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Domtar

ORIGINAL

September 6, 2016

Mr. Nick Utrup
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425

Ms. Cheryl Laatsch, FERC Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
N7725 Highway 28
Horicon, WI 53032

Dear Mr. Utrup and Ms. Laatsch:

Subject: Domtar Wisconsin Dam Corp.
FERC Projects 2255, 2291 and 2292
Centralia, Port Edwards, and Nekoosa Projects
Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Report for 2016

Attached is a report for purple loosestrife monitoring as required by Article 408 for projects 2255 and 2291, and by Article 407 for project 2292. A single report for the three projects has been prepared. Please note that the attached survey maps provide information for both 2015 and 2016 survey years.

The survey was performed substantially as described in the plan submitted to the FERC Secretary on January 13, 1997, and as approved by FERC on July 16, 1997. The 2016 survey was performed during August as described in the report.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at (715) 886-7711.

Sincerely,

David S. Ulrich, Superintendent
Environmental Services

DSU:krw

cc: Mr. John A. Zygaj, P.E. Regional Engineer, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Chicago Regional Office, 230 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60604

Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Mail Code DHAC, PJ-12.3, Washington, D.C. 20426

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PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MONITORING SURVEY FOR 2016
DOMTAR WISCONSIN DAM CORP.
301 Point Basse Avenue
Nekoosa, Wisconsin 54457

By
Dan Cummins
Cummins Enterprises, LLC

FERC Projects
Centralia Dam – No. 2252
Port Edwards Dam – No. 2291
Nekoosa Dam – No. 2292

BACKGROUND

During August 2016, Cummins Enterprises, LLC, conducted the annual purple loosestrife survey of project lands. Observations were made from the shoreline along the Wisconsin River throughout Domtar's FERC permitted property.

Surveys have been conducted annually since 1997. As part of this report, purple loosestrife observed in 2016 are compared to that observed in 2015. As requested, the 2016 survey results have been plotted on the 2015 Purple Loosestrife Survey maps. Note the 2016 data are presented in red.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE POPULATIONS IN 2016

Figure 1a
Survey observations made of the project area represented on this figure indicate the purple loosestrife have stayed about the same or show a slight decrease in the number of plants. The shoreline continues to be well maintained and as a result shoreline vegetation has been kept to a minimum in the park and residential areas. Purple loosestrife on the islands also appear to be about the same as 2015.

Figure 1b
In the vicinity of the city parks purple loosestrife are about the same as 2015. Landscaping and maintenance of the park areas appears to control loosestrife. At Boles Creek there are about the same number of loosestrife, with numbers being fewer than observed in the past. Purple loosestrife are abundant at the Centralia Dam, the same as 2015. The islands immediately downstream of the flash plank section continue to have significant loosestrife populations.

Figure 1c
The power line easement for the Centralia Dam continues to be free of purple loosestrife.

Figure 2a
The Port Edwards portion of the survey area has an increase of purple loosestrife compared to 2015. This reverses a trend that was seen in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Immediately downstream of the Port Edwards flash plank section there are new populations of purple loosestrife. Loosestrife has not been seen here for several years. The outlet of the Four Mile Creek at the Wisconsin River also had a decrease in purple loosestrife in 2016, the same as compared to 2015/2014. A couple of the rock outcrops have thriving purple loosestrife populations.

Figure 3a
The purple loosestrife along the shoreline in this area have decreased slightly from 2014 numbers. The island in the center of the river in the center of Figure 3a has a large purple loosestrife population. After a removal effort at the swampy area along Highway 73, loosestrife have decreased significantly at the unofficial boat launch/river access point. There continues to be loosestrife in a narrow swampy band along the highway. The loosestrife here are scattered throughout the swampy area.

Figure 3b
The purple loosestrife in this segment of the Wisconsin River have stayed about the same compared to 2015. The islands up and downstream of the Nekoosa Dam were free of purple loosestrife, which is the same as the 2015/2014 results. Bank erosion and fallen trees on both sides of the river continue to contribute to both increases and decreases in purple loosestrife. The large loosestrife population on the west bank of the river in this segment has plants scattered over a large area. A drop of 10 feet or more to the water's edge is evident in this area, with a steep bank throughout. The plants have moved up the bank away from the river. Access to this area is difficult.

CONCLUSIONS

The purple loosestrife have stayed the same or increased slightly when compared to 2015. There are a couple of locations with larger concentrations of purple loosestrife, but these areas are difficult to access (e.g. islands or an area with a steep bank).

The park and residential areas continue to be well maintained, thus limiting the ability of the loosestrife to take hold.

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