

80 FERC ¶ 62,029

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Wisconsin Public Service) Project No. 1999-012
Corporation)

ORDER APPROVING PURPLE LOOSESTRIPE MONITORING PLAN

JUL 14 1997

On January 23, 1997, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (licensee) filed a purple loosestrife monitoring plan, pursuant to article 408 of the license for the Wausau Project. The Wausau Project is located on the Wisconsin River in Marathon County, Wisconsin.

Article 408 requires the licensee to file a plan to monitor for purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) in project waters. The plan shall be prepared in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Further, the article states, if during the term of the license the USFWS and the WDNR deem it necessary to control or eliminate purple loosestrife, the licensee shall cooperate in this measure.

PROPOSAL

In its proposed plan, the licensee proposes to monitor purple loosestrife at the project each year, beginning in 1997, in June or July when the plants are in bloom. Monitoring will consist of a shoreline survey using a boat. The first year survey will determine the baseline of existing colonies. Subsequent surveys will determine the increase in density and abundance of the species. The results of each survey will be shown on a map of the project area. The licensee proposes to submit the survey results to the USFWS and the WDNR by October 31, every second year of the annual surveys. The need for further action will be discussed with the WDNR.

In addition, the licensee proposes to remove small colonies (1 to 5 plants) of purple loosestrife on lands owned by the licensee and/or below the project reservoir's high water mark. Further, the licensee proposes to make available to the public, at company business locations and public access areas near the project, copies of the WDNR's purple loosestrife pamphlet, if complimentary copies are provided to the licensee.

AGENCY CONSULTATION

By letters dated November 14, 1996, the licensee requested comments on the plan from the USFWS and the WDNR. By letter

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dated December 18, 1996, the USFWS concurred with the proposed plan and made specific recommendations. The filed plan generally incorporates these recommendations. No comments were received from the WDNR.

The licensee's purple loosestrife monitoring plan satisfies the requirements of article 408. Implementation of the plan should identify populations of purple loosestrife and help control existing populations at the project. For these reasons, the proposed plan should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The purple loosestrife monitoring plan, filed on January 23, 1997, pursuant to article 408, 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 CFR § 385.713.


Kevin P. Madden
Acting Director
Office of Hydropower Licensing