

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2590-046 -- Wisconsin
Whiting Hydroelectric Project
Consolidated Water Power Company

Mike Schreier
Resources Manager
Consolidated Water Power Company
P.O. Box 8050
Wisconsin Rapid, WI 54495-8050

JUN - 7 2006

Subject: Purple Loosetrife Monitoring Report under license article 407 and clarification of monitoring and reporting requirements

Dear Mr. Shreier:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Purple Loosetrife Monitoring Report, filed on December 27, 2005, for the Whiting Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2590). Your filing was made pursuant to the Commission's Order Modifying and Approving Purple Loosetrife Monitoring Plan under license article 407.¹ According to your approved plan, you are required to monitor annually, beginning August 1997, and report the results of the monitoring bi-annually. You are required to file the bi-annual report with the Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) by October 31, every other year.

In the report filed, you stated that surveys for purple loosetrife were conducted in the summer of 2005 by boat and vehicle. You stated that two small colonies were observed on an island in the project boundary containing less than 15 plants and the plants were removed to the best possible extent. Additionally, you reported that no other plants were found; however, you added, should larger colonies be found, you stated that they would be mapped and monitored.

Ordering paragraph (B) of the Order Modifying and Approving Purple Loosetrife Monitoring Plan states that you are required to monitor purple loosetrife in project waters annually, starting August 1997, and file the annual monitoring results with the

¹ 80 FERC ¶ 62,062 (1997).

Commission by October 31 every other year. You are also required to remove small stands (1-5 plants) of purple loosestrife by the root system when observed during annual monitoring, as preventive maintenance of this noxious species.

In reviewing Commission records and your report, it appears that purple loosestrife surveys were conducted only during the years when reports were due to the Commission, and did not include survey results from 1998, 2002 and 2004. Please indicate whether you conducted purple loosestrife surveys during the summers of 1998, 2002 and 2004. If you did conduct the surveys, please file the results of the surveys with the Commission. If you did not conduct surveys during those summers, please explain why they were not conducted.

Please file an original and eight copies of your response, within 30 days of the date of this letter, with:

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

In the future, you must adhere to the following schedule for monitoring purple loosestrife at the Whiting project and reporting the results. The table below should assist you in this manner².

Survey Required	Report Due to Commission
August 2006 and 2007	October 31, 2007
August 2008 and 2009	October 31, 2009
August 2010 and 2011	October 31, 2011
August 2012 and 2013	October 31, 2013
August 2014 and 2015	October 31, 2015
August 2016 and 2017	October 31, 2017
August 2018 and 2019	October 31, 2019
August 2020 and 2021	October 31, 2021
August 2022 and 2023	October 31, 2023
August 2024 and 2025	October 31, 2025

Lastly, our review of your past filings shows that you have accumulated at least

² The schedule table is subject to change based on subsequent information and/or Commission orders.

five years of data on the status of purple loosestrife at the project. Your report indicates that manual removal is being conducted, however, currently, some populations exceed the small stand size of 1-5 plants. It appears that more aggressive approaches may be necessary. Therefore, please consult with the WDNR and FWS for more effective control measures needed for larger stands. Please file a plan with the Commission to control invasive plants at the Whiting Project, based on your consultation with the agencies, by December 31, 2006. Please allow the agencies 30 days to comment on your draft plan, and then submit copies of your correspondence and the results of agency consultation to the Commission. An original and eight copies of your plan, along with resource agency comments and your response to their comments, should be filed with the Secretary at the address listed above.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call Ms. Brandi Sangunett at (202) 502-8393.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Ms. Janet Smith
US Fish and Wildlife Service
2661 Scott Tower Drive
New Franken, WI 54229

Mr. Robert Martini
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhineland, WI 54501