

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

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PKWD-19-082
OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2244-036--Washington
Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project
Energy Northwest

November 13, 2019

VIA FERC Service

Scott Urban
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968, MD 1030
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Subject: Extension of Time for filing Fish Entrainment Monitoring Plan - Article 401

Dear Mr. Urban:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your initial filing of the Intake Fish Entrainment Monitoring Plan (Plan), filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) on January 9, 2019, and grants you additional time to complete consultation and finalize the Plan.

Article 401 of the license for the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project No. 2244¹ requires, in part, that you file plans required by the U.S. Forest Service's (Forest Service) section 4(e) terms and conditions² for Commission approval. Condition 9 of the Forest Service's 4(e) terms and conditions requires you to develop an Intake Fish Entrainment Monitoring Plan within 3 months of issuance of the new license. The primary purpose of the Plan is to provide a process for protecting the rainbow trout population in Packwood Lake from potential mortality associated with approach velocity exceedances on sections of the traveling screens at the Project intake and thereby to protect the rainbow trout population and other aquatic resources in Packwood Lake during project operation.

You filed the Plan on January 9, 2019, in order to meet the filing deadline established by the license. You previously filed an intake entrainment plan with the

¹ Order Issuing New License (165 FERC ¶ 62,031), issued October 11, 2018.

² The terms and conditions are made part of the license by ordering paragraph (E) and are attached to the license as Appendix B.

Commission on April 4, 2012 during the relicensing process; the January 2019 Plan includes updates to reflect the new implementation dates and upgrades at the project which occurred since the start of the relicensing process in 2008.

You state that the Forest Service reviewed the Plan, but has not yet provided approval. You report that you have been gathering impingement data at the project over several years, and based on that data you have developed potential alternatives to address fish entrainment at the project. You are discussing the alternatives with the Resource Agencies Committee (RAC)³ and you anticipate further revisions to the Plan based on those discussions. You anticipate revising the Plan to reflect any new methods and measures in consultation with the Forest Service, presenting the modified plan to the RAC at the next Resource Coordination meeting, and then filing it with the Commission for approval.

We discussed the status of the Plan with your staff on January 23 and October 9 and 25, 2019, in order to determine the status of completing consultation, obtaining Forest Service approval, and filing the modified Plan. You state that during the year you have hosted site visits and continued consultation with the Forest Service, and that you have conducted videography monitoring to observe fish presence and behavior in the forebay in front of the intake wells. You state that you are consulting with the RAC and you hope to finalize an alternative approach to the entrainment plan during the March 2020 Resource Coordination meeting.⁴

Therefore, we request that you file the revised Fish Entrainment Monitoring Plan, including documentation of Forest Service approval by **April 30, 2020**. If you are unable to complete consultation and obtain Forest Service approval by then, please file a request for an extension of time in compliance with § 385.2008 of the Commission's regulations.

³ The RAC includes but is not limited to: the Forest Service, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yakama Nation, consulting biologists, licensee staff, and Commission.

⁴ The Resource Coordination Plan, filed on July 16, 2019, indicates that you plan to hold the future Resource Coordination meetings annually during the third week of March.

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Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Holly Frank at (202) 502-6833 or holly.frank@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. LoVullo
Chief, Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

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