

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

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 10856-100 and 101 –
Michigan
Au-Train Hydroelectric Project
UP Hydro, LLC

October 5, 2015

Mr. Jason Kreuzscher, VP, Operations
Renewable World Energies, LLC
P.O. Box 264
100 S. State Street
Neshkoro, WI 54960

Subject: Minimum Flow Deviations – Article 401

Dear Mr. Kreuzscher:

Thank you for your letters filed on August 25 and September 8, 2015, in which you report minimum flow deviations that occurred at the Au-Train Hydroelectric Project No. 10856 on August 21 and September 6, 2015, respectively. As discussed in more detail below, we will not consider these deviations that occurred at your project violations of Article 401 of your license.

License Requirement

Article 401 of your license,¹ in part, requires you to operate the project in a modified run-of-river mode, with a steady draw-down of the reservoir in the winter and reservoir draw-downs as necessary at other times of the year to provide a continuous minimum powerhouse discharge of 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) for the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources in the Au Train River. You may temporarily modify the minimum flow, if required by operating emergencies beyond your control or for short periods, upon mutual agreement between you, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Michigan DNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). If the flow is so modified, you must notify the Commission, Michigan DNR, and FWS as soon as possible, but no later than 7 days after each incident.

¹ *Upper Peninsula Power Company*, 79 FERC ¶ 62,217 (1997).

August 21, 2015 Deviation

In your August 25, 2015 letter, you state that on August 21, 2015, you placed both units offline in order to make necessary repairs to the battery bank. Before taking these units offline, your records show a flow of 56 cfs at approximately 11:30 a.m., at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Au Train River station at Forest Lake, Michigan. The lowest recorded flow of 29 cfs occurred at approximately 11:45 a.m. and you restored the minimum flow of 56 cfs at 12:15 p.m. The minimum flow deviation lasted approximately 45 minutes. You notified the appropriate resource agencies on August 25, 2015.

September 6, 2015 Deviation

In your September 8, 2015 letter, you state that a power outage, due to a storm moving through the area, occurred at the project between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., on September 6, 2015. The power failure caused No.1 turbine to trip off line. In response, you dispatched personnel to the project to begin making adjustments to help control the water level and to bring the unit back online. Your personnel restored power at approximately 8:15 p.m. and brought the project on line at about 8:30 p.m. Before the loss of power, your records show a flow of 55 cfs at the USGS Au Train River station. The lowest recorded flow of 20 cfs occurred at 8:00 p.m. and you restored the minimum flow of 54 cfs at 9:00 p.m. The minimum flow deviation lasted approximately one hour. During this event, you maintained the headwater level within required operating limits. You notified the appropriate resource agencies on September 8, 2015, and you observed no adverse environmental impacts.

Review

Based upon our review of the available information, we will not consider the deviations that occurred at your project on August 21 and September 6, 2015, violations of Article 401 of your license. The minimum flow deviations on August 21 and September 6, 2015, resulted from a need to take units offline in order to repair the battery bank and a unit tripping offline due to loss of power, respectively. Information supplied in attachments to your deviation reports shows that you obtained compliant minimum flows above 50 cfs in a short period of time, with deviations lasting approximately 45 minutes and one hour, respectively. In both cases, you notified the appropriate resource agencies.

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Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Raymond James at (202) 502-8588, or by e-mail at raymond.james@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kelly Houff
Chief, Engineering Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

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