

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 108 FERC ¶ 62,081
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Weyerhaeuser Co.

Project No. 2212-036

ORDER MODIFYING PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MONITORING PLAN
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 407

(Issued July 26, 2004)

On March 8, 2004, Weyerhaeuser Co. (licensee) filed a request to modify the Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan approved by the Order Modifying and Approving Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan, issued July 14, 1997 for the Rothschild Project No. 2212. The Rothschild Project is located on the Wisconsin River in Marathon County, Wisconsin.

Purple loosestrife eradication efforts were expanded from manual removal to include chemical and biological control at the project in 2000. The 2000-2001 monitoring indicated a 26 percent reduction in the population, and data from 2002-2003 surveys indicate a 57 percent decline. Due to the success of these control efforts, the licensee proposes to monitor biennially, rather than annually as is now required under the approved purple loosestrife monitoring plan, beginning in 2005. Reporting on the results of purple loosestrife monitoring would continue on a biennial schedule. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) concurs with the licensee's request, but requested that any incidental observations of new purple loosestrife populations encountered in the course of other work on the flowage be communicated to them. The licensee agreed to this request. All other conditions of article 407 and the purple loosestrife monitoring plan would remain unchanged.

The licensee's request modify their plan to monitor for purple loosestrife at the project on a biennial basis is reasonable, and given the recent success of the control measures implemented by the licensee, biennial monitoring should provide continued protection against invasive species at the Rothschild project. It should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The licensee's request filed March 8, 2004 to monitor purple loosestrife at the Rothschild project every two years, beginning in 2005 is approved.

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

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