

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 11, 2009
To: Water Right File 37-8169
From: medl
Re: operation review

I believe that this hydro facility is operating in compliance with its FERC authorization. I queried the FERC elibrary and found no documentation of significant safety and operational problems during the 20+ years since this permit was issued. Contact with the SRBA staff yielded similar results. The nature of this FERC conduit authorization means that the canal company would be harming their own share holders if they operated this plant carelessly.

Edl, Michele

From: Jones, Doug
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 11:34 AM
To: Edl, Michele
Cc: Merritt, Allen
Subject: RE: Big Wood Canal Sagbrush hydro plant

Hi Michele

I've asked around and no one has any other info on the matter. However, please ask Steve Clelland if he has any input – he may have the SRBA file.

Thanks for asking!

Doug

From: Edl, Michele
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 10:23 AM
To: Jones, Doug
Subject: Big Wood Canal Sagbrush hydro plant

Doug,
I am hoping to finish the review and license of 37-8169 this week. This right is held by Big Wood Canal Company for hydro production at one of its two power plants on the South Gooding Main Canal. Unlike some of the other hydros I have hacked at lately, this one has had very little added to the file since the permit lapsed. (We reinstated the permit Sep 2008).

The Big Wood Canal Company has an SRBA hearing set for May for its unresolved water right issues, including this permit. I have learned that even if there isn't much in the file, that doesn't mean the region hasn't had problems with it. So I'm checking in with you in case there is something about this hydro that I need to address with licensing.

Thanks
Michele

1/21/2009

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections
Portland Regional Office
805 SW Broadway, Suite 550
Portland, Oregon 97205

SEP 24 2008

In reply refer to:

P-6137-ID

-7686-ID

-8046-ID

Mr. Lynn Harmon, General Manager
Big Wood Canal Company
112 S. Apple, Box C
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Harmon:

During and following the June 23 and 24, 2008 Dam Safety Inspections of the Black Canyon No. 3, Jim Knight, and Sagebrush Projects, FERC Nos. 6137, 7686, and 8046, respectively, Mr. Glenn Koester of this office discussed the following items with you:

- At each of the projects, you are requested to add warning signs to the fences surrounding the projects.
- At the Sagebrush and Jim Knight Projects, it was discovered that the nameplates had not been placed in a location visible for the inspection. You had been requested to complete this following your previous inspection. Since the nameplates are required to determine compliance with the Exemption, you are again requested to either move the original nameplates or install duplicate nameplates in a location that is easily accessed.
- The checklist used by the operators on their daily inspections does not contain any dam safety related items. To ensure that the inspections are properly documented, you are requested to add dam safety items to the checklist for the each of different components of each project, such as penstocks, intakes, powerhouses, bypass channels, etc. When you have completed you checklist, please submit three copies to this office for our review and comment.

Three copies of a plan and schedule for completing the above items should be provided to this office within 45 days of the date of this letter. Thank you for your continued cooperation relative to project safety. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Koester at (503) 552-2721.

Sincerely,


for Glenn Koester, P.E.
Civil Engineer

Glenn Koester

From: Glenn Koester
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2008 1:03 PM
To: 'lynnHarmon@cableone.net'
Cc: 'John.falk@idwr.idaho.gov'; 'crobertson@idfg.idaho.gov'; 'Ren_Lohoefer@fws.gov'; 'jmcdonal@pn.usbr.gov'; Edward Perez; Patrick Regan; Douglas D. Boyer
Subject: 2008 Dam Safety Inspection

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections
Portland Regional Office
805 S.W. Broadway, Suite 550
Portland, Oregon 97205

In reply refer to:
P-6137-ID,
P-7686-ID,
P-8046-ID

Dear Mr. Harmon:

This is to confirm our June 2, 2008 conversation about the dam safety inspections for the Black Canyon No. 3, Jim Knight, and the Sagebrush projects, FERC Nos. 6137, 7686, and 8046, respectively. I will meet you at your office at 1:00 p.m. on June 23, 2008.

Prior to the inspection, please review the enclosures provided in our April 16, 2008 letter to you. As appropriate, spillway gate tests, emergency action plans (EAPs), minimum flows, and other matters referenced in the enclosures will be discussed. It is requested that an individual familiar with the instrumentation at the dam, including the location of the instruments, the manner of reading the instruments, and the evaluation of the data be available during the inspection.

I will be reviewing your security measures to determine if reasonable measures are in place. Please be prepared to review and discuss your security measures at the time of inspection, including ensuring that the proper documentation and security personnel are available at the time of the inspection.

By copy of this letter, the agencies notified by this email are being advised of the inspection and are requested to notify me at (503) 552-2721, prior to the inspection, if they plan to attend. Please note that agency representatives will be excused prior to security discussions.

Sincerely,

Glenn Koester, P.E.
Civil Engineer

cc:

Mr. John Falk
Dam Safety Manager
Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 E. Front Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098
John.falk@idwr.idaho.gov
(208) 287-4927

Ms. Cindy Robertson
Natural Resource Program Coordinator
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707
crobertson@idfg.idaho.gov
(208) 287-2715
(208) 334-2114 - fax

Mr. Ren Lohofener
Regional Director, Region 1
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181
Ren_Lohofener@fws.gov
(503) 231-6828

Mr. J. William McDonald
Regional Director, Pacific NW Region
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: PN-1000
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234
jmcdonal@pn.usbr.gov

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections
Portland Regional Office
101 S.W. Main Street, Suite 905
Portland, Oregon 97204

JUN 28 2007

In reply refer to:
P-8046-ID
P-6137-ID

Mr. Lynn Harmon, General Manager
Big Wood Canal Company
112 S. Apple, Box C
Shoshone, ID 83352

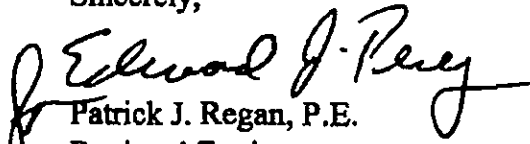
Dear Mr. Harmon:

This is to acknowledge your May 16, 2007 letters requesting an annual exemption from filing an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the Sagebrush and Black Canyon Projects, FERC No. 8046 and 6137, respectively.

As Exemptee, Big Wood Canal Company has the ongoing responsibility of reviewing circumstances upstream and downstream from the project to determine if, as a result of any changed circumstance, a project emergency might endanger life, health, or property. Should such circumstances occur, you must inform this office of that changed condition, and the filing of an EAP may be required. Based on the information contained in the May 16 letters and our inspections of the project, the request is granted. Future requests should be submitted annually by December 31st.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Glenn Koester of this office at (503) 552-2721.

Sincerely,


Patrick J. Regan, P.E.
Regional Engineer

**Big Wood Canal Company
American Falls Reservoir District No. 2
112 S. Apple St.
Shoshone, Idaho 83352
Tel. (208) 886-2331 Fax (208) 886-2010**

**FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION**

SEP 22 2005

**PORTLAND
REGIONAL OFFICE**

September 14, 2005

**Glenn Koester, P. E.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Portland Regional Office
101 S. W. Main Street, Suite #905
Portland, Oregon 97204**

Re: Inspection of projects P-6137, P-7686 & P-8046

Dear Mr. Koester:

Subsequent to your July 11 and 12, 2005 Operation Inspections of the Black Canyon # 3, Jim Knight and Sagebrush Projects , FERC Nos. 6137, 7686 and 8046, respectively, we have commenced working on the recommendations.

At Black Canyon # 3 (6137) we have excavated out the areas involved with the piping in the report. This area has been compacted back with a mix of clay and fines. Upon placement of the compacted material it was noted that both the piping around the right side of the diversion and the water boils on left downstream abutment ceased. This repair was completed in early August of 2005 and to date we have not noted any leaks in either area of the structure.

Concerning the Updates to and repainting of the phone lists. We plan to have this completed by mid-October when we perform our normal maintenance work at the Plant.

At the Jim Knight plant (7686) we plan to pull the turbines for general maintenance in mid-October of 2005. At this time we will check on the name plates to see if they can be removed and located to a site in the power house where we can easily access and read the specifications. If these can't be removed we will check with Flygt to see if we can obtain duplicate name plates, showing the specifications of the units.

At this time we will also update and repaint the emergency phone list displayed at the plant.

**Big Wood Canal Company
American Falls Reservoir District No. 2
112 S. Apple St.
Shoshone, Idaho 83352
Tel. (208) 886-2331 Fax (208) 886-2010**

Sagebrush, (8046) we plan to pull these turbines during mid-October for general maintenance and will check on the name plates to see if they can be removed and placed at a site in the power house for easy access to read specification for each unit. If they can't be removed we will check with Flygt to see if duplicate name plates can be obtained.

The emergency phone list will be updated and repainted during our regular maintenance in mid-October.

The leaks in the penstock will be addressed at this time. Plans are to place a coffer dam upstream of the intake to secure de-watering of the penstock. The penstock and intake headwall will be excavated at this time and inspection of the interior of the penstock will be performed. Necessary repairs to the affected concrete areas will be made at this time to seal off any leaks and excavated areas will be backfilled and compacted with a mix of clay material.

Similar repairs are planed for the leak in the penstock which is located just upstream of the butterfly gates.

We hope to have all of these repair items completed by the end of October 2005.

Sincerely,


**Lynn Harmon
General Manager**

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

**Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections
Portland Regional Office
101 S.W. Main Street, Suite #905
Portland, Oregon 97204**

AUG 18 2005

**In reply refer to:
P-6137-ID
P-7686-ID
P-8046-ID**

**Mr. Lynn Harmon, General Manager
Big Wood Canal Company
112 S. Apple, Box C
Shoshone, ID 83352**

Dear Mr. Harmon:

During and subsequent to the July 11 and 12, 2005 Operation Inspections of the Black Canyon No. 3, Jim Knight, and Sagebrush Projects, FERC Nos. 6137, 7686, and 8046, respectively, Mr. Glenn Koester of this office discussed the following items with you:

Black Canyon No. 3, P-6137:

- 1. The emergency phone numbers list on the powerhouse had an incorrect number and numbers have become almost unreadable because of fading caused by the sun. A new list with the correct numbers should be installed.**
- 2. A piping hole that appeared to drain below the apron on the right side was discovered in the reservoir on the right bank. During the inspection, it was reported that this area would be excavated and pipe eliminated this winter after the canal had been drained.**
- 3. Several water boils were discovered on the apron's downstream left side. This should be addressed.**

Jim Knight, P-7686:

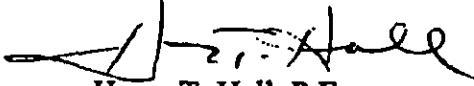
- 1. The nameplates attached to the submerged turbines need to be visible in order to determine compliance with the authorized generating capacity. Therefore, the next time the pumps are extracted for maintenance, please remove the nameplates and reinstall them where they can be easily viewed. If the nameplate capacity differs from authorized capacity, the license may have to be modified. Duplicate nameplates may also be used.**

Sagebrush, P-7046:

1. The nameplates specifying capacity of the turbines/generators need to be located in a clearly visible location so that compliance with the license can be verified. Please place nameplates or duplicate nameplates where they can be easily accessed.
2. The emergency phone numbers list on the powerhouse had an incorrect number; this should be corrected.
3. Several areas of seepage along the penstock were seen during the inspection; these areas should be monitored. An area of concern was the seepage where Penstock 3 exits the intake structure. This area was leaking during the inspection and had eroded a hole greater than two feet deep. The leak should be controlled and the area repaired.

Three copies of a plan and schedule for completing the above items should be provided to this office within 45 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Koester at (503) 552-2721.

Sincerely,



Harry T. Hall, P.E.
Regional Engineer

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections
Portland Regional Office
101 S.W. Main Street, Suite #905
Portland, Oregon 97204

JUN 13 2005
JUN 13 2005

In reply refer to:
P-7686-ID
P-8046-ID

Mr. Lynn Harmon, General Manager
Big Wood Canal Company
112 S. Apple, Box C
Shoshone, ID 83352

Dear Mr. Harmon:

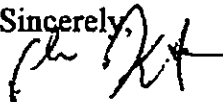
This is to confirm our June 7, 2005 telephone conversation about the July 12, 2005 operation inspections of the Jim Knight and the Sagebrush Projects, FERC Nos. 7686 and 8046, respectively. I will meet you at your Shoshone office at 8:00 am on the 12th.

Prior to the inspection, please review the enclosures provided in our April 22, 2005 letter to you, as appropriate matters, such as project operations and maintenance will be discussed.

We will be reviewing your security measures to determine if reasonable measures are in place in detail. Please be prepared to review and discuss your security measures at the time of inspection, including ensuring that the proper documentation and security personnel are available at the time of the inspection.

By copy of this letter, the agencies on the enclosed list are being advised of the inspection and are requested to notify me at (503) 552-2721, prior to the inspection, if they plan to attend. Please note that agency representatives will be excused prior to security discussions.

Sincerely,



Glenn Koester, P.E.
Civil Engineer

Mr. Guy E. Paul, P.E.
Manager, Dams Safety Section
Idaho Department of Water Resources
1301 North Orchard Street
Boise, ID 83706

Mr. Steven Huffaker, Director
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

Mr. David B. Allen
Regional Director, Region 1
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Mr. K Lynn Bennett
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
1387 S. Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 83706

JUL 3 1996

FILED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
96 JUL -9 PM 1:01
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

In reply refer to:
OHL-PRO-7686-ID
8046-ID

Mr. Charles Greenwood, P.E.
Greenwood Engineering
P.O. Box 1571
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Dear Mr. Greenwood:

This is to confirm your May 14, 1996 telephone conversation with Mr. Tom Bobal of this office about the May 1, 1996 operation inspections of the Jim Knight and Sagebrush Projects, FERC Nos. 7686 and 8046, respectively. The following matters were discussed with you at the site and during the follow-up phone call:

Jim Knight Project

1. A floor drain was observed in the outdoor transformer/control house slab. We are concerned that, in the event of a transformer leak, oil could potentially flow into the waterway downstream of the powerhouse. You are requested to confirm that the concrete curbing around the transformer/control house slab impounds sufficient volume to contain any potential oil leaks, and to submit a plan and schedule to this office for installing a plug or valve on the floor drain.

2. Foundation support for the downstream corner of the transformer/control house slab has eroded away, leaving part of the slab undermined. The original construction drawings show the entire structure founded on bedrock. You indicate that the area is being continually monitored for any indication of increased distress, such as concrete cracking, further loss of soil and rock, etc. You are requested to submit a description of your monitoring program to this office.

3. About \$100,000 worth of remedial work immediately upstream of the intake integral with the powerhouse area (deepening and lining the intake basin, repairing the intake overflow weir, and shotcreting the channel walls and spillway) was carried out in 1994. You indicated that, during previous

960 8150 452

FERC - DOCKETED
JUL 9 1996

phone conversations with Mr. Harold Wick of this office, you were advised that no FERC approval was necessary since the construction would not change the hydraulic capacity of the project. However, there are no records of this construction in our office; therefore, you are requested to submit as-built drawings and a brief description of the work. Two copies of the as-built exhibits should be submitted to The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Mailcode: DPCA, HL-21.3, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, with a separate copy to this office.

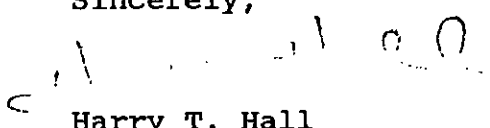
Sagebrush Project

No additional oil containment structure is required around the concrete slab supporting the transformers. The transformers are considered to be at a safe distance from the waterway to preclude contamination of the stream should leakage occur.

You are requested to submit the information as directed above within 60 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bobal at (503) 326-5858, extension 244.

Sincerely,


Harry T. Hall
Acting Regional Director

bcc: D2SI (2)
File (7686, 8046, Suspense, Reading)
Bobal

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mutual Energy Company, Inc.

Project No. 8046-002
Idaho

ORDER AMENDING EXEMPTION FROM LICENSING

The Sagebrush Hydroelectric Project has a total installed capacity of 315 kw, which is less than the authorized capacity of 350 kw in the exemption. 1/ The decrease in the generating capacity has no effect on the comprehensive development of the project area. Therefore, the exemption will be amended to show the project's total authorized installed capacity to be 315 kw.

The Director orders:

(A) The total authorized installed capacity of the Sagebrush Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 8046, is 315 kw.

(B) This order is issued under authority delegated to the Director pursuant to section 375.314 of the Commission's regulations. Section 385.1902 of the Commission's regulations provides 30 days from the date of this order for an appeal to the Commission of this action. Filing an appeal does not stay the effective date of this order or any date specified herein.

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

1/ The order granting exemption from licensing was issued on June 28, 1984, 27 FERC ¶62,369.

19900911-0250(809046)[1].txt