

80 FERC ¶ 62,037

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company) Project No. 2417-009

ORDER APPROVING PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MONITORING PLAN

JUL 16 1997

On December 6, 1996, Northern States Power Company (licensee) filed a purple loosestrife monitoring plan, pursuant to article 410 of the license for the Hayward Hydroelectric Project. The Hayward Hydroelectric Project is located on the Namekagon River in Sawyer County, Wisconsin.

Article 410 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 during late July/early August when the plants are in bloom. The shoreline of Lake Hayward and project lands on the Namekagon River downstream from the dam will be monitored by boat. The licensee will notify appropriate resource agencies (USFWS, WDNR, and the National Park Service (NPS)) at least two weeks in advance of each survey. The results of each survey, including percent coverage calculations, will be shown on a map of the project area and provided to the USFWS, the WDNR, and the NPS by the end of September. Finally, the licensee states it will cooperate with the resource agencies in an attempt to control purple loosestrife populations on Lake Hayward.

AGENCY CONSULTATION

By letter dated October 21, 1996, the licensee requested comments on the plan from the USFWS. No comments have been received from the USFWS. By letter dated November 21, 1996, the WDNR concurs with the proposed plan and recommends that the licensee notify the WDNR at least two weeks in advance of each survey and cooperate with the WDNR in the control of the species. Further, although not required by article 410, the licensee consulted with the NPS on the proposed plan. By letter dated November 20, 1996, the NPS concurs with the plan and requested

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that it receive a copy of the annual survey results. The licensee's plan generally incorporates the agencies' recommendations.

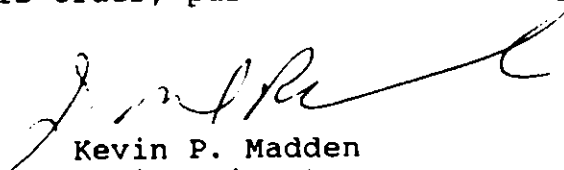
CONCLUSION

The licensee's purple loosestrife monitoring plan satisfies the requirements of article 410. 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 December 6, 1996, pursuant to article 410, 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