

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 119 FERC ¶ 62,174
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Stora Enso North America

Project No. 2536-074

ORDER APPROVING FIVE-YEAR WATER QUALITY MONITORING REPORT
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 406

(Issued May 31, 2007)

On January 8, 2007, Stora Enso North America (licensee) filed their Five-Year Water Quality Report, for the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2536) to comply with article 406 of the license¹ and the Commission's Order Modifying and Amending Water Quality Monitoring Plan.² The project is located on the Menominee River in Marionette County, Wisconsin and Dickinson County, Michigan.

REQUIREMENTS

License article 406 requires, in part, the licensee to: 1) maintain monthly average temperatures downstream of the dam as specified in article 406; 2) ensure the water temperature downstream of the dam does not exceed 89°F at any time; 3) ensure dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations downstream of the project powerhouse is not less than 5 milligrams per liter (mg/L) at any time; and 4) maintain the pH within the range of 6.0 to 9.0, with no change greater than 0.5 units outside of the estimated natural seasonal maximum and minimum.

Under the approved Water Quality Monitoring Plan the licensee is required to continuously monitor water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH in the project tailrace from May through September, every five years. Ordering paragraph (B) of the 2002 order requires the licensee to file five-year water quality monitoring reports with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), by November 30 and with the Commission for approval, by January 30 of the following year. The first five-year report was due to the

¹ See Order Issuing New License, 79 FERC ¶ 62,095 (issued May 7, 1997).

² See 101 FERC ¶ 62,196 (issued December 24, 2002).

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Commission by January 30, 2007. Subsequent reports will be due at a frequency of every five years for a 20-year period (2011, 2016, 2021).

LICENSEE'S REPORT

The licensee reports that the Hydrolab Datasonde 3 (DS3) water quality monitoring unit was deployed on April 28, 2006, and removed on October 4, 2006. Further, the licensee reports that on June 20-23, 2006, DO readings fell below 5.0 mg/L. The licensee states that DO measurements were taken with a handheld meter at 12:30 AM on June 21, 2006 showing that DO levels were 7.5 mg/L (22.9 ° C) compared to the DS3's reading of 4.23 mg/L at the same time. Recalibration of the DS3 unit on June 23, 2006, produced readings back in the range of the hand held meter of 7.84 mg/L DO at 11:30 AM.

The licensee reports that, except for the instance of drift, at which time independent field measures and post-calibration readings indicated levels were more likely between 7.5 and 7.84 mg/L at midday, dissolved oxygen readings were always recorded above 5.0 mg/L. The licensee also reports that temperature and pH measurements were also within the range of compliance.

AGENCY COMMENTS

By electronic mail dated November 27, 2006, MDNR commented that they concur that water quality standards are being met at the project. By electronic mail dated November 27, 2006, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that they will not be providing comments. By electronic mail dated November 28, 2007, MDEQ commented that the report demonstrates compliance with state water quality standards.

DISCUSSION

The licensee's 2006 Five-Year Water Quality Monitoring Report, meets the requirements of ordering paragraph (B) of the Order Modifying and Amending Water Quality Monitoring Plan and demonstrates that the licensee is meeting the water quality standards required in license article 406. The licensee proposed no changes to the Water Quality Monitoring Plan. Continued implementation of the plan should help ensure the maintenance of water quality standards at the Little Quinnesec Falls Project, and therefore, should be approved.

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The Director orders:

(A) Stora Enso North America's 2006 Five-Year Water Quality Monitoring Report, with no proposed changes to the monitoring plan, filed on January 8, 2007, pursuant to ordering paragraph (B) of the Order Modifying and Amending Water Quality Monitoring Plan under license article 406 for the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2536), is approved.

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

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