitigation measures	Nov. 6, 2056

CONSULTATION

The licensee met with the NPS to develop the Stehekin area implementation monitoring plan on the following dates in 2007: February 5, February 27, April 20, May 7, June 19, July 19, and October 24. The licensee provided a draft plan to the NPS for 30-day review on September 25, 2007. The NPS approved the plan by letter dated October 31, 2007.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Article 403 requires the licensee to submit a detailed description of the methods that will be used to monitor the success of efforts to establish native riparian plants and remove non-native plants. The licensee indicates that this information, including the frequency and parameters, will be developed in the riparian zone action plan, which will be submitted to the Commission by November 6, 2009. Because this plan will contain details required by article 403, we will require that this plan be submitted for Commission approval.

The licensee indicates that they will file annual reports with the Commission on work planned and completed by the NPS. However, they did not provide a date for filing this report; therefore, we will require that this report be due to the Commission by April 30 of each year.

The measures to be implemented under the Stehekin area implementation monitoring plan provide for monitoring reductions in dust emissions, the establishment of native riparian vegetation, and reductions in non-native plants in the reservoir drawdown zone and along the reservoir shoreline in the area of Stehekin. This plan, along with the riparian zone plan being developed, should ensure that the goals of decreasing dust events and creating a diverse wildlife corridor are met. The licensee's plan, with the modifications discussed above, meets the requirements of article 403 and the SA. The plan, as modified, should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The Stehekin area implementation monitoring plan filed by the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County on November 6, 2007, for the Lake Chelan Project, FERC No. 637, pursuant to article 403, as modified by paragraphs (B) and (C), is approved.

(B) The licensee shall file with the Commission for approval, a riparian zone plan, by November 6, 2009. The plan shall include details for the expansion of existing riparian areas, the establishment of new riparian zones, wildlife habitat restoration, the reduction of non-native vegetation and revegetation with native plant species.

(C) The licensee shall file with the Commission an annual report on work planned and completed with funding provided to the FS, NPS, and WDFW, by April 30 each year, beginning on April 30, 2009.

(D) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F. R. §385.713.

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