

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20426

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Licensing & Compliance

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 637-069 -- Washington  
Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project  
PUD No. 1 of Chelan County

Ms. Michelle Smith  
Licensing & Compliance Manager  
PUD No. 1 of Chelan County  
P.O. Box 1231  
Wenatchee, WA 98807

JAN 14 2010

Subject: Instream Flow Deviation, Article 405

Dear Ms. Smith:

This regards your November 25, 2009 filing of an instream flow deviation in Reach 4 of the Chelan River on October 24-26, 2009 at the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 637).

License Article 405 requires various minimum instream flows in accordance with Settlement Agreement Article 7. The Article 405 requires that you notify the Washington Department of Ecology and the Commission within 48 hours of the time that you become aware of the deviation, which you state was completed on October 28, 2009. Additionally, the Order Modifying and Approving Operations Compliance and Monitoring Plan, issued November 30, 2007, require that you file a report with the Commission within 30 days of any deviation from minimum flow requirements.

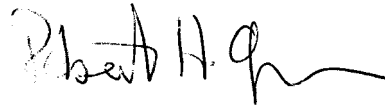
In your November 25, 2009 filing, you state that required minimum flows in Reach 4 of the Chelan River were not met for a number of hours over a three-day period between October 24 and 26, 2009. You state that the failure to maintain the required minimum flow of 320 cubic feet per second (cfs) during this period was a result of a malfunction of the pump station control system, which shut-off one of the five pumps by tripping a protective circuit breaker. The newly installed pumps help provide required fish spawning flows in the newly constructed fish habitat within Reach 4. You state that flows were reduced to levels between 273 cfs and 279 cfs before the pump was returned to service on the morning of October 26, 2009. Additionally, you state that there was no evidence of any adverse biological impacts since the flow reduction resulted in only about a one-inch reduction in water levels and velocities were still adequate for salmon spawning at the reduced flows.

You state that the facility has only been in operation for 10 days, training of personnel on rotating shifts regarding alarm response procedures had not been completed, and the powerhouse is unmanned and operated remotely from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily and during weekends. Although the exact cause of the breaker trip is unknown, you state that it was likely related to the excessive cycling of the air burst system for the intake screens. Finally, you state that investigations into the cause of the pump breaker trip and air burst cycling are ongoing and corrective programming measures are being implemented to prevent such an event from occurring in the future.

Based on our review of the available information, the minimum flow deviation will not be considered a violation of Article 405. The malfunction was beyond your control, necessary personnel training was completed on December 1, 2009, and no adverse biological impacts were observed as a result of the incident.

Your filing adequately fulfills the reporting requirement set-forth under Article 405 and the November 30, 2007 order. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Erich Gaedeke at (503) 552-2716 or via email at [erich.gaedeke@ferc.gov](mailto:erich.gaedeke@ferc.gov).

Sincerely,



for

Heather E. Campbell  
Acting Director  
Division of Hydropower Administration  
and Compliance