

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 10855-237, -258
Michigan
Dead River Hydroelectric Project
Upper Peninsula Power Company

April 11, 2016

Mr. Virgil E. Schlorke, Director
Upper Peninsula Power Company
1002 Harbor Hills Drive
Marquette, MI 49855

Subject: 2015 Annual Report of Deviation Less Than Sixty Minutes

Dear Mr. Schlorke:

This is in response to your 2015 annual report regarding minimum flow deviations lasting 60 minutes or less filed on February 25, 2016, for the Dead River Hydroelectric Project No. 10855. The project is located on the Dead River, in Marquette County, Michigan. You submitted the filing pursuant to Article 403 of the license and the approved Operations Monitoring Plan.¹ For reasons discussed below, we determined that these deviations are not violations of your license.

License Requirements

Article 403 of the Dead River Hydroelectric Project license requires you to maintain continuous minimum flows downstream of the McClure and Hoist powerhouses of 80 cubic feet per second (cfs), and 100 cfs, respectively, for the protection and enhancement of water quality, recreation, and aquatic resources in the Dead River. You may temporarily modify, releases from the project if required by operating emergencies beyond your control or for short periods. An Order Amending License issued September

¹ *Upper Peninsula Power Company*, 101 FERC ¶ 62,013 (2002), and *Upper Peninsula Power Company*, 136 FERC ¶ 62,186 (2011).

1, 2011,² revised your reporting requirements under Articles 402 and 403 of the license. Pursuant to Articles 402 and 403 of your license, you must submit an annual report, which includes reservoir and minimum flow deviations lasting 60 minutes or less. You must provide the report to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Michigan DNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), by January 31 of each year. In addition, you must file the report with the Commission by February 28 of each year along with any resource agency comments and your response to those comments.

Deviation Incidents

In the filing, you reported four minor minimum flow deviations that lasted 60 minutes or less, as summarized in the following Table 1 below. You stated that you did not observe any adverse environmental impacts during the events. In addition, in a letter dated January 22, 2016 you consulted with the Michigan DNR and the FWS, and received no comments regarding the report.

Table 1: Summary of Deviations

Dates/Location	Duration	Deviation	Reason	Violation
4/08/2015 Hoist Plant	11 minutes	Plant tripped offline causing the flow to drop to 0 cfs, which was below the required 100 cfs.	Electrical Ground removed during maintenance work.	No
4/10/2015 McClure Plant	25 minutes	Plant tripped offline causing the flow to drop to 0 cfs, which was below the required 80 cfs.	Packing burned while adjusting unit for operation.	No
11/18/2015 Hoist Plant	26 minutes	Plant tripped offline causing the flow to drop to 0 cfs, which was below the required 100 cfs.	Tree on line caused transmission trip.	No
11/30/2015 McClure Plant	11 minutes	Unit 1 tripped offline causing the flow to drop to 0 cfs, which was below the required 80 cfs.	Packing problems after both units were swapped.	No

² *Upper Peninsula Power Company*, 132 FERC ¶ 62,089 (2011).

Project No. 10855-237, -258

- 3 -

Conclusion

After reviewing the information provided in your report, we have determined that the reported minimum flow deviations resulted from equipment malfunction, and maintenance performed at both developments. Therefore, we will not consider the deviations shown in the above Table 1, violations of Article 403 of your license. In each case, you followed the appropriate procedure, and restored minimum flow operations in a timely manner. Your 2015 annual report fulfills the requirements of the license. Your next annual report is due on February 28, 2017.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Anumzziatta Purchiaroni at (202) 502-6191, or anumzziatta.purchiaroni@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Document Content(s)

P-10855-237.PDF.....1-3