



September 10, 2015

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code: DTCA, HL 21.3
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

FERC Project No. 1981

Dear Secretary Salas:

As per the Order Issuing New License for the Stiles Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1981) dated February 26, 2003, Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) is enclosing documentation of the recently completed Exotic Species Control Plan for 2015, required in Article 407 of the License.

The Exotic Species Control Plan specifically addresses purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*.) A copy of the plan, which requires an annual survey of the Machickanee Flowage, is attached as Exhibit I. The purpose of the survey is to identify and quantify possible colonies of purple loosestrife. If colonies of 1-5 plants are found on OEC owned land, removal or treatment is required. If colonies are found on private land, OEC is responsible for contacting the property owners and encouraging the owners to remove and destroy the plants.

On August 11, 2015, Jan Stranz of OEC and Al Stranz (volunteer) conducted a survey by water of the shoreline of the Machickanee Flowage, including shoreline owned by OEC. The surveyors noted locations on a map and indicated the GPS coordinates for the plants they discovered. Their survey sheet is included as Exhibit II (a) and their map is Exhibit II (b). Letters were sent to the appropriate property owners, notifying them of the presence of purple loosestrife on their land. Included in the mailing was a brochure instructing them about proper removal of the plant. A copy of the letter sent to property owners is included as Exhibit III (a) and the brochure is Exhibit III (b). Results of the survey are sent to the Machickanee Advancement Association, Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the FERC.

If you have questions about this report, please contact me at (920) 846-2816.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kent Lyng".

Kent Lyng
VP Operations/Engineering

Enclosures: Exhibits

CC: Coordinator-FERC Projects, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Robert Rodich, President-Machickanee Advancement Association

EXHIBIT I

Exotic Species Control Plan**General Guidelines**

Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC), along with appropriate local groups and resource agencies, will continually work to control/eliminate exotic species, such as purple loosestrife, Eurasian milfoil and zebra mussels, in the project area. The project area is defined as those lands owned by OEC and the shoreline observable from the flowage. Although OEC will be responsible for coordinating efforts to control and eliminate exotics occurring on its own property, it is limited to supplying information to neighboring property owners.

When exotics are classified and identified by local or state authorities, OEC will proceed with a plan to monitor the identified species. The plan elements include: 1) method of monitoring, 2) frequency of monitoring, 3) documentation of transmission of monitoring data to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Machickanee Flowage Advancement Association (MFAA), 4) procedures for obtaining technical assistance and input from the WDNR, or other appropriate agencies, and 5) specific information on how OEC will cooperate with the agencies to control/eliminate the exotic species.

Along with the plan, OEC will include documentation of consultation, copies of comments and recommendations on the completed plan after it has been provided to the agencies, and descriptions of how the agencies' comments are accommodated by the plan. OEC will allow thirty (30) days for the agencies to comment and make recommendations before filing the plan with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). If OEC does not adopt a recommendation, the filing will include OEC's reasons based on project-specific information.

Oconto Electric Cooperative will post signs at recreation facilities on its property describing identified exotic species and informing the public on the control of the species. OEC will distribute fact sheets provided by the WDNR, or other appropriate agencies, at the project.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) Plan

OEC shall, in consultation with the MFAA, the WDNR, and the USFWS, monitor purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in specified project areas. The project lands, reservoir area, and ¼ mile downstream from the project will be surveyed by OEC during peak flowering stage, being mid July/mid August of each year. OEC will estimate and map the amount of infestation of purple loosestrife.

If small colonies of purple loosestrife consisting of 1-5 plants are found on OEC-owned land, OEC will remove it and all of its roots, or cut and then spray it with an appropriate aquatic herbicide. Larger colonies will be removed after consultation with the resource agencies. If purple loosestrife is found on lands NOT owned by OEC, then OEC, in conjunction with the MFAA, will contact the property owner and encourage the owner to remove the plants.

Oconto Electric Cooperative will post signs at recreation facilities on its property describing purple loosestrife and informing the public on the control of this plant. OEC will distribute fact sheets provided by the WDNR, or other appropriate agencies, at the project.

After survey results are compiled and any remedial actions are taken, a report detailing such results and actions will be submitted by OEC to the MFAA, WDNR, and USFWS, with a copy to FERC by October 31 of each year.

Eurasian Milfoil

There is no plan to monitor or map Eurasian milfoil in the Machickanee Flowage because of its prolific presence throughout the flowage. The MFAA, in cooperation with the WDNR and other groups, has been attempting for years to eradicate this exotic species. OEC agrees that Eurasian milfoil is undesirable. If any agency or group devises a cost-effective plan to control/eradicate this species, OEC will cooperate with that plan.

Purple Loosestrife Survey Data SheetTime spent surveying: 3 hours Page 1 of 1

Survey date: <u>8/11/15</u>	County: <u>Oconto</u>	Name(s) of waterbody(ies): <u>Machickamee Flowage</u>
Volunteer: <u>Jan Stranz</u>	Address: <u>Oconto Electric Co-op</u> <u>PO Box 168</u> <u>Oconto Falls WI 54154</u>	Phone/e-mail: <u>920-846-2816</u> <u>jstranz@ocontoelectric.com</u>
Volunteer: <u>Al Stranz</u>	Address: <u>7011 Burdosh Rd</u> <u>Abrams WI 54101</u>	Phone/e-mail: <u>920-373-6146</u> <u>mikemeg@bayland.net</u>
Volunteer:	Address:	Phone/e-mail:

SAMPLE

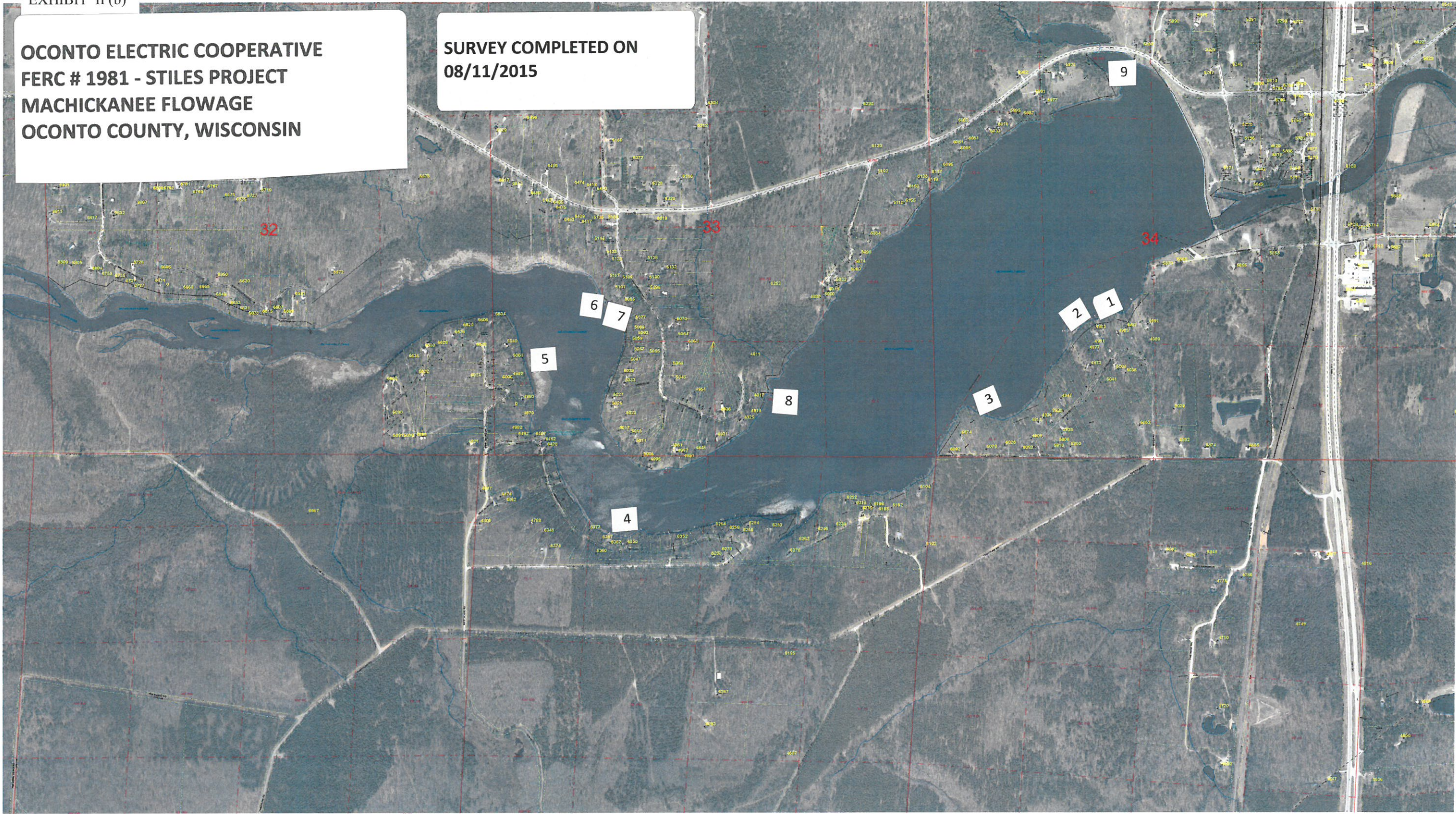
Site #	Number of plants			Acreage (1 acre = 1 football field)		Density of PL plants		Galerucella beetles		NOTES
	1-10	11-49	50+	Less than 1 acre	More than 1 acre	Sparse	Very dense	Leaf damage	Gal. beetles	
17		X		X			X	X		W side of river, N of Hwy 64 bridge. Saw marshed leaves, no beetles.
1	✓									44.51.20 N 88.03.34 W 2 plants on stump
2	✓									44.51.19 N 88.03.36 W 2 plants in cattails
3	✓									44.51.12 N 88.03.48 W 1 plant - on shore
4	✓									44.51.53 N 88.04.52 W 2 plants on shore
5	✓									44.51.17 N 88.05.06 W 6 plants in cattails
6	✓									44.51.08 N 88.04.54 W 1 plant on shore
7	✓									44.51.07 N 88.04.55 W 1 plant on shore (dock)
8	✓									44.51.01 N 88.04.16 W 1 plant (observed from this mark, looking N)
9	✓									44.51.54 N 88.03.30 W 1 plant on beaver house

Mail this data sheet and your map to
WWA, Purple Loosestrife Survey Data, 222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 1, Madison, Wisconsin 53703

EXHIBIT II (b)

**OCONTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
FERC # 1981 - STILES PROJECT
MACHICKANEE FLOWAGE
OCONTO COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**SURVEY COMPLETED ON
08/11/2015**



DISCLAIMER
Oconto County Land Information Systems, makes every effort to produce and publish the most current and accurate information possible. No warranties, expressed or implied, are provided for the data provided, its use, or its interpretation. Oconto County does not guarantee the accuracy of the material contained herein and is not responsible for any misuse or misrepresentation of this information or its derivatives.
Oconto County parcel maps are for tax and real property listing purposes only and do NOT represent a survey. The tax parcel maps are compiled from official records, including survey plats and deeds, but only contain the information required for Oconto County business. You should always use the original recorded documents for legal or survey information.



1" = 500'

**PROPERTIES ALONG OCONTO RIVER
IN TOWN OF STILES AND ABRAMS**



August 20, 2015

Dear Machickanee Area Property Owner and OEC Member:

Each year for the past dozen years or so, Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) has conducted a survey by water of the shoreline of the Machickanee Flowage. This survey is a requirement of OEC's 30-year operating license for the Stiles hydroelectric plant on the Machickanee Flowage and is part of a process to ensure that the environment around the hydro project is protected and enhanced for years to come. During the survey, we monitor and track the occurrence of a non-native plant known as purple loosestrife.

Though beautiful to view, purple loosestrife is an exotic, invasive plant species. Left unchecked, it will gradually overrun native vegetation and will cause deficiencies in the ecosystem. It especially likes moist soil, so it's commonly found near waterways and in roadside ditches. Wisconsin state law bans the sale, distribution and cultivation of purple loosestrife. This year's survey of the Machickanee Flowage shoreline was conducted on August 11, 2015 by an OEC employee and a volunteer. During the survey, occurrences of purple loosestrife were located and identified.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you, the approximate landowner, that purple loosestrife was found on or near your property. We ask that you review the enclosed brochure describing purple loosestrife and the methods of controlling it. We encourage you to remove it according to information in the brochure. Control of purple loosestrife at this point is very important in reducing the plant's ability to spread. If you would like assistance in removing it, please contact OEC for more details. Our contact information is listed below.

Thank you for your help in this very important effort to eliminate purple loosestrife and thus enhance a healthy plant environment around the Machickanee Flowage.

Sincerely,

Kent A. Lyng
VP – Operations & Engineering

Enclosure

EXHIBIT III (b)

Glen Tagge
4917 Machickanee Lane
Lena WI 54139

Barbara Waschbisch
6026 Wintergreen Rd
Oconto WI 54153

Shelly Moore
5077 Machickanee Ln
Lena WI 54139

Lynn Levy
3799 Vermeiren Rd
Oconto WI 54153

Janet Pascoe
2170 Ray Ln
Krakow WI 54137

Alex Korth
4981 Spirea Rd
Oconto WI 54153

Gary Schaal
6024 Chestnut Rd
Oconto Falls WI 54154

Larry Baumbach
56 Garden Ct
Appleton WI 54915

John Briesmeister
5085 Machickanee Ln
Lena WI 54139

William Bublitz
5063 Machickanee Ln
Lena WI 54139

Ronald Mleczko
5059 Machickanee Ln
Lena WI 54139

Scott Martell
5040 W Slope Lane
Oconto WI 54153

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