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October 16, 2003

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

Ms. Janet Smith
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2661 Scott Tower Drive
New Franken, WI 54229

Mr. Rick Weide
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
5301 Rib Mountain Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

**RE: Rothschild Hydroelectric Project P-2212,
Purple Loosetrife Monitoring Program**

In accordance with Article 407, of the above mentioned project license please, find enclosed a copy of the 2003 Purple Loosetrife Monitoring Report.

This report includes survey results of 2002-2003 purpleloosetrife populations and locations of purpleloosetrife beetle releases (*Galerucella* spp.). Of significance is: the years of survey data indicate an overall decline of 57 percent from the initial monitoring numbers, which through field observations and collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, appears to be due to beetle grazing. Given the success of these control efforts, future monitoring and reporting on a biennial basis potentially may be as effective as the current annual monitoring and biennial monitoring and reporting.

Additionally, access by survey personnel to project waters north of the McCleary Bridge and extending up to the Highway 51/39 bypass project on the Big Rib River may be limited due to planned re-construction and construction activities. Inaccessibility to these areas affects the traditional survey by qualifying a substantial portion of the purpleloosetrife population as temporarily not measured and under severe disturbance. A monitoring hiatus during this period preserves current data, maintains its reporting reliability, and establishes a new baseline that recognizes the previous year's activities.

If agencies concur, the Rothschild Hydroelectric Project P-2212 respectfully requests monitoring in 2004 be interrupted and resumed in 2005 with a scheduled monitoring and documentation report. Thank you for your consideration on this matter and your responses.

If you should have any further questions please feel free to contact me at (715) 355-6218.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Duxbury-Weir
Environmental Engineer
Weyerhaeuser Co.
Enclosure (1)

cc: Federal Energy Regulatory commission
Chicago Regional Office
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3130
Chicago, IL 60604

Official file

