

122 FERC ¶ 62,036
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Consolidated Water Power Company

Project No. 2590-049

ORDER MODIFYING PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MONITORING PLAN

(Issued January 17, 2008)

On December 11, 2006, Consolidated Water Power Company (licensee) filed an application to amend the Order Modifying and Approving Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan¹ for the Whiting Project (FERC No. 2590). The project is located on the Wisconsin River in Portage County, Wisconsin.

BACKGROUND

The approved Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan requires the licensee to monitor for purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) annually and file a report with the Commission every two years. The licensee is required to track any plants found on a map and indicate the relative population of the colony as small, medium or large. The licensee is also required to conduct the survey when the plants are in bloom by August 15 annually, beginning 1997 and file a report with the Commission by October 31 bi-annually, beginning in 1999.

LICENSEE'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PLAN

In response to a Commission letter issued June 7, 2006, the licensee proposes to employ the use of herbicides to control purple loosestrife at the project, during their annual survey periods. The licensee proposes to coordinate its use of herbicides with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and to secure the necessary Chemical Aquatic Plant Control and Application permit each year, before chemicals are used. The licensee also proposes to cut the plants just above the water line and then treat the cut stems with chemicals on an annual basis. The cut portions of the plant will be bagged and disposed of in a landfill.

¹ See, 80 FERC ¶ 62,062 (Issued July 24, 1997).

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AGENCY CONSULTATION

By e-mail dated November 13, 2006, WDNR provided the licensee with guidelines for the chemical control of purple loosestrife. Further, by letter dated November 14, 2006, WDNR stated that they concur with the licensee's proposal for chemical control of purple loosestrife.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

According to the licensee's 2007 Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Report filed September 10, 2007, chemical control of purple loosestrife at the project began in the summer of 2007, after consultation with the WDNR. The report specified the location of the purple loosestrife colonies that were chemically treated. The licensee should continue to report whether herbicides were used and the location of the chemically treated colonies in future biennial reports.

The licensee's proposed modifications to the Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan filed December 11, 2006, should help to control the spread of this invasive plant to other locations in the project or elsewhere in the Wisconsin River watershed, and therefore, should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The Consolidated Water Power Company's proposed modifications to the Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan filed December 11, 2006, is approved.

(B) 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 C.F.R. § 385.713.

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