

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

104 FERC ¶ 62,037

Wisconsin Power & Light Company

Project No. 11162-009

ORDER MODIFYING AND APPROVING NUISANCE PLANT CONTROL PLAN
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 410

(Issued July 16, 2003)

On February 27, 2003, Wisconsin Power & Light Company (licensee) filed a nuisance plant control plan pursuant to article 410 of the Order Issuing Original License, issued June 27, 2002, for the Prairie Du Sac Project¹. The project is located on the Wisconsin River in Columbia and Sauk Counties, Wisconsin.

Article 410 requires the licensee develop a plan, in consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), to monitor purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) in project waters. The plan shall include, but not be limited to: (a) the method of monitoring, (b) the frequency of monitoring, (c) a provision to cooperate in the control/elimination of these species if deemed necessary by the agencies, and (d) documentation of transmission of monitoring data to the WDNR and FWS. The licensee shall file the plan for Commission approval.

The licensee will conduct surveys for purple loosestrife of the impoundment shoreline and the shoreline of islands by boat. All waters and wetlands within the project boundary will also be surveyed. Areas of the impoundment that support submerged aquatic macrophytes will be surveyed for EWM. Monitoring will occur annually for the first three years after plan approval. Surveys for both species will be conducted during peak blooming periods for purple loosestrife in July or August. The presence or absence of EWM will be determined by dragging a rake through any vegetation beds. Based on the results of the surveys, the necessity for and/or the frequency of subsequent surveys will be determined in consultation with the resource agencies.

Any occurrences of purple loosestrife and/or EWM will be mapped and the size of the population will be noted. For each purple loosestrife stand, the stem density and

¹99 FERC ¶ 62,225.

Project No. 11162-009

-2-

plant density will be determined. Results of the surveys will be submitted to the FWS and WDNR within 60 days of the survey date.

During the surveys, small colonies of purple loosestrife will be physically removed from licensee owned lands. Based on the survey results and consultation with the agencies, other control methods may be used including herbicides and biological controls. The licensee will post information regarding purple loosestrife and EWM at the licensee's recreational sites and encourage individual land owners to remove any purple loosestrife plants from their property.

The licensee will file documentation with the Commission, by December 31 of each survey year, indicating that monitoring data has been transmitted to the resource agencies.

The licensee met with representatives of WDNR and FWS to discuss specific license article requirements on October 29, 2002. Drafts of these plans were sent to the agencies on November 25, 2002, for review and comment. A follow-up meeting was held on February 10, 2003. Written comments on the plans were sent by WDNR in a memorandum dated February 14, 2003. No written comments were provided by the FWS. The WDNR's comments were incorporated into the plan.

The licensee states in its plan that it will file documentation that the results were submitted to the agencies by December 31 of each survey year. Commission staff is currently trying to keep better records of nuisance plants at the hydropower facilities it regulates. Therefore, we are requiring the licensee to file, with the Commission, a copy of the survey results along with the documentation that the report was submitted to the resource agencies. Any comments that may have been received from the agencies should also be included in the filing.

The nuisance plant control plan should help identify and prevent the spread of nuisance plants on project lands. The filed plan satisfies the requirements of article 410, as modified, and should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The nuisance plant control plan, filed on February 27, 2003, pursuant to article 410 of the Order Issuing Original License, issued June 27, 2002, is approved as modified by paragraph (B).

Project No. 11162-009

-3-

(B) The licensee should file with the Commission, by December 31 of each survey year, a copy of the nuisance plant survey results along with the documentation that the report was submitted to the resource agencies. Any comments that may have been received from the agencies should also be included in the filing.

(C) 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.

George H. Taylor
Chief, Biological Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance