

ORIGINAL



Oconto Electric Cooperative

"Owned by those we serve"

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

October 27, 2003

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code: DTCA, HL 21.3
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

FERC Project No. 1981-015

Dear Secretary Salas:

As per the Order Issuing New License for the Stiles Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1981) dated February 26, 2003, Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) is enclosing documentation of the recently completed Exotic Species Control Plan for 2003, required in Article 407 of the License.

The Exotic Species Control Plan specifically addresses purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*.) A copy of the plan is attached as Exhibit I.

Prior to conducting the required survey to map the occurrences of purple loosestrife, OEC consulted with Tom Meronek, Greg Sevener and Laura Herman of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and with Judie Gowaski, Ken Tomansky and Sharon Seidl of the Machickanee Advancement Association (MAA). The MAA is the property owners association around the flowage that is created by the Stiles hydroelectric facility. Also contacted was the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA). Sharon Seidl of the MAA attended a training workshop conducted by the WWA. It was agreed that OEC and MAA would cooperate in the survey work and that upon completion of the survey, results would be provided to the WWA as well as to FERC and the DNR.

The purpose of the survey was to identify and quantify possible colonies of purple loosestrife. If colonies of 1-5 plants were found on OEC owned land, removal or treatment was required. OEC owns only a total of about 14 acres around the

project. If colonies were found on private land, OEC was responsible for contacting the property owners and encouraging them to remove and destroy the plants.

On July 29, 2003 Kent Lyng and Jan Stranz of OEC conducted a shore survey of lands owned by OEC. Exhibit II (a) is a copy of the survey data sheet and Exhibit II (b) is a copy the map that together indicate the occurrences of purple loosestrife on OEC owned land. The surveyors noted GPS coordinates for the locations of the plants. Also recorded on the survey sheet are the treatment measures that were taken to eliminate the purple loosestrife colonies.

On August 19, 2003 Sharon Seidl and Judie Gowaski of the MAA conducted a survey by water of the shoreline of the Machickanee Flowage. They located only a few small colonies of the plant and were able to identify the property owners on whose land the purple loosestrife was found. The surveyors noted locations on a map and indicated the GPS coordinates for the plants they discovered. Their survey sheet is included as Exhibit III (a) and their map is Exhibit III (b).

After both surveys were completed, all results were sent to the WWA by the MAA for inclusion with statewide purple loosestrife survey data.

OEC and MAA prepared and jointly signed two different types of letters that went out to all property owners around the Machickanee Flowage. The letter directed to property owners on whose land purple loosestrife was found is included as Exhibit IV (a). Another letter, included as Exhibit IV (b), was sent to all other property owners around the flowage. Each letter contained brochures and wallet cards provided by the WDNR describing purple loosestrife and methods of controlling it. Exhibit V is a copy of the covers of the information brochures. A total of 123 letters were mailed to property owners on August 25, 2003.

In an effort to notify the public of the importance of controlling exotic species, OEC procured from the WDNR several dozen copies of brochures included as copies in Exhibit VI. These items were given to the MAA. That organization distributed the information at the county-owned boat landing during their July 12, 2003 fishing tournament on the Machickanee Flowage.

As an additional item within the scope of the Exotic Species Control Plan, signs will be posted at recreational areas owned by OEC as those facilities are developed in other Articles of the Order Issuing New License.

**FERC Project No. 1981
Article 407 – Exotic Species Plan**

**10/24/03
Page 3**

On May 13, 2003, Jan Stranz of OEC participated in a one-day conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin concerning the control of various exotic plant species. FERC personnel conducted the conference with input from WDNR staff, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers scientist, the WWA and other experts. As a result of the conference and upon advice from the WDNR, OEC has purchased a Felco brand orchard-style pruning tool that has the capability of supplying an approved chemical control agent to the cut stem of purple loosestrife plants. Such treatment inhibits the plant's ability to continue spreading when treatment is applied prior to seed production. This pruning tool will be made available to homeowners and others to borrow if the need arises.

If you have questions about this report, please contact Jan Stranz, OEC's Vice President of Member Services, at (920) 846-2816.

Sincerely,



**Byron C. Nolde
Chief Executive Officer**

Attachments

Eight (8) Copies to FERC

**CC: Mr. Tom Meronek, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Ms. Janet Smith, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ms. Judie Gowaski, President-Machickanee Advancement Association**

Exhibit I**Exotic Species Control Plan****General Guidelines**

Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC), along with appropriate local groups and resource agencies, will continually work to control/eliminate exotic species, such as purple loosestrife, Eurasian milfoil and zebra mussels, in the project area. The project area is defined as those lands owned by OEC and the shoreline observable from the flowage. Although OEC will be responsible for coordinating efforts to control and eliminate exotics occurring on its own property, it is limited to supplying information to neighboring property owners.

When exotics are classified and identified by local or state authorities, OEC will proceed with a plan to monitor the identified species. The plan elements include: 1) method of monitoring, 2) frequency of monitoring, 3) documentation of transmission of monitoring data to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Machickanee Flowage Advancement Association (MFAA), 4) procedures for obtaining technical assistance and input from the WDNR, or other appropriate agencies, and 5) specific information on how OEC will cooperate with the agencies to control/eliminate the exotic species.

Along with the plan, OEC will include documentation of consultation, copies of comments and recommendations on the completed plan after it has been provided to the agencies, and descriptions of how the agencies' comments are accommodated by the plan. OEC will allow thirty (30) days for the agencies to comment and make recommendations before filing the plan with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). If OEC does not adopt a recommendation, the filing will include OEC's reasons based on project-specific information.

Oconto Electric Cooperative will post signs at recreation facilities on its property describing identified exotic species and informing the public on the control of the species. OEC will distribute fact sheets provided by the WDNR, or other appropriate agencies, at the project.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) Plan

OEC shall, in consultation with the MFAA, the WDNR, and the USFWS, monitor purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in specified project areas. The project lands, reservoir area, and ¼ mile downstream from the project will be surveyed by OEC during peak flowering stage, being mid July/mid August of each year. OEC will estimate and map the amount of infestation of purple loosestrife.

If small colonies of purple loosestrife consisting of 1-5 plants are found on OEC-owned land, OEC will remove it and all of its roots, or cut and then spray it with an appropriate aquatic herbicide. Larger colonies will be removed after consultation with the resource agencies. If purple loosestrife is found on lands NOT owned by OEC, then OEC, in conjunction with the MFAA, will contact the property owner and encourage the owner to remove the plants.

Oconto Electric Cooperative will post signs at recreation facilities on its property describing purple loosestrife and informing the public on the control of this plant. OEC will distribute fact sheets provided by the WDNR, or other appropriate agencies, at the project.

After survey results are compiled and any remedial actions are taken, a report detailing such results and actions will be submitted by OEC to the MFAA, WDNR, and USFWS, with a copy to FERC by October 31 of each year.

Eurasian Milfoil

There is no plan to monitor or map Eurasian milfoil in the Machickanee Flowage because of its prolific presence throughout the flowage. The MFAA, in cooperation with the WDNR and other groups, has been attempting for years to eradicate this exotic species. OEC agrees that Eurasian milfoil is undesirable. If any agency or group devises a cost-effective plan to control/eradicate this species, OEC will cooperate with that plan.

Unofficial FERC-Generated PDF of 20031029-0027 Received by FERC OSEC 10/28/2003 in Docket#: P-1981-000

Purple Loosestrife Survey Data Sheet

Time spent surveying:

Page 1 of 1

Exhibit II (a)

Survey date: <u>7-29-03</u>	County: <u>Oconto</u>	Name(s) of waterbody(ies): <u>Mackinacawe Flowage</u>
Volunteer: <u>Kurt Lyng</u>	Address: <u>Oconto Electric Coop PO Box 168 - Oconto Falls WI</u>	Phone/e-mail: <u>(920) 846-7816</u>
Volunteer: <u>Jan Stranz</u>	Address: <u>(Same)</u> <u>5415/</u>	Phone/e-mail: <u>Same</u>
Volunteer:	Address:	Phone/e-mail:

only surveyed land owned by Oconto Electric Coop, near Stiles Hydroelectric Plant. —

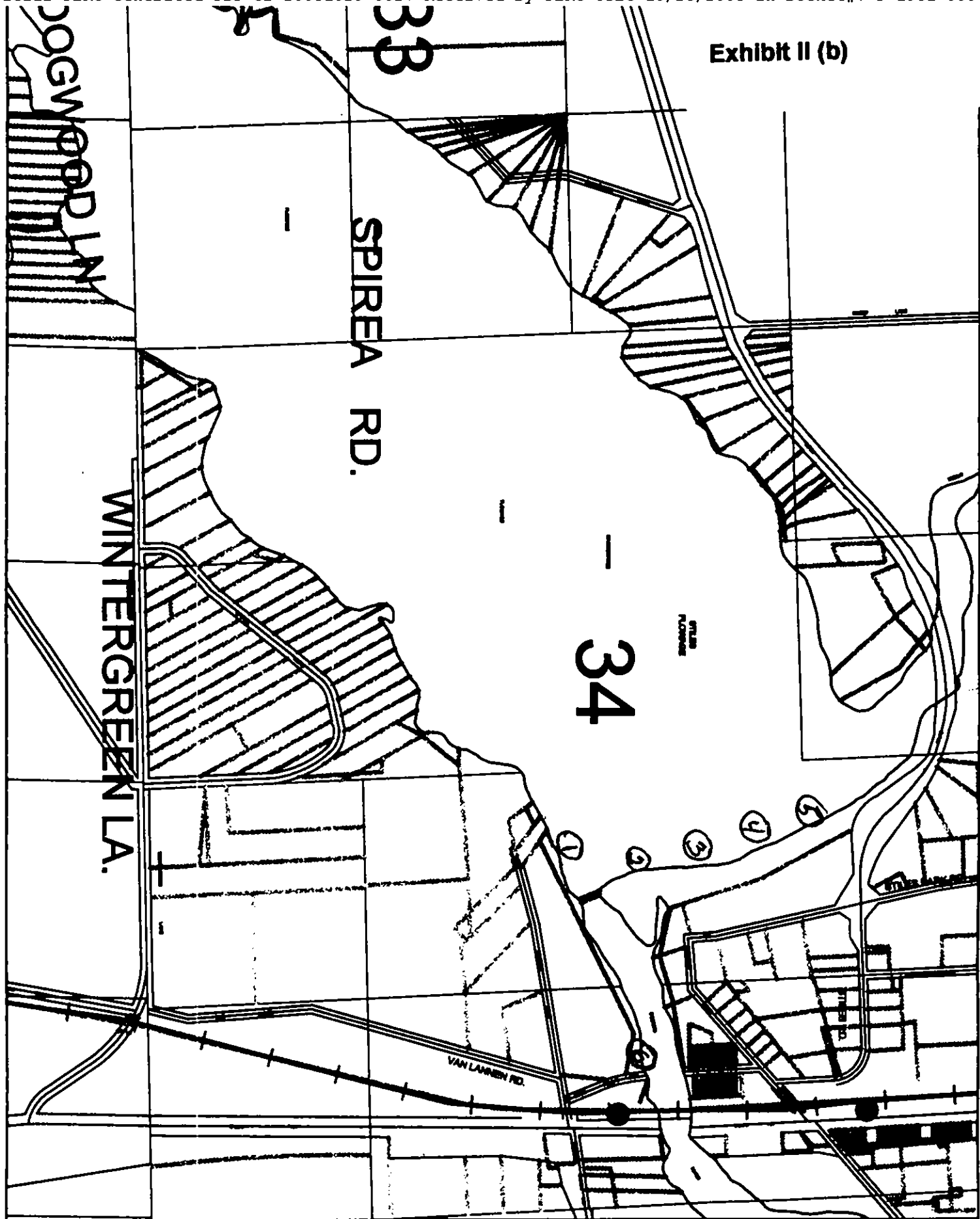
SAMPLE

Site #	Number of plants			Acreage (1 acre = 1 football field)		Density of PL plants		Galerucella beetles		NOTES
	1-10	11-49	50+	Less than 1 acre	More than 1 acre	Sparse	Very dense	Leaf damage	Gal. beetles	
17		X		X				X	X	W side of river, N of Hwy 64 bridge. Saw marsh house, no beetles.
1	X			X						between So. end of hydroplant + boat landing (4 plants)
2	X			X						along No. dike 44°51.49N 88°03.26W (1 plant)
3	X			X						along No. dike 44°51.55N 88°03.29W (1 plant)
4	X			X						along N. dike 44°51.64N 88°03.32W (1 plant)
5	X			X						along No. dike 44°51.72N 88°03.37W (1 plant)
6	X			X						at Iron Bridge Boat Landing (downstream) - (1 plant - Wedge of ramp)

Note: Sites 1-5 were treated w/ approved chemical (were NOT in water)
 Site 6 was hand-pulled + sealed in plastic bag for disposal.

Mail this data sheet and your map to
WWA, Purple Loosestrife Survey Data, 222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 1, Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Exhibit II (b)



STILES / WI

T.28N.-R.20.E

Exhibit III (a)

Purple Loosestrife Survey Data Sheet

Time spent surveying: 1 hr. 45 min Page 1 of 1

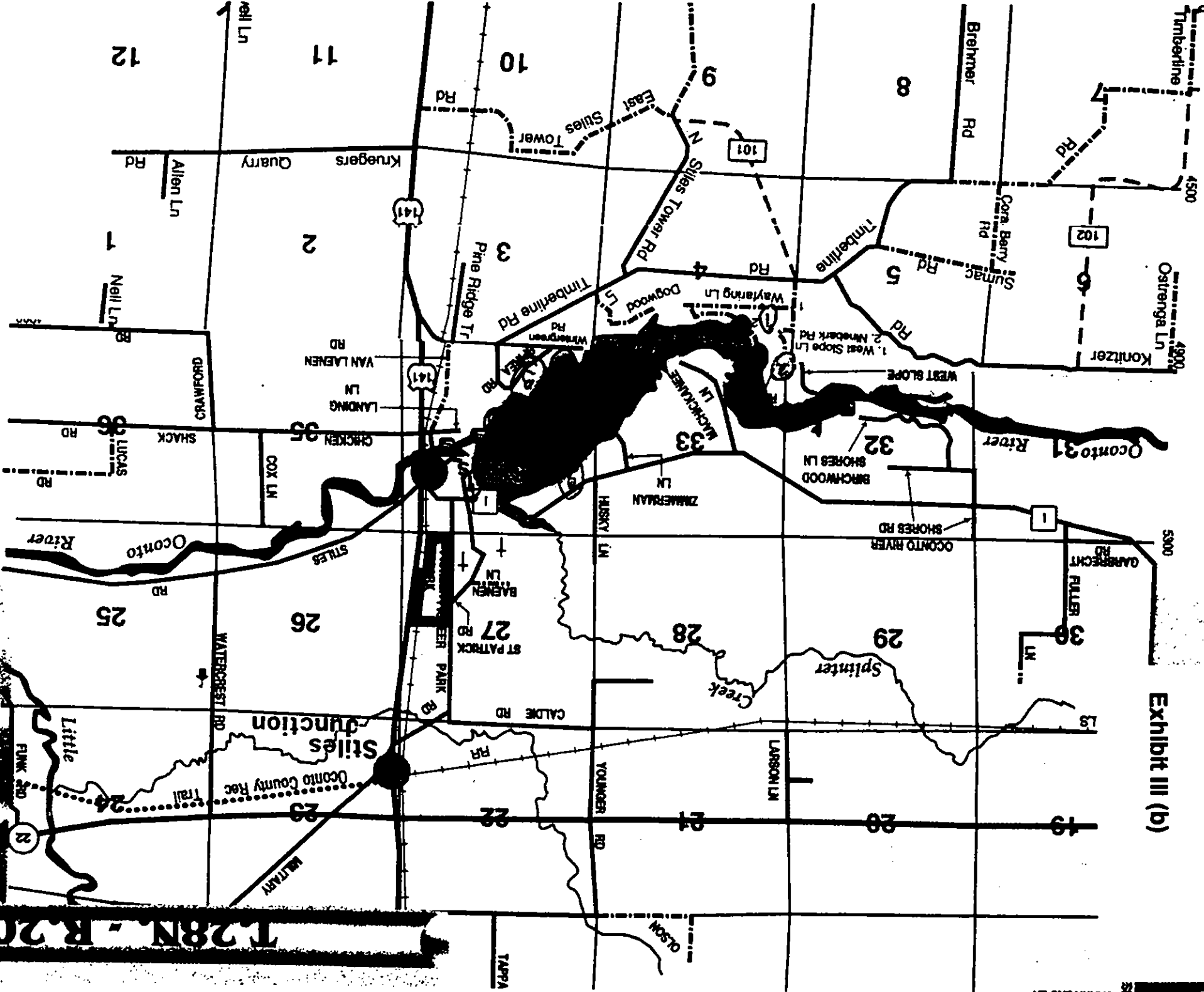
Survey date: 8/19/03	County: Oconto	Name(s) of waterbody(ies): Machickanee Flowage
Volunteer: Sharon Seidel	Address: 4919 Machickanee Ln. Lena, WI 54139	Phone/e-mail: (920) 848-3697
Volunteer: Judie Gowaski	Address: 6104 Dogwood Ln. Oconto, WI 54153	Phone/e-mail: (920) 826-5358
Volunteer:	Address:	Phone/e-mail:

SAMPLE

Site #	Number of plants			Acreage (1 acre = 1 football field)		Density of PL plants		Galerucella beetles		NOTES
	1-10	11-49	50+	Less than 1 acre	More than 1 acre	Sparse	Very dense	Leaf damage	Gal. beetles	
11		X		X			X	X		W side of river, N of Hwy 64 bridge. Saw several larvae, no beetles.
12	X	X		X		X				44° 50.85' N 088° 04.86' W (Ninebark, both sides of 2 dock)
13	X			X		X	Brad Bennett			44° 51.24' N 088° 03.67' W (west of dock 2 site)
14		X		X		X	Amy Zeman			" (at tip)
15		X		X		X	Debra			44° 51.30' N 088° 03.50' W (between 2 docks)
16		X		X						44° 51.38' N 088° 03.47' W (follows shoreline west of landing)
17	X									Zingler around Cove)
18	X			X		X				44° 51.69' N 088° 03.41' W (at dock) 57.70%
										44° 51.58' N 088° 03.69' W (Stone's prop.)

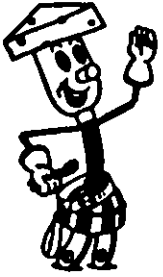
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WWA, Purple Loosestrife Survey Data, 222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 1, Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Exhibit III (b)



T-28N - R-20E

Exhibit IV (a)



Oconto Electric Cooperative

"Owned by those we serve"

August 25, 2003

Dear Machickanee Area Property Owner:

As you may know, Oconto Electric Cooperative recently received a new, 30-year operating license for the Stiles hydroelectric plant on the Machickanee Flowage. Various federal, state and local agencies have made recommendations as part of the licensing process to ensure that the environment around the hydro project is protected and enhanced for years to come.

One of the requirements of the license calls for annually monitoring the flowage area to track the occurrences of a non-native plant known as purple loosestrife. Purple loosestrife, though beautiful to view, is an exotic, invasive plant species. Left unchecked, it will gradually overrun all native vegetation and will cause deficiencies in the ecosystem. It especially likes moist soil so it commonly is found near waterways and in roadside ditches. Wisconsin state law actually bans the sale, distribution or cultivation of purple loosestrife.

The Machickanee Advancement Association recently conducted a survey of the Machickanee Flowage shoreline and reported some possible occurrences of this plant on or near your property. We ask that you review the enclosed brochure and pocket card describing purple loosestrife and the methods of controlling it. We encourage you to remove it. Control of purple loosestrife at this point when it is not yet prolific will sure help to minimize its ability to spread. If you would like assistance in removing it, please contact either the Machickanee Advancement Association or Oconto Electric Cooperative for more details. Our contact information is listed below.

Thank you for your help in this very important effort to enhance a healthy plant environment around the Machickanee Flowage by eliminating Purple Loosestrife.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jan Stranz.

Jan Stranz
Member Services Director
Oconto Electric Cooperative
(920) 846-2816

Handwritten signature of Judie Gowaski.

Judie Gowaski
President
Machickanee Advancement Association
(920) 826-5358

Exhibit IV (b)



Oconto Electric Cooperative

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August 25, 2003

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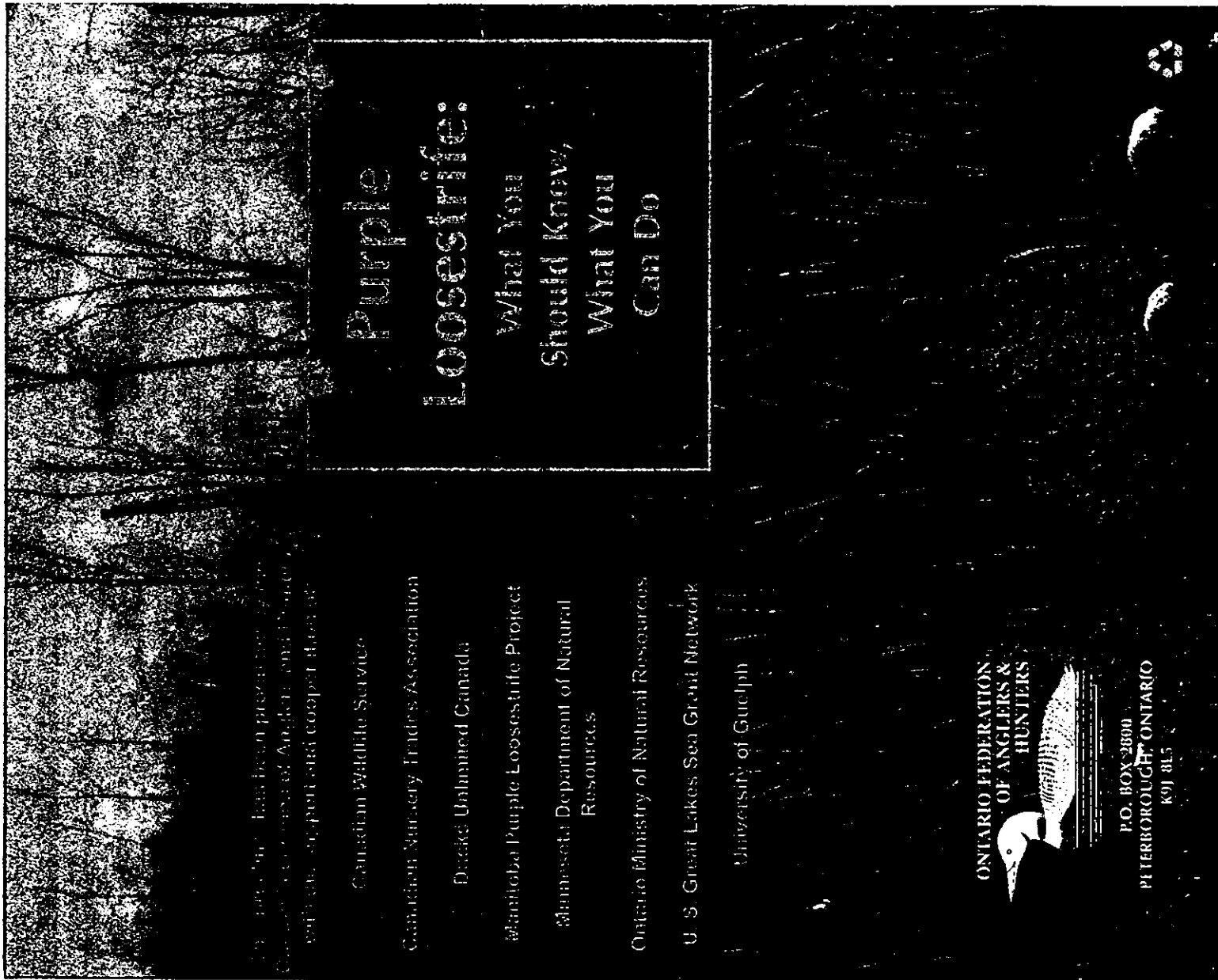
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Sincerely,

Jan Stranz
Member Services Director
Oconto Electric Cooperative
(920) 846-2816

Judie Gowaski
President
Machickanee Advancement Association
(920) 826-5358

Exhibit V



Purple Loosestrife:

What You Should Know,
What You Can Do

... has been present since the 1930s. The University of Guelph, in partnership with the Ontario and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

Canadian Wildlife Service

Ontario Nursery Trade Association

Ducks Unlimited Canada


Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

U. S. Great Lakes Sea Grant Network

University of Guelph



ONTARIO FEDERATION
OF ANGLERS &
HUNTERS

P.O. BOX 28800
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO
K9J 8L5

General Characteristics

- Mature plants have many stems that grow from a short crown of dead stems stand until spring / Height 1 to 7 feet (1 to 2 m) / Spike covered with many flowers
- Brown, smooth-edged leaves / Leaves usually paired, opposite
- Stem has ridges / Flower has several pink-purple petals



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8




9

Illustration: Michigan Sea Grant Program

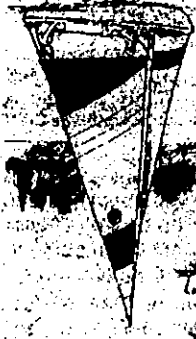
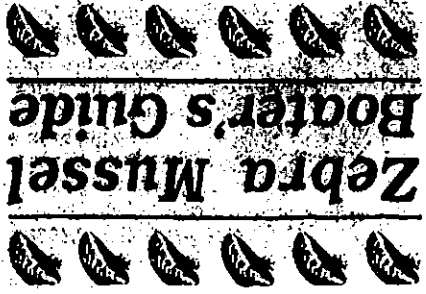
Part of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Program and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

How to Identify Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple Loosestrife WATCH



Zebra Mussel Boater's Guide



Please

the Spread of Invasive Plants and Animals

Before leaving the boat launch

- Inspect and remove aquatic plants and animals.
- Drain water from live well, bilge, and motor.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

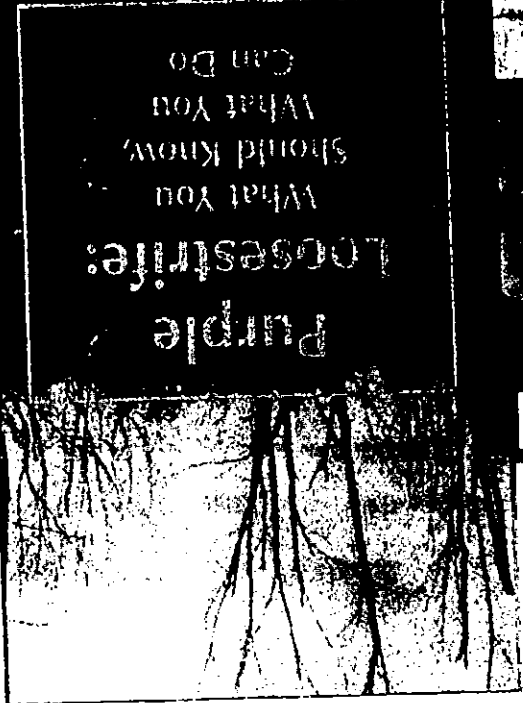
Remember...

Clean Boats, Clean Waters.

Wisconsin law prohibits placing a boat or trailer in navigable waters with aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/casr/csr/invasives/>



Purple
Loosestrife:

What you
should know,
What you
can do

Zebra Mussel

Purple Loosestrife WATCH

Eurasian Watermilfoil WATCH

Exhibit VI