

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2785-015--Michigan
Sanford Project

Project No. 10808-005--Michigan
Edenville Project

Project No. 10809-004--Michigan
Secord Project

Project No. 10810-006--Michigan
Smallwood Project
Boyce Hydro Power, LLC.

October 23, 2013

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

RE: Water Quality Monitoring Program Clarification

Dear Mr. Christie:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter filed on August 23, 2013, for the Sanford, Edenville, Smallwood, and Secord projects, located on the Tittabawassee River in Michigan, and provides clarification of the requirements of your water quality plan.

In your letter, you state that it is your understanding that the approved plan did not include any reference to connecting the temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) monitoring devices to the SCADA system. You also state that you do not intend to connect the monitoring devices to the SCADA system at the project, and that, based on the monitoring conducted this year, you believe that any attempt to use the SCADA system in the water quality monitoring process would be a waste of the operator's time and possibly counterproductive.

In reference to whether a connection to the SCADA system is part of your approved water quality plan, we note that on page two of each plan for the respective

projects (all filed on April 14, 1999), you state that “a temperature sensor will be installed in the same location as the DO sensor and the output will also be fed into the SCADA system for recording on an hourly basis.” Accordingly, the Commission’s order approving the water quality monitoring plans (order)¹ for the projects also described the temperature and DO connection to the SCADA system. We note that your 1999 plans state that specific equipment manufacturers or models are not specified in the plan as such equipment could be upgraded over the license term, which happened earlier this year.

Previously this year, you filed a letter in which you provided an update to the Commission describing actions you would take in 2013 and beyond in order to comply with the water quality monitoring plan. That letter, filed May 20, 2013, provided updated methods and instrumentation to ensure you meet the requirements of the plan. The letter was not filed as an amendment to the existing plan, and no elements of the plan requirements were modified. Further, your May 20, 2013 letter included your request to postpone installation of a SCADA system, stating that the enhancements made to the water quality monitoring program will assure that water quality criteria are met, and that corrective actions will be taken swiftly if needed. You stated that the water quality data collected in 2013, and experience from providing any corrective actions, may show that a SCADA system would not be necessary or could provide the experience necessary to install an efficient alarm system. In our July 16, 2013 letter acknowledging the updates you made for collecting water quality data, we agreed that installation of a SCADA system may be postponed while you gain experience from the water quality monitoring program. However, it remains a requirement of your water quality plan. If you wish to modify the water quality plans, you may file an amendment for our review. Your amendment request should include documentation of consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and include copies of any agency comments, and your response to those comments. If you decide not to file an amendment to the water quality plans, it is expected that a temperature sensor will be installed in the same location as the DO sensor and the output will be fed into a SCADA system for recording on an hourly basis.

Your August 23, 2013, filing also describes the water quality data collected at the Secord, Smallwood, and Edenville reservoirs over the summer, which has shown extreme readings of nitrogen in some areas, and very low DO readings at depths over 15 feet. You state that the turbines draw water down to a 20 to 30 foot depth, so you believe the low DO readings at the turbine intakes are not related to project operations. While you have carried out some mitigation testing, you state that you have not attempted to implement any extensive mitigation measures at this time. We remind you that your

¹ Order Modifying and Approving Water Quality Monitoring Plans. 87 FERC ¶ 62,365 (issued June 29, 1999).

water quality requirements state that you must implement all reasonable and prudent measures to ensure water quality standards for temperature and DO are met, and we note that you have been looking into mitigation testing to determine the appropriate actions for correcting water quality issues.

We expect to receive your annual water quality monitoring report by December 31, 2013. That report should describe the DO readings observed in the reservoirs, the mitigation measures taken and the results of such measures, and whether you propose any updates to the methods for future monitoring. In the report, you should indicate whether you conclude connection to a SCADA system is necessary, based on your 2013 water quality monitoring and your experience providing any required supplemental flow or mitigation measures. If you conclude that connection to a SCADA system is not necessary, your report should provide such a statement, along with supporting data/information and a proposed date to file an amendment request of the approved water quality monitoring plans. If you conclude that connection to a SCADA system is necessary to ensure compliance, then your report should include a schedule for connecting the water quality instrumentation to a SCADA system.

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
Chief, Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance