

80 FERC ¶ 62,145

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Wisconsin Electric Power Company) Project No. 2486-018

ORDER APPROVING PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MONITORING PLAN, PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 413
AUG 14 1997

On September 19, 1996, Wisconsin Electric Power Company (Wisconsin Electric), Licensee for the Pine Hydroelectric Project filed a Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan (Plan), pursuant to Article 413 of the license issued December 19, 1995. 1/ The Pine Project is located on the Pine River in Florence County, Wisconsin.

BACKGROUND

Article 413 requires the Licensee to develop a plan to monitor the distribution and abundance of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) on Pine Project lands and waters to protect wetlands. The Plan is to be part of the Comprehensive Land Management Plan (CLMP) for the Pine Project. The Plan shall include, at a minimum: (1) the method and frequency of monitoring; (2) a schedule for providing monitoring results to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR); and (3) documentation of transmission of monitoring data to the resource agency. If at any time during the period of license, WDNR deems it necessary to control this plant, the Licensee shall cooperate in this matter.

PROPOSED PLAN

Wisconsin Electric's Plan proposes to visually survey the entire shoreline by boat. All waters and wetlands within the project boundary and the Pine River for 0.25 mile downstream of the Pine powerhouse will be surveyed. True color aerial photos of the project area will also be used to detect purple loosestrife. Wisconsin Electric proposes to monitor and survey the reservoir annually by August 7, unless weather conditions affecting peak plant blooming dictate otherwise. Locations of purple loosestrife plants will be mapped and the size of the populations will be noted. Stand area, percent cover, stem density, and plant density data will be collected for each stand of purple loosestrife. Locations of purple loosestrife stands will be permanently marked using a shoreline benchmark with a known Global Position System (GPS) coordinate, and the actual

1/ 73 FERC ¶ 61,346.

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stands will be delineated on a map using GPS coordinates. Results of annual monitoring will be transmitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and WDNR within 30 days of the survey. Wisconsin Electric will physically remove any plants found during the monitoring. In addition, Wisconsin Electric will post information on identifying and preventing the spread of purple loosestrife on bulletin boards in the recreation areas. In the year following any discovery of purple loosestrife, brochures describing controlling the spread of this species will be placed in Pine Project recreational areas. Finally, Wisconsin Electric has included this Plan in its overall CLMP, in accordance with the requirements of license Articles 410 and 413.

AGENCY COMMENTS AND LICENSEE'S RESPONSES

By letters dated May 16, 1996, and May 22, 1996 the FWS and WDNR respectively, concur with the final Plan. These agencies provided no other specific comments.

In summary, the Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan satisfies the requirements of license Article 413. Implementation of this Plan should adequately monitor the purple loosestrife populations in Pine Project lands and waters. Therefore, this Plan, should be approved.


The Director orders:

(A) The Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan filed by Wisconsin Electric Power Company on September 19, 1996, pursuant to license Article 413, is approved.

(B) The Licensee shall monitor purple loosestrife in project lands and waters annually, starting August 1998, and file the annual monitoring results with the Commission by October 19 each year.

(C) The Commission reserves the right to require changes 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 this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §385.713.


Kevin P. Madden
Acting Director
Office of Hydropower Licensing