

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - Chicago Regional Office

230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3130

Chicago, Illinois 60604

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In reply refer to: P-2785 & P-10808

August 19, 2013

Mr. Lee Mueller
Boyce Hydro Power, LLC
6000 S. M-30, P.O. Box 15
Edenville, MI 48620

Re: Congressional Inquiry pertaining to spring 2013 flooding in Saginaw Township
Sanford Hydroelectric Project (P-2785)
Edenville Hydroelectric Project (10808)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

On June 27, 2013, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) received a fax from Mr. Tom Smith, a Constituent Representative for U.S. Congressman Dave Camp, forwarding concerns of Mr. Tom Call Jr., a property owner along the Tittabawassee River. Mr. Call states there were three separate occasions during the past spring on which flood damage to his property was caused by Boyce Hydro's gate operations at the Sanford and Edenville dams. By letter dated July 2, 2013, you were requested to provide a report documenting your actions, including the spillways gate openings and release flow rates from the Sanford and Edenville dams during the time period around the five largest floods during the spring of 2013. Your July 10, 2013 letter provided the requested report.


Your letter stated that any discharge from the Edenville Project must pass through the Sanford reservoir; therefore, only discharges from Sanford were analyzed by your staff. You also indicate the watershed of Sanford (1,020 square miles) and that of the USGS staff gage (2,372 square miles) in Midland are large enough that the path a storm event travels across the Midland watershed has a great impact on the percentage of the downstream flow contributed from Sanford Dam. Based on the five worst flood events along the Tittabawassee River in Midland, you state that the discharge from Sanford Dam contributed anywhere from 34% to 57% of the flood flows at the Midland gage. These percentages show that there is not a direct correlation between the amount of flow released from Sanford Dam and the total flow at the Midland gage.

Your letter also indicates that during large flood flows along the river, the various reservoirs associated with your projects do not provide any storage or attenuation for these storm events, and that the projects are operated run-of-river.

In order to complete our review, please submit hourly discharge data from the Sanford Dam and reservoir level for the 36-hour period immediately before and the 36-hour period immediately after the five peak flows indicated in your letter. Also include the time and amount of any gate operations during these periods. This should be submitted by **September 3 2013**.

Please contact me at 312.596.4437 if you have any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely



John A. Zyga, P.E.
Regional Engineer

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