

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2785-084--Michigan
Sanford Project
Boyce Hydro Power, LLC.

October 11, 2013

Mr. Frank Christie, P.E.
Boyce Hydro Power, LLC.
6000 S. M-30 (P.O. Box 15)
Edenville, MI 49624

RE: Article 402, Flow Gaging

Dear Mr. Christie:

On September 10, 2013, you filed a letter to report on the status of your effort to activate the flow gage at the Sanford Project, located on the Tittabawassee River in Michigan. This letter responds to your report and your May 20, 2013 letter which provided information about the steps you are taking toward meeting the requirements of Article 402 and to ensure you comply with the minimum flow requirements of Article 401.

By letter dated April 23, 2013, we requested that you provide information to confirm that you are operating your project in compliance with amended Article 402¹ and subsequent Commission orders² pertaining to downstream flow gaging. Our April 23 letter describes in detail the procedural and compliance history related to the Article 402 requirements for the Sanford Project.

Your September 10 letter states that you attempted in late June through most of July to get the Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) to respond and transmit data; however you were unsuccessful. You explained that you retrieved the device and sent it

¹ Order on Rehearing and Amending License Order. 85 FERC ¶ 61,066 (October 16, 1998).

² Order Modifying and Approving Article 402 Gaging Plan, 94 FERC ¶ 62,180 (March 1, 2001); Order Modifying and Approving Installation Plan for River Flow Monitoring Under Article 402, 118 FERC 62,053 (January 22, 2007).

for repairs in August, and that you received a report in September from the manufacturer stating that the device needed to be replaced. You note that the device had faulty circuit boards with no signs of water penetration after being in the water for a little more than three years in the same position as the original installation. After your own investigation and research, you conclude that a permanent ADCP installation is not the best method for flow monitoring at this site. You propose to change the type of installation to something more durable and easily replaceable in the event it is damaged.

You state that the site currently has a solar panel, storage cabinet, battery power, underground conduit, and in-river pipe mounting anchor. Further, due to the technical difficulties associated with the ADCP, and given the physical equipment already at the site, you propose to install a water level sensor and data logger that will monitor and record real time river flow. You added that the data would be stored and downloaded every month for future disbursement by hard copy or in electronic format. You state that you will use the water level sensor to continue calibration efforts in the river cross section, and will use the data as outlined in your May 20, 2013 letter. Finally, you propose to provide a report of the information to the Commission by the end of 2013 rather than late September 2013.

Your proposed equipment changes are in conformance with Article 402 and the Commission's orders on downstream flow gaging, and are acceptable. Installation and calibration of the water level sensor and data logger should finish the work you initiated earlier this year. However, in the event that the modified methods do not provide the level of precision or accuracy needed for gage calibration, or you are not able to meet the requirements of Article 402, you will need to revise the methods, in consultation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

We anticipate receiving your report by December 31, 2013 and, as previously noted in our July 16, 2013 letter, the deadline to submit your follow-up gaging report is September 30, 2014. Please also provide a courtesy copy of the reports to the MDNR and the FWS.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Holly Frank at (202) 502-6833.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. LoVullo
Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance