

87 FERC ¶ 62,059

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Wisconsin Electric Power)
Company)

Project No. 2431-046

ORDER AMENDING WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN

APR 15 1999

On March 9, 1999, Wisconsin Electric Power Company (licensee) requested to amend the water quality monitoring plan for the Brule Project. 1/ The project is located on the Brule River in Florence County, Wisconsin and Iron County, Michigan.

In general, the approved water quality monitoring plan requires the licensee to monitor water quality upstream and downstream of the dam from June through September for five years (beginning in 1997) and every fifth year thereafter.

LICENSEE'S REQUEST

The licensee states the results of the monitoring over the past two years indicate dissolved oxygen concentrations (DO) downstream of the dam remained above 5.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l) and that water temperatures remained below that specified in article 405. Based on these results, the licensee requests that monitoring be suspended from 1999-2001, resume in 2002 and be repeated every fifth year thereafter for the life of the license. The licensee states this schedule is consistent with monitoring at its nearby Pine Project (P-2486) 2/ and will allow for coordinated water quality monitoring at the two projects.

AGENCY COMMENTS

In letters dated February 26, and March 1, 1999, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) concurred with the licensee's proposal. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not comment.

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- 1/ See Order Modifying and Approving Water Quality Monitoring Plan, issued on September 10, 1997 (80 FERC ¶ 62,215).
 - 2/ The Pine Project is located on the Pine River, in Florence County, Wisconsin, approximately 12 miles from the Michigan border and the Brule Project.

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DISCUSSION

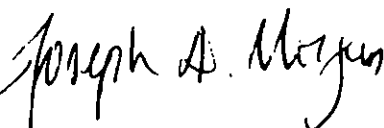
The licensee's request is supported by the water quality data collected in 1997-1998. Monitoring during this period indicated that water quality did not deviate from the DO and water temperature parameters specified in article 405. ^{3/} Further, amending the monitoring schedule will provide for coordinated monitoring between this project and the nearby Pine Project. The MDNR and MDEQ support the licensee's request.

The licensee's request to suspend water quality monitoring from 1999-2001 and resume monitoring in 2002 and every fifth year thereafter, should be approved.

The Director Orders:

(A) The licensee's request to suspend water quality monitoring from 1999-2001 and resume monitoring in 2002 and every fifth year thereafter, is approved.

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



J. Mark Robinson
Director
Division of Licensing and Compliance

^{3/} See the Commission's letters dated November 17, 1997, and January 11, 1999.