

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 94 FERC ¶ 62,215
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

City of Crystal Falls

Project No. 11402-037

ORDER AMENDING WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN
AND APPROVING WATER QUALITY MONITORING REPORT¹

(Issued March 15, 2001)

On February 23, 2001, the City of Crystal Falls (licensee) filed the results of a Water Quality Monitoring Study, pursuant to paragraph (B) of the Order Approving Water Quality Monitoring Plan², issued April 10, 1997, for the Crystal Falls Project. The project is located on the Paint River in Iron County, Michigan.

Paragraph (B) requires the licensee to monitor dissolved oxygen concentrations and water temperature at the project for the remainder of the license term. Annual reports are required to be filed, with the Commission, for the first 3 years of monitoring. The reports shall include agency comments, the licensee's response to agency comments, and any recommendations, for Commission approval, on modifying the water quality monitoring plan.

The filed report satisfies the reporting requirements of paragraph (B). However, the licensee requested that the plan be modified so that they only need to collect the data from the monitoring devices every two weeks instead of the current weekly basis. The licensee cited the expense of weekly collections, especially since no water quality problems have been observed.

In a letter dated January 31, 2001, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) stated that bi-weekly downloading is appropriate as long as no problems with data collection are encountered. If problems such as unusual dissolved oxygen drift or non-compliance should occur, the licensee should return to downloading data on a weekly basis. The licensee concurred with this recommendation.

¹Article 404

² 76 FERC ¶ 62,009.

We agree that bi-weekly downloading of data satisfies the intent of the Water Quality Monitoring Plan, as long as no water quality or equipment problems occur. In the event of problems with the data, downloading should resume on a weekly basis.

The Water Quality Monitoring Report, filed February 23, 2001, should be approved. The Water Quality Monitoring Plan should be amended to allow for bi-weekly downloading of data.

The Director orders:

(A) The Water Quality Monitoring Report filed on February 23, 2001, pursuant to paragraph (B) of the Order Approving Water Quality Monitoring Plan, issued April 10, 1997, is approved.

(B) The Water Quality Monitoring Plan, approved April 10, 1997, is amended so that data downloading is conducted every two weeks. In the event that problems are observed with the data, downloading shall resume on a weekly basis.

(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.

Rebecca M. Martin
Team Leader
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance