

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 111 FERC ¶62,095  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Consolidated Water Power Co.

Project No. 2110-012 and 2192-021

ORDER APPROVING EXOTIC SPECIES CONTROL PLAN  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 405

(Issued April 26, 2005)

On March 4, 2004, Consolidated Water Power Co. (licensee) filed an Exotic Species Control Plan pursuant to article 405 of each license for the Stevens Point Project No. 2110<sup>1</sup> and the Biron Project No. 2192.<sup>2</sup> Article 405 requires the licensee to file, for Commission approval, a plan to control and monitor invasive plants, such as purple loosestrife, Eurasian water-milfoil, and curly-leaf pondweed at the two projects. The Stevens Point Project is located on the Wisconsin River in Portage County, Wisconsin, and the Biron Project is located on the Wisconsin River in Portage and Wood Counties, Wisconsin.

BACKGROUND AND PROPOSED PLAN

The licensee states that inventories taken during licensing did not indicate the presence of Eurasian water-milfoil or pondweed. Purple loosestrife has been observed in varying degrees of abundance and size on both flowages. Both flowages will be monitored by vehicle when possible, and by boat surveys when vehicular access is limited by private property. The licensee will conduct surveys of both flowages to develop a baseline map and table of known areas of infestation, augmented by data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) of known sites. GPS technology will be used during surveys to record the location of sites. The licensee will also record the relative size of any plants found. The licensee plans to conduct formal surveys biennially and informal surveys during routine work at the project during the other years.

The licensee has monitored for zebra mussels informally for more than 10 years by visual observation of the intake structures and generating equipment during maintenance periods, as well as the spillway tainter gate surfaces during annual operation or flood

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<sup>1</sup> 104 FERC ¶ 62,070 (July 30, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> 104 FERC ¶ 62,071 (July 30, 2003).

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events. The licensee proposes to continue this method of monitoring for zebra mussels at the projects.

The licensee gave wallet-sized identification cards for purple loosestrife, Eurasian water-milfoil, and the zebra mussel to all operation and maintenance personnel, and these cards are also provided to anyone from the public inquiring about recreation maps. They will continue to provide these cards as long as they are available through the Wisconsin Sea Grant program and/or WDNR.

An annual report will be filed with the Commission and the resource agencies no later than December 31 of each year. During the formal biennial monitoring years, the report will include tabular data of known sites and the approximate size and of number of plants. If the resource agencies demonstrate significant negative effects to fish or wildlife populations resulting from the presence of invasive species, the licensee agrees to cooperate with the agencies to undertake reasonable control measures for that species.

## CONSULTATION

The licensee submitted a draft Exotic Species Monitoring Plan to the WDNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on January 13, 2004. No comments were received from the FWS. By e-mail dated February 23, 2004, the WDNR suggested that the plan should include other exotic species, and specifically questioned whether zebra mussels are considered. The licensee amended the plan to include the visual observation of intake structures and generating equipment during maintenance. The WDNR concurred with this proposal by e-mail dated February 27, 2004.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The licensee's Exotic Species Monitoring Plan includes all of the elements required by article 405 and incorporates the WDNR's comment to include the zebra mussel, although it is not required by the license. The monitoring performed under the licensee's plan should help determine if exotic species are affecting other fish and wildlife populations in both project areas and should be approved.

### The Director orders:

(A) The Exotic Species Monitoring Plan, filed pursuant to article 405 of each of the licenses for the Stevens Point and Biron Projects, on March 4, 2004, is approved.

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(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §385.713.

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and Compliance