

75 FERC ¶ 2,064

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Wisconsin Electric Power Co.)

Project No. 2431-014

ORDER MODIFYING AND APPROVING PURPLE LOOSESTRIPE AND
EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL MONITORING PLAN
APR 30 1996

On February 27, 1996, the Wisconsin Electric Power Company (licensee) filed an exotic wetland species monitoring plan, pursuant to article 410 of the license for the Brule Hydroelectric Project. The Brule Project is located on the Brule River in Iron County, Michigan. Article 410 requires the licensee to file a plan to protect project wetlands from purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) and Eurasian water milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum).

The licensee will monitor all waters and wetlands within the project boundary and the Brule River for 0.25 mile downstream of the Brule powerhouse. Monitoring will be conducted annually, typically from July 25 through August 7 unless weather conditions require otherwise. The location of any purple loosestrife or Eurasian water milfoil stands will be mapped and the size of the population noted. Monitoring results will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) within 30 days of the survey date. The licensee will submit a letter to the Commission documenting the reports have been sent to the agencies.

If possible, at the time of detection, the licensee will physically remove all purple loosestrife plants. The licensee will work to control or eliminate purple loosestrife or Eurasian water milfoil at the project upon the request of the FWS, WDNR, or MDNR at any time during the period of the license.

The licensee will also post public information regarding purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil on bulletin boards at the licensee's recreation areas. If purple loosestrife or Eurasian water milfoil are discovered at the project, the licensee will place brochures describing the control and spread of these species at recreation areas on the Brule project.

Comments were received from the MDNR in a letter dated February 22, 1996. All of the agency concerns were incorporated into the plan.

According to the plan, the licensee will file documentation of sending the results of the monitoring plan to the agencies within 30 days of completion of the monitoring. It is only necessary that the documentation be filed with the Commission for

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the first two years. This documentation for a two year period will allow us to confirm that the monitoring plan is being properly implemented. The licensee should continue to provide the annual monitoring results to the agencies as described in the plan.

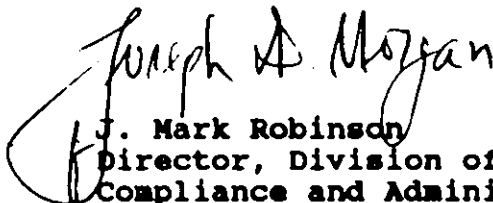
The licensee's annual monitoring plan for exotic wetland species satisfies the requirements of article 410. Implementation of the plan described herein will adequately monitor the distribution and abundance of purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil; this plan should be approved as amended.

The Director orders:

(A) The annual monitoring plan for purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil, filed on February 27, 1996, pursuant to article 410, as modified by paragraph (B), is approved.

(B) The licensee shall notify the Commission that the annual monitoring results for purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil were filed with the agencies by November 30, 1996 and 1997.

(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.


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