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 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

October 31, 2006

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. 1981-028

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 2006, 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.

OEC conducted the survey similar to previous surveys, making sure to carefully observe areas identified earlier as sites containing purple loosestrife. Judie Gowaski, president of the Machickanee Advancement Association (MAA), the property owners' association around the flowage, was consulted prior to the start of the survey. Data sheets for the survey were provided by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA). Results of the survey are sent to the MAA, Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and FERC.

The purpose of the survey is to identify and quantify possible colonies of purple loosestrife. If colonies of 1-5 plants are found on OEC owned land, removal or treatment is required. If colonies are found on private land, OEC is responsible for contacting the property owners and encouraging them to remove and destroy the plants.

On September 7, 2006 Jan Stranz of OEC and Al Stranz (volunteer) conducted a survey by water of the shoreline of the Machickanee Flowage, including shoreline owned by OEC. They located a few small colonies of the plant and were able, for the most part, 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 II (a) and their map is Exhibit II (b).

While surveying shoreline owned by OEC, the surveyors on September 7, 2006 were able to eliminate the small infestations of purple loosestrife at sites 1 and 2, as referenced in Exhibit II (a) and (b).

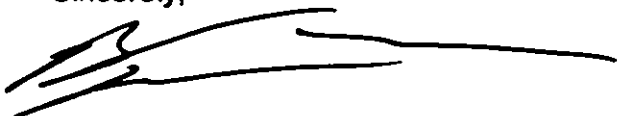
**FERC Project No. 1981
Article 407 – Exotic Species Plan**

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Earlier in the summer, OEC was contacted by Judie Gowaski, president of the MAA. The MAA is investigating the possibility of offering to help residents on the flowage with purple loosestrife eradication. OEC has promised to assist in some way with the effort.

If you have questions about this report, please contact Kent Lyng, OEC's Vice President of Engineering, at (920) 846-2816.

Sincerely,



**Byron C. Nolde
Chief Executive Officer**

Attachments

Eight (8) Copies to FERC

**CC: Coordinator-FERC Projects, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Janet Smith, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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.

Purple Loosestrife Survey Data Sheet

Time spent surveying: 2.5 hrs. Page 1 of 1

Survey date: 09/07/06	County: Oconto	Name(s) of waterbody(ies): Machickane Flowage
Volunteer: Jan Stranz	Address: PO Box 168 Oconto Electric Co-op Oconto Falls WI	Phone/e-mail: (920) 846-2816 (work)
Volunteer: Al Stranz	Address: 7011 Burdosh Rd Abrams WI 54154	Phone/e-mail: (920) 826-5360
Volunteer:	Address:	Phone/e-mail:

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 49 bridge. Saw crushed leaves, no beetles.
1	X			1 plant		X				44.51.43N / 88.03.28W - pulled out plant
2	X			1 plant		X				42N 32W - pulled out plant
3	X			1 plant		X				41N 35W
4	X			1 plant		X				40N 36W
5	X			X		X				38N along shoreline (1st house at boat landing)
6		X		X		X				containing woods for 1/2 mi. W of → 38N 05W along point - long shoreline
7	X			1 plant		X				44.50.88N / 88.04.72W in cattails
8	X			1 plant		X				89N 90W in cattails
9	X			X		X				91N 92W in cattails
10	X			X		X				44.51.27N / 88.05.12W in weeds/stumps (Kulich)
11	X			X		X				44.51.22N / 88.05.81W near Beaverbrook at bridge
12	X			X		X				44.51.33N / 88.05.12W east of duck blind

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

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SAMPLE

LARGE-FORMAT IMAGES

One or more large-format images (over 8½" X 11") go here. These images are available in E-Library at:

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Accession No.: 20061214-0035

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File Date: 11/20/06 Docket No.: P1981-028

Parent Accession No.: 20061214-0034

Set No.: 1 of 1

Number of page(s) in set: 1