

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

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 10856-102 – Michigan
Au-Train Hydroelectric Project
UP Hydro, LLC

December 18, 2015

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

Subject: Minimum Flow Deviation – Article 401

Dear Mr. Kreuzscher:

Thank you for your letter filed on November 30, 2015, in which you report a minimum flow deviation that occurred at the Au-Train Hydroelectric Project No. 10856 on November 22, 2015. As discussed in more detail below, the deviation that occurred on November 22, 2015, is not a violation 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, the Michigan DNR, and the FWS as soon as possible, but no later than 7 days after each incident.

November 22, 2015 Deviation

In your November 30, 2015 letter, you state that at 10:35 a.m. on November 22,

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

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2015, you placed unit #1 offline in order to change brushes on the unit. After changing the brushes, your operator attempted to restart the unit; however, the operator had trouble restarting the unit due to a low battery voltage. Your operator manually restarted the unit and placed the unit on-line at 11:50 a.m. Before taking this unit offline, your records show a flow of 70 cfs at approximately 10:30 a.m., at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Au Train River station at Forest Lake, Michigan. The lowest recorded flow of 31 cfs occurred at approximately 10:45 a.m. and you restored the minimum flow requirement with a flow of 63 cfs at 12:00 p.m. The minimum flow deviation lasted approximately one hour and 30 minutes. You notified the appropriate resource agencies on November 30, 2015, and you observed no adverse environmental effects.

Review

Based upon our review of the available information, we will not consider the deviation that occurred at your project on November 22, 2015, a violation of Article 401 of your license. The minimum flow deviation on November 22, 2015, resulted from a need to take unit #1 offline in order to change brushes on the unit. You experienced trouble restarting the unit due to a low battery voltage. You restarted the unit manually to restore the minimum flow and you rectified the battery issue. Information supplied in attachment to your deviation report shows that the deviation lasting approximately one hour and 30 minutes. You notified the appropriate resource agencies and you observed no adverse environmental effects.

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

Sincerely,

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

cc: Mr. Gary Rast
Vice President, Operation
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