

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2506-169--Michigan
Escanaba Hydroelectric Project
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

Mr. Terry P. Jensky, Vice President
Energy Supply Operations
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
700 North Adams Street
P.O. Box 19001
Green Bay, WI 54307-9001

APR 21 2009

Subject: Run-of-River Flow Deviation from Article 401

Dear Mr. Jensky:

We received your letter filed March 20, 2009, reporting a run-of-river flow deviation from the article 401 requirements, which occurred on March 11, 2009.

Article 401 states that the licensee shall operate each of the project's developments in a run-of-river mode for the protection of aquatic resources in the Escanaba River. The licensee shall at all times act to minimize the fluctuations of reservoir surface elevations by maintaining a discharge from each development of the project so that, at any point in time, flows, as measured immediately downstream of each project tailrace, approximate the sum of inflows to each project reservoir. Run-of-river operation may be temporarily modified if required by operating emergencies beyond the control of the licensee, or for short periods of time upon mutual agreement between the licensee, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). If the operation is so modified, the licensee shall notify the Commission and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days after each such incident.

You reported that on March 11, 2009, at approximately 4:54 EST, the project's run-of-river operation was interrupted following a turbine/generator trip at the Boney Falls powerhouse. Your report states that the unit trip was the result of high winds causing the transmission line to trip. You also stated that you opened a tainter gate to reestablish flow and that the project was returned to run-of-river operation at 5:24 EST

Project No. 2506-169

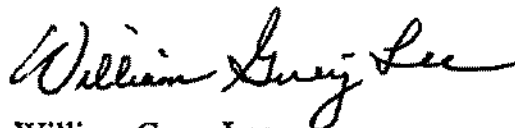
-2-

the same day. You also stated that no adverse environmental impacts were observed as a result of the low flow condition.

Based on our review of the report and the available data, we conclude that the deviation you reported was due to high winds which caused the transmission line to trip. You restored the project to run-of-river operation within a short time and notified the MDNR and the FWS of the flow deviation, as required by Article 402. No adverse environmental impacts were observed as a result of the low flow condition. As such, the incident will not be considered a violation.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Papsidero at (202) 502-6002.

Sincerely,



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