

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, D. C. 20426**

**OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS**

**Project Nos. 637-080 & 082-Washington  
Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project**

**September 29, 2011**

**Ms. Michelle Smith  
Licensing & Compliance Manager  
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County  
P.O. Box 1231  
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231**

**Subject: Lake Level Deviations Pursuant to Article 405 of the License**

**Dear Ms. Smith:**

**This is in response to your filings submitted on May 31, and June 29, 2011, pertaining to lake level deviations, which occurred at the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 637. You submitted the filings pursuant to license Articles 302 and 405,<sup>1</sup> and the Operations Compliance and Monitoring Plan (Plan).<sup>2</sup>**

**License Requirements**

**Pursuant to Article 302, Reservoir Drawdown Limitation and Safety Report, you are required to implement any remedial measures necessary to ensure the continued safe operation of the project during high flows. Article 405 of the license requires you to implement lake levels, as set forth in Article 8 of the Lake Chelan Settlement Agreement, (Agreement) and Chapter 8 of the Comprehensive Plan incorporated into the Agreement. Under the Agreement you are required to make every reasonable effort to: maintain minimum flows in the Chelan River; reduce high flows in the Chelan River; and satisfy**

---

<sup>1</sup> See Order on Offer of Settlement and Issuing New License, 117 FERC ¶ 62,129, issued November 6, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> See Order Modifying and Approving Operations Compliance and Monitoring Plan Article 405, 121 FERC 62,152, issued November 30, 2007.

Project No. 637-080 and 082

- 2 -

regulatory requirements for flood control (adjusting lake level). The Agreement stipulates, you are required to maintain a lake level elevation of 1,087.6 feet, on May 1, and 1,094.0 feet on June 1. In addition, under Article 405 of the license you are required to notify the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Commission within 48 hours after you become aware of any lake level deviation.

In accordance with the approved Plan, you are required to file a report with the Commission, within 30 days of any deviation from lake levels. The report must to the extent possible, identify the cause, severity, and duration of the incident, and any observed or reported adverse environmental impacts resulting from the incident.

### **Lake Level Deviation**

In the May 31 and June 29 filings, you report that the authorized lake levels were not met on May 1, and on June 1, 2011, respectively. You state in the filings, that failure to maintain the required target levels was to meet two primary lake level objectives such as flood control and reducing high flows in the Chelan River. Therefore, you managed the project in compliance with the Article 302 Reservoir Drawdown Limitation and Safety Report Plan and Article 8 of the Agreement. You state in the filings, that during those dates the weather was colder and wetter than the average spring (143% and 313% above average snow pack in the Chelan basin). The target levels were intentionally not met on May 1, and June 1, 2011, to accommodate extremely high and late snowpack runoff conditions, and to eliminate the potential for high spillway flows and for flooding upstream and downstream of the dam. You are required to maintain a lake level elevation of 1,087.6 feet on May 1, and 1,094.0 feet on June 1. However, the observed target lake levels were 1,083.15 feet, for the month of May, and 1,089.47 feet, for the month of June. That is 4.45 feet below the target level for the month of May, and 4.53 feet below the target level for the month of June.

Furthermore, you state in the filing that you reported both deviations to the Commission's Portland Regional Office and Ecology via electronic correspondence on May 2, and June 2, 2011, within 48 hours of when you became aware of the incident. However, no comments were received from Ecology regarding the deviations. In addition, no adverse biological or environmental impacts were observed as a result of these events.

### **Conclusion**

After reviewing the information included in your reports, we have determined that the lake level deviations, which occurred on May 1, and June 1, 2011, will not constitute

Project No. 637-080 and 082

- 3 -

violations of the project license. The deviations were performed intentionally, and allowed by Article 302 of your license to ensure adequate storage capacity in the lake for the anticipated high and late runoff. No adverse biological impacts were observed as a result of the incident. Your filings adequately fulfill the reporting requirements pursuant to Article 405 of the license and your approved Plan. We remind you that these events should be included in your Annual Lake Level Report due to the Commission on or before February 28, 2012. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Anumzziatta Purchiaroni at (202) 502-6191, or by e-mail at [anumzziatta.purchiaroni@ferc.gov](mailto:anumzziatta.purchiaroni@ferc.gov).

Sincerely,



William Guey-Lee

Chief, Engineering Resources Branch  
Division of Hydropower Administration  
and Compliance

Document Content(s)

12783082.tif.....1-3