

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2506-211--Michigan
Escanaba River Hydroelectric Project
Upper Peninsula Power Company

Mr. Terry P. Jensky
Vice President, Energy Supply Operations
Upper Peninsula Power Company
700 North Adams Street
P.O. Box 19001
Green Bay, WI 54307-9001

AUG 24 2011

Subject: Reservoir Surface Elevation, Article 402

Dear Mr. Jensky:

We received your letter filed April 19, 2011, reporting reservoir surface elevation deviations for the Escanaba Hydroelectric Project. This letter concludes our review of your filing.

Requirements

Article 402 requires the licensee to maintain the following target reservoir surface elevations: (1) 604.13 ± 0.34 ft. U.S. Geological Survey datum at the Dam No. 1 development, (2) 665.66 ± 0.34 ft. U.S. Geological Survey datum at the Dam No. 3 development, and (3) 901.50 ± 0.50 ft. U.S. Geological Survey datum at the Dam No. 4 development, which was temporarily agreed upon between the licensee and the MDNR on November 6, 2008.

Deviations

You reported two similar events that caused the reservoir level deviations: (1) at 16:21 hours, on April 8, 2011, the reservoir at Dam No. 1 reached a minimum reservoir elevation of 603.39 ft, which was below the required minimum impoundment level of 603.79 ft; and at 17:30 hours, an operator was dispatched to the site to return the impoundment to normal levels; and (2) at 06:23 hours, on April 9, 2011, the reservoir at Dam No. 3 reached a minimum reservoir elevation of 664.75 ft, which was below the minimum reservoir elevation of 665.32 ft; and at 07:45 hours, the impoundment was restored to normal levels. You stated that both incidents were caused by the remotely-

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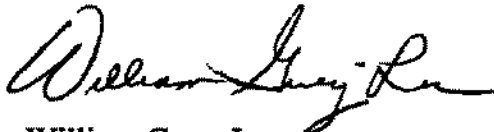
operated Tainter gates moving to full open when activated. Subsequently, the remote operation of the Tainter gates was disconnected and the site was staffed 24 hours/7 days/week, starting April 11, 2011.

Review

The impoundment level deviations were caused by communication interruptions between the controls for the remotely operated Tainter gates. As a result, controller logic was added to reset communication and operation when communication is lost or a controller locks up. On April 15, 2011, after successfully testing of the controller logic, normal operation of the gates and staffing of the sites were resumed. No adverse environmental impacts were observed or reported. As such, we will not consider the impoundment deviations violations of the license requirements.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Jake Tung at (202) 502-8757.

Sincerely,



William Guey-Lee
Chief, Engineering Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

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