

162 FERC ¶ 62,172

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Gresham Municipal Utilities

Project Nos. 2464-021
2484-022

ORDER APPROVING INVASIVE SPECIES MONITORING AND CONTROL PLAN

(March 22, 2018)

1. On February 8, 2018, Gresham Municipal Utilities, licensee for the Weed Dam and Upper Red Lake Dam Hydroelectric Projects Nos. 2464 and 2484, filed an Invasive Species Monitoring Plan, pursuant to Articles 406 and 404 of the respective project licenses.¹ The projects are located on the Red River, downstream of the Village of Gresham in Shawano County, Wisconsin. The projects do not occupy federal lands.

Background

2. Article 406 of the Weed Dam license and Article 404 of the Upper Red Lake Dam license require the licensee to file for Commission approval, a plan to monitor invasive species at the projects. The purpose of the plan is to document the extent of the presence of invasive species at each project, and if such species are having a significant adverse effect on fish and wildlife populations or public access, implement measures to limit their spread.

Proposed Plan

3. The filed plan identifies invasive plants and aquatic animal species that currently exist at the projects. The plan includes measures to monitor for other known invasive species and to add new species if they are found. Beginning in 2019, the licensee would conduct annual monitoring during late July and August. The plan outlines monitoring methods for aquatic mollusks, crustaceans, macro-invertebrates, and fish. The licensee would prepare data sheets for each new occurrence of an invasive species. Monitoring of all current and future invasive species would only occur until the species becomes

¹ *Gresham Municipal Utilities*, 158 FERC ¶ 62,079 (2017) and *Gresham Municipal Utilities*, 158 FERC ¶ 62,078 (2017).

prevalent in the area or limited local control measures are no longer instrumental to stop the spread of the invasive species.

4. The plan includes measures to educate the public on invasive species. It also includes the management practices the licensee would follow to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. The licensee would initiate control measures when directed to do so by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Wisconsin DNR).

5. The licensee would notify the Wisconsin DNR within 5 days of any new invasive species found at the projects. The licensee would file an annual report documenting completion of monitoring by December 31 each year. Beginning in 2023 and every 5 years thereafter, the licensee would file an expanded report with the Wisconsin DNR for comment by December 31. This report would include survey results, any actions taken against invasive species, and future recommendations for invasive species control. A final report addressing any concerns of the Wisconsin DNR would be filed with the Commission beginning February 15, 2024 and every 5 years thereafter.

Consultation

6. A draft of the plan was sent to the Wisconsin DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for review. No comments were received from the FWS. Wisconsin DNR provided comments on January 22, 2018. The licensee held a conference call with the Wisconsin DNR on January 25, 2018 to address their concerns. The final plan filed with the Commission adequately addresses the Wisconsin DNR's concerns.

Conclusion

7. The licensee's plan describes monitoring measures and control practices to protect the projects from invasive plant and animal species. The plan satisfies the requirements of Article 406 of the Weed Dam Project and Article 404 of the Upper Red Lake Dam Project, and should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) Gresham Municipal Utilities, Invasive Species Monitoring and Control Plan, filed February 8, 2018, pursuant to Article 406 of the license for Weed Dam Hydroelectric Project No. 2464 and Article 404 of Upper Red Lake Dam Hydroelectric Project No. 2484, is approved.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days from the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 8251 (2012), and the

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Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2017). The filing of a request for rehearing does not operate as a stay of the effective date of this order, or of any other date specified in this order. The licensee's failure to file a request for rehearing shall constitute acceptance of this order.

Steve Hocking, Chief
Environmental and Project Review Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance