

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2242-106--Oregon
Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project
Eugene Water & Electric Board

May 3, 2018

Ms. Lisa McLaughlin
License Manager
Eugene Water & Electric Board
500 East 4th Avenue
P.O. Box 10148
Eugene, OR 97440-2148

Subject: River Ramping Rate Deviation - Article 35

Dear Ms. McLaughlin:

This is in response to your report submitted on February 13, 2018, concerning a river ramping rate deviation at the Trail Bridge Development of the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project No. 2242. You submitted the filing pursuant to Article 35 of the license.¹ For the reasons discussed below, we determined that the deviation is not a violation of Article 35 of your license.

License Requirement

Article 35 of the license for the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project, requires that you operate the project in accordance with the provisions included in the Agreement signed on August 1, 1958, between you and the State of Oregon, acting by and through the Oregon State Game Commission and the Fish Commission of Oregon. The agreement allows you to operate the project in such manner that the rate of change of the

¹ *City of Eugene, Oregon*, 21 F.P.C 16 (1959).

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McKenzie River (ramping rate) below the Trail Bridge Dam will not exceed 2 inches per hour and the maximum weekly variation of the Trail Bridge reservoir will not exceed 9 inches per hour from October 20 through April 19.

Ramping Rate Deviation

In the filing, you reported that on Monday, January 15, 2018, your project experienced a river ramping deviation for a period of 35 minutes. You explained that on January 15, 2018, at approximately 7:30 pm, the generating units at the Carmen-Smith powerhouse tripped offline due to a fallen tree on the Cougar-Thurston transmission line. The generating units remained offline until January 16, at approximately 8:30 pm, when your operators fixed the damaged line. Consequently, during the water transfer at the Trail Bridge powerhouse, you observed that the required river ramping rate of 2-inches per hour was exceeded by 2.1 to 11.6 inches, and the required weekly ramping rate of 9 inches per hour was exceeded by 0.7 to 1.8 inches, as recorded at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Gage 14158850 McKenzie River, below Trail Bridge Dam near Belknap Springs, Oregon. You report that although Chinook salmon fry were anticipated to be present during the time of the incident and the potential for stranding existed, your operators took immediate action to restore the river flow to its required level, and mitigated any potential impact. You did not observe any impacts to fish or wildlife as a result of the incident.

With the filing, you included the USGS gage hydrograph, and recorded gage data. In addition, we noted that to keep the resource agencies apprised of the incident you sent a copy of the report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as required by the license. You did not receive any comments from the agencies.

Conclusion

After reviewing the information included in your report, we have concluded that the temporary deviation from the required ramping rates that occurred on January 15, 2018, at the Trail Bridge Development of the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project, does not constitute a violation of Article 35 of the license. The deviation resulted from a fallen tree onto the transmission line, which caused the automated water transfer system to not respond appropriately. Once you discovered the problem, you took immediate corrective actions to restore the required river level in a timely manner. No adverse environmental impacts resulted from the incident and no agencies provided comments.

Thank you for your continued cooperation relative to project operation. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Anumzziatta Purchiaroni at (202) 502-6191 or anumzziatta.purchiaroni@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Mr. Andrew Janos
Environmental Specialist
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