

December 6, 2013

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

700 North Adams Street P.O. Box 19001 Green Bay, WI 54307-9001 www.wisconsinpublicservice.com

FERC Project Nos. 1999 and 2476

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First St N.E. Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Bose:

# Wausau and Jersey Hydroelectric Projects 2013 Noxious Plants Monitoring Reports

Per the order Amending Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan issued October 23, 2008, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) is to provide annual updates on the *Galerucella sp.* beetles (beetles) release sites and purple loosestrife populations for a period of six years, beginning in 2009 to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) no later than October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with agency comments no later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

#### Jersey Hydroelectric Project

In 2013, WPS released beetles that were reared on potted purple loosestrife plants. Approximately 3000 beetles were released on July 15, 2013.

A purple loosestrife survey was conducted at the Jersey Hydroelectric Project on July 16, 2013. The results of the survey indicated a total of eight (8) purple loosestrife colonies within the project boundary. Beetle feeding was noted at all eight (8) colonies. Heavy feeding (colonies with 75% to 100% of plants with active beetle feeding) was noted at seven (7) of those colonies. For comparison purposes, 2012 survey results noted a total of twenty-one (21) purple loosestrife colonies. Beetle feeding was noted at nineteen (19) colonies with heavy feeding noted at fourteen (14) colonies. The purple loosestrife figure and data sheet provide the location of the purple loosestrife, location of beetle feeding and the beetle release location. The figure and datasheet are located in Appendix A.

#### Wausau Hydroelectric Project

In 2013, WPS released beetles that were reared on potted purple loosestrife plants. Approximately 3000 beetles were released at the Wausau Hydroelectric Project on July 14, 2013.

WPS completed a purple loosestrife survey on July 16, 2013. The results of the survey indicated a total of twelve (12) purple loosestrife colonies in the project boundary. Beetle feeding was noted at

Kimberly D. Bose December 6, 2013 Page 2 of 2

four (4) colonies. For comparison, the 2012 survey noted a total of fifteen (15) colonies. Beetle feeding was noted at ten (10) colonies.

The purple loosestrife survey figure and datasheet provide the location of the purple loosestrife, location of beetle feeding and beetle release locations. The figure and data sheet are located in Appendix B.

Documentation of submittal of these results to the WDNR and the FWS has been included in Appendix C. WDNR provided comments on the Wausau Hydroelectric Project. FWS did not provide any comments. All comments submitted by the resource agencies and WPS's response are also included in Appendix C.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact Darrin Johnson at (715) 345-7509.

Sincerely,

Terry P. Jensky Vice-President – Generation Assets For Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

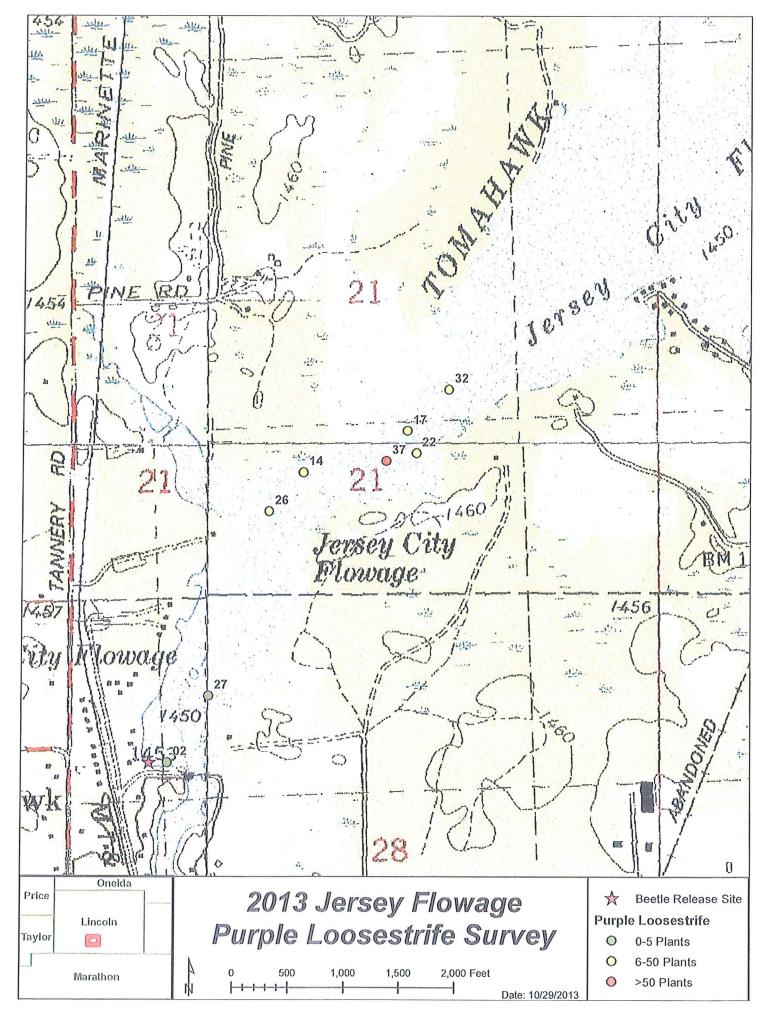
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Enclosed: Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C

CC: Mr. Gil Snyder, WPSC-D2 Mr. Shawn Puzen, IBS-D2 Mr. Bill Bloczynski, WPSC-MERH Mr. John Zygaj, FERC-CRO Mr. John Myers, IBS-D2 Ms. Joan Johanek, WPSC-D2 Mr. William Bosacki, WPSC-D2 Ms. Pat Grant, FERC-CRO

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Appendix A Jersey Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Results



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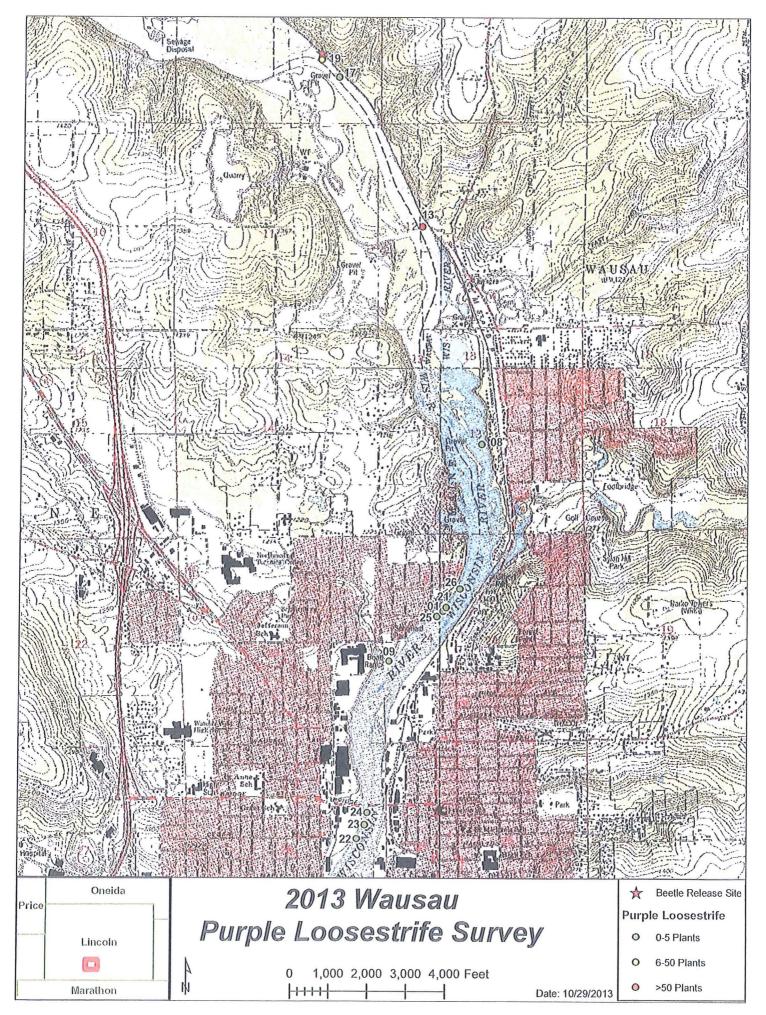
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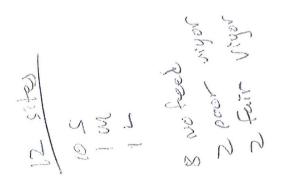
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Appendix B Wausau Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Results





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## Appendix C Documentation of Consultation



October 30, 2013

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation 700 North Adams Street P.O. Box 19001 Green Bay, WI 54307-9001 www.wisconsinpublicservice.com

FERC Project Nos. 1999 and 2476

Cheryl LaatschNick UtrupWDNRUSFWSN7725 Hwy 284101 American Boulevard EHoricon, WI 53032Bloomington, MN 55425

Dear Mr. Utrup and Ms. Laatsch:

#### RE: 2013 Noxious Plants Monitoring Reports, Wausau and Jersey Hydroelectric Projects

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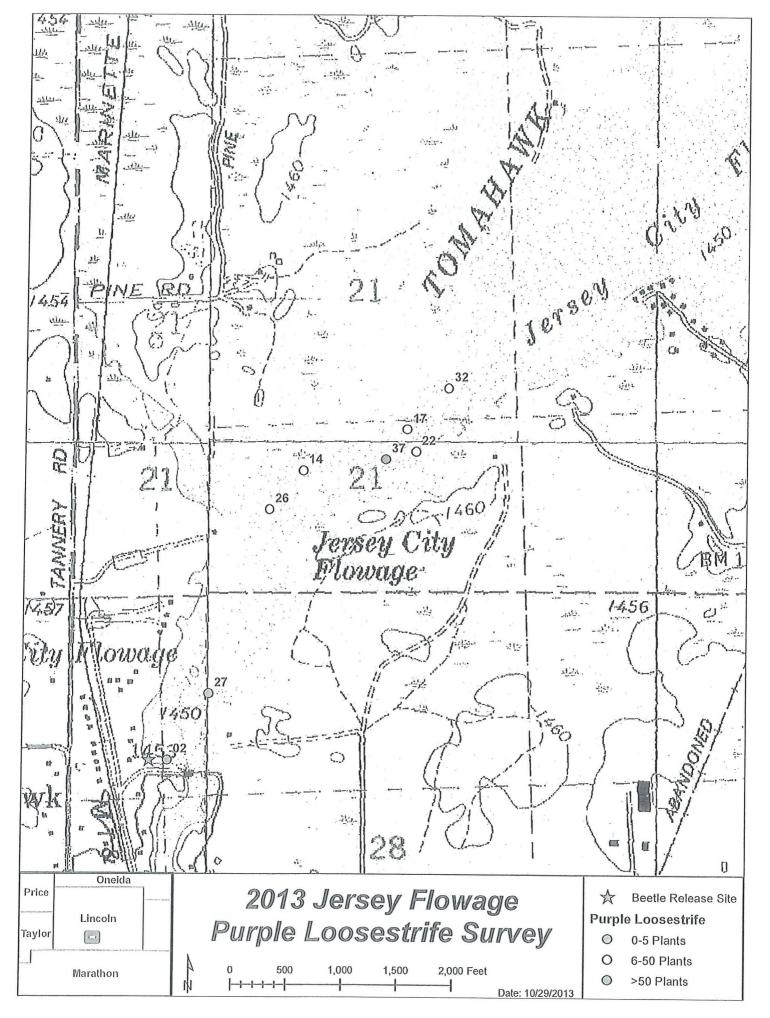
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Darrin Johnson *V* Environmental Consultant

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Appendix A Jersey Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Results



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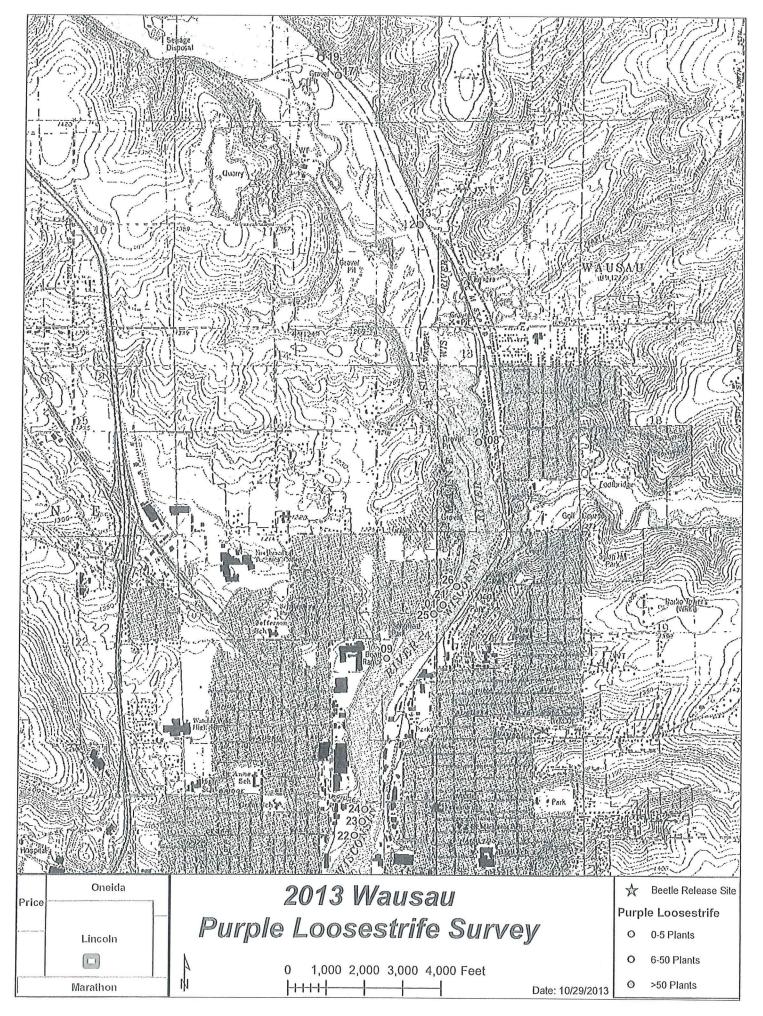
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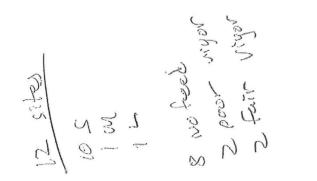
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Appendix B Wausau Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Results





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Purple Loosestrife Survey Form Hydroelectric Project

### WDNR Comments on the Wausau Hydroelectric Project (P-1999) Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Report

#### Johnson, Darrin M

From:	Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR <cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov></cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov>						
Sent:	Wednesday, November 20, 2013 9:38 AM						
To:	Johnson, Darrin M						
Subject:	DNR comments, Wausau Invasive report						

FERC No. 1999. Wausau colonies need to be monitored throughout next year as well as beetle populations to determine if supplemental stocking is needed.

This report is also a good example of integration into the SWIMS database for data collection and tracking. I would like to see the facility trained on using the SWIMS data entry forms for AIS and use the SWIMS database as a means to track future monitoring of the populations in the extent of their project areas. I would like to see each population GPS's and tracked yearly with indications of management actions taken in future year's reports and this information also transferred into the SWIMS database. It would also be great if they could provide information on observations of any other non-native invasive species and use already established DNR forms to track all other species observations.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks

Cheryl Laatsch Statewide FERC Coordinator Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources N7725 Hwy 28 Horicon WI 53032 (T) 920–387–7869 (Fax) 920–387–7888 Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov

From: Johnson, Darrin M [mailto:DMJohnson@integrysgroup.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 2:03 PM
To: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Nick Utrup (nick\_utrup@fws.gov)
Subject: Wausau and Jersey invasive report

Nick and Cheryl,

Please find attached the purple loosestrife monitoring report for Wausau and Jersey hydroelectric projects. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

#### **Darrin M. Johnson**

Environmental Consultant | Environmental Services | Integrys Business Support, LLC

715-345-7509 715-697-3130 *cell* 715-345-7505 *fax* <u>dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com</u>

www.integrysgroup.com

### WPS Response to WDNR Comments on the Wausau Hydroelectric Project (P-1999) Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Report

**DNR Comment**: Wausau colonies need to be monitored throughout the next year as well as beetle populations to determine if supplemental stocking is needed.

**WPS Response**: WPS will continue to monitor purple loosestrife colonies and conduct beetle releases per the terms Article 408, Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan, issued on July 14, 1997 and amended on December 10, 2008. Per the plan, WPS will continue to conduct annual surveys for purple loosestrife in the months of June or July, document colonies on a map, release galerucella beetles annually through 2014, and provide a report of activities to the WDNR, Fish and Wilife Service (FWS) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) each year.

**DNR Comment**: This report is also a good example of integration into the SWIMS database for data collection and tracking. I would like to see the facility trained on using the SWIMS data entry forms for AIS and use the SWIMS database as a means to track future monitoring of the populations in the extent of their project areas.

**WPS Response**: WPS will continue to provide the WDNR invasive species plant information as outlined in Article 408, Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan, issued on July 14, 1997 and amended on December 10, 2008. The Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) is a WDNR data system. The WDNR can choose to include this data into the SWIMS database as they see fit.

**WDNR Comment**: I would like to see each population GPS's and tracked yearly with indications of management actions taken in future year's reports and this information also transferred into the SWIMS database.

**WPS Response**: WPS will provide GPS locations of purple loosestrife colonies in future reports. Management actions to be taken are identified in Article 408, Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Plan, issued on July 14, 1997 and amended on December 10, 2008. According to the plan, WPS is to release galerucella beetles from 2009 through 2014. After six years of control data have been collected (2009-2014), WPS is to file a summary of the data and its recommendation, after consulting with the resource agencies on the schedule for conducting and reporting future purple loosestrife surveys with the FERC. FERC will determine the schedule for conducting and filing future purple loosestrife monitoring and control reports. The Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) is a WDNR data system. The WDNR can choose to include this data into the SWIMS database as they see fit.

**WDNR Comment**: It would also be great if they could provide information on observations of any other non-native invasive species and use already established DNR forms to track all other species observations.

**WPS Response**: WPS will continue to provide invasive species plant information to the WDNR as outlined in Article 408.

WDNR Comment: Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks.

WPS Response: Comment noted.

### No Comments Received From WDNR on the Jersey Hydroelectric Project (P-2476) Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Report

No Comments Received From FWS on the Wausau (P-1999) or Jersey (P-2476) Hydroelectric Project Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Reports

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