

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company

Project No. 2440-012 & -013
 Wisconsin

ORDER APPROVING PROJECT LANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
 THE PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MONITORING PLAN

JUL 29 1994

On July 12, 1994, Northern States Power Company (licensee) filed plans for the management of project lands and for monitoring project wetlands for purple loosestrife pursuant to articles 410 and 411, respectively, of the license for the Chippewa Falls Project.

Article 410 requires the licensee to file a plan to manage the 38.36 acres of licensee-owned project lands for protection of environmentally sensitive areas. These areas include littoral zones, canopy trees, and wetlands. The plan was to discuss allowable uses for project land, conditions for use, a schedule for implementing protective and enhancement measures, and a schedule for filing results with the Commission. The plan was to be prepared in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

Article 411 requires that the licensee file a plan to monitor project wetlands for the presence of purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria). The plan is required to contain a description of the monitoring method, a monitoring schedule, and a schedule to provide monitoring results to the WDNR and the FWS.

The licensee stated that no active management, except for the proposed recreational facility, is planned. The licensee proposes to leave the littoral zones, canopy trees, and wetlands in a natural state, allowing natural succession to determine land cover. Potential bald eagle nesting and perching trees with a 15 dbh or greater would not be removed unless required to maintain a clear right-of way for overhead electrical power lines. The public would be allowed to use the lands for recreational purposes and a small lay-down area would continue to be used for storing equipment. If the licensee proposes to remove any of the 38.36 acres from the project boundary, they will consult with FWS and WDNR before filing a request. The 1.14-acre boat landing/day use area downstream of the project would be deeded to the City of Chippewa Falls once improvements are complete. The project lands would be inspected annually for any major changes or problems. The licensee stated that a schedule for filing monitoring results with the Commission is unnecessary.

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For the purple loosestrife management plan, a biologist would survey the project wetlands by foot and by boat during late July/early August to determine if the species is present. After the survey is completed, the licensee will file a report with the FWS and the WDNR outlining results and recommendations. If purple loosestrife is found, small clusters of plants would be removed by hand, if possible. Other methods include cutting the plants and applying an environmentally benign herbicide. If removal is difficult, the licensee would develop a plan in conjunction with the FWS and WDNR.

On May 18, 1994 a meeting was held with FWS and WDNR to discuss the land use plan. The agencies concurred with both the land management plan and the purple loosestrife monitoring plan.

The land management plan was required because the majority of the surrounding land is occupied by urban, commercial, industrial, and residential development. By leaving the land in its natural state, the licensee is adequately providing for wildlife. The purple loosestrife monitoring plan should adequately prevent the invasion of purple loosestrife. The land management plan and the purple loosestrife monitoring plan should be approved.

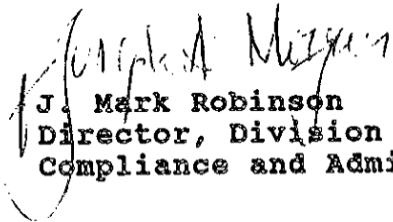
The Director orders:

(A) The project lands management plan filed on July 12, 1994, pursuant to article 410, is approved.

(B) The purple loosestrife monitoring plan filed on July 12, 1994, pursuant to article 411, is approved.

(C) The Commission reserves the right, based on results of the licensee's monitoring, to require changes to the project lands management plan or to the purple loosestrife monitoring plan.

(D) 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.


J. Mark Robinson
Director, Division of Project
Compliance and Administration