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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

City of Kaukauna

Project No. 2588-007

ORDER APPROVING WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN

(Issued August 24, 2000)

The City of Kaukauna (licensee) filed, on August 14, 2000, its water quality monitoring plan under article 403 of the license for the Little Chute Project (FERC No. 2588). The project is located on the Fox River, in the Village of Combined Locks, in Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

BACKGROUND

Article 403 requires the licensee to file, for Commission approval, a plan to monitor water quality in the project area. The plan is required to include a description of the methods which will be used to collect dissolved oxygen (DO) and water temperature data from the project area every five years for the term of the license. In addition, the licensee is required to cooperate with any future plans developed by state or federal agencies to remove contaminated sediments from the lower Fox River. Such cooperation by the licensee may include, for example, providing reasonable access to project facilities and may also include brief and temporary modification of project operations to allow safe working conditions for agency personnel. The licensee is also required to prepare the plan after consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

LICENSEE'S PLAN

The licensee proposes that Hydrolab DataSonde probes, or their equivalent, be deployed at locations upstream and downstream of the project. The probes would be deployed from June 15 through September 30, unless flows in the river are above 4,000 cubic feet per second, which would inhibit safe deployment of the probes. The probes would continuously monitor and record DO and water temperature at 1-hour intervals during this period. The upstream probe would be located at the upstream end of the project's reservoir to provide information on the DO and water temperature as it enters the project. The downstream probe would be located approximately 100 yards below the powerhouse and in the discharge flow. Routine profile monitoring of the reservoir will not be included since results of previous monitoring provided evidence that the reservoir does not stratify significantly.

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The data generated from the proposed monitoring will be surveyed biweekly. Should a comparison of the DO data from the upstream and downstream monitoring show a daily average difference between locations of greater than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for a period of five consecutive days or more, discussions will be initiated with the WDNR to determine the cause of the difference. It may be determined during those discussions that profile monitoring should be implemented to help explain the differences.

The probes at each location will be calibrated every 10 to 14 days. Calibration will be performed by using the air calibration method recommended by the manufacturer. Prior to calibration, the oxygen concentration of air readings will be recorded. These data will be compared to post-calibration air oxygen concentrations to derive data on meter error or drift. At the end of the monitoring period, the DO data will be considered acceptable if the meters at each location provide readings during the pre- and post-calibration comparison that is within 1 mg/L at least 70 percent of the time. Should a problem with meeting this calibration standard become apparent during the sampling period, the WDNR will be advised and a plan devised to ensure that the calibration standard is met for the remainder of the sampling period.

A report of the findings during the sampling period will contain: raw data; graphs comparing hourly DO readings from upstream and downstream locations; graphs comparing hourly temperature readings from upstream and downstream locations; basis statistics; quality assurance data and comparison percentage; and a description of all mechanical or other complications in monitoring experienced during the sampling period. The report will be submitted to the WDNR and the Commission by December 31, 2001, and every 5 years thereafter, for the term of the license, unless the WDNR and the licensee agree that future water quality monitoring is no longer necessary.

AGENCY COMMENTS

The WDNR, by letter dated August 2, 2000, concurred with the licensee's proposed plan.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The licensee's plan to monitor water quality at the project satisfies the requirements of article 403. The licensee will monitor DO and water temperature upstream and downstream of the project for the period from June 15 through September 30 for the first year (2001) and then once every five years for the duration of the license.

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The licensee will provide a report following the monitoring season to the WDNR and the Commission by December 31 of the monitoring year.

The licensee states that the monitoring will continue through the term of the license unless the licensee and the WDNR agree that monitoring is no longer needed. In the event that it is determined that monitoring is no longer needed at the project, the licensee would need to file with the Commission, for approval, a request to discontinue monitoring and include concurrence from the WDNR.

The licensee's plan to monitor water quality fulfills the requirements of article 403 and should, therefore, be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The licensee's water quality monitoring plan for the Little Chute Project (FERC No. 2588), filed on August 14, 2000, 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 18 CFR § 385.713.



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