

MEAD HUNT

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December 7, 2007

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
ATTN: OEP/DHAC
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Addendum to the November 16, 2007 *Invasive Species Monitoring Report*
Article 405, *Order Issuing Subsequent License – Minor Project* Issued August 31, 2005
Middle Appleton Dam Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 7264
Lower Fox River; Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Bose:

On November 16, 2007, Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead & Hunt), on behalf of the Fox River Paper Company and N.E.W. Hydro, Inc., filed an original and eight copies of the *Invasive Species Monitoring Report* for the Middle Appleton Dam Hydroelectric Project. The report was submitted in accordance with Article 405 of the above-mentioned subsequent license.

Subsequent to the November 16, 2007, submittal, Mead & Hunt received comments from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The comments warrant two changes to the November 16, 2007, submittal:

Page 3, Section 2.B, third line – the word "now" should be replaced by the word "not."

Page 4, Section 3, second paragraph, last sentence – the sentence previously read: "No other aquatic plants were found and no occurrences of Eurasian water milfoil were noted in project waters above the Middle Appleton Dam." The sentence is replaced to read: "No other aquatic plants were found in project waters either above or below the Middle Appleton Dam."

As such, we are hereby filing an original and eight copies of pages 3 and 4 of the *Invasive Species Monitoring Report*, which include the changes discussed above. Copies have also been sent to those entities on the attached distribution list.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

MEAD & HUNT, Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arie DeWaal".

Arie DeWaal
Senior Project Manager

Attachments

cc: See attached distribution list

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I, on behalf of the Fox River Paper Company and N.E.W. Hydro, Inc., have this day served the foregoing documents upon each person designated on the attached distribution list.

Dated this 7th day of December, 2007.



Arie DeWaal
MEAD & HUNT, Inc.

Distribution List

Middle Appleton Dam Hydroelectric Licensing FERC Project No. 7264

Article 405

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20426

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Mr. Chuck Alsberg

N.E.W. Hydro, Inc,
116 State Street
P.O. Box 167
Neshkoro, WI 54960

Section 2
Identification of Invasive Species

2. Identification of Invasive Species

A. Purple loosestrife

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a perennial wetland plant found in wet and moist habitats such as marshes, streams, and riverbanks. Its vivid purple bloom makes it readily seen in late summer. It tolerates changes in soil moisture and temperature, and once established, tends to predominate over other plant life. As a result, its presence can significantly reduce diversity of native vegetation and associated wetland species. This plant usually invades wetlands by germinating in riparian mud flats or wet soil areas and can persist in seed banks for many years after invasion. The seeds can be easily transported on flood waters and invade downstream areas.

B. Eurasian water-milfoil

Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an invasive plant that tends to out-compete native aquatic plants, including native water-milfoils. Accidentally introduced to North America from Europe, it is not found in the majority of inland lakes in Wisconsin. Unlike many other plants, Eurasian water-milfoil reproduces vegetatively by producing shoot fragments and runners, rather than relying on seed for reproduction. Plant fragments and runners, which may remain viable for weeks if kept moist, can be carried downstream by water currents or inadvertently picked up and transported by boaters.

Eurasian water-milfoil can be difficult to differentiate from native water-milfoil species, as both have slender stems with feathery leaves. However, a Eurasian water-milfoil typically has 12 to 21 pairs of leaflets, while the native northern water-milfoil usually has five to nine pairs. Another identifying characteristic of the Eurasian variety is its tendency to form dense mats of vegetation that crowd out other species. These dense stands threaten the integrity of diverse aquatic communities.

C. Zebra mussels

The zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) is a small, non-native mussel originally found in Russia. In 1988, this animal was transported to North America in the ballast water of a transatlantic freighter and colonized parts of Lake St. Clair. In less than 10 years, zebra mussels have spread to all five Great Lakes and into the Mississippi, Tennessee, Hudson, and Ohio River Basins. Many inland waters in Wisconsin are now infested with zebra mussels. Zebra mussels are very successful invaders because they live and feed in many different aquatic habitats, breed prolifically (each female produces 1 million eggs per year), and have both a planktonic larval stage and an attached adult stage. Young zebra mussels are planktonic. They can seriously impair the diversity of benthic aquatic habitats and also impose high maintenance costs on intake and water supply structures.

Section 3 Survey Results

3. Survey Results

The Middle Appleton Dam Project was inspected for purple loosestrife and Eurasian water-milfoil on July 24, 2006. Small shoreline portions of the flowage around West's Canal and the backwater area around Vulcan Street were examined by pedestrian survey from the shore. Then, a canoe was used to survey the waters and shore both above and below the Middle Appleton Dam. The industrialized nature of the shore has left very little habitat for terrestrial wetland vegetation to take root. No occurrences of purple loosestrife were observed.

The waters above and below the Middle Appleton Dam appeared to be at lower levels with slower currents than were present during last year's survey. This rare occurrence can be attributed to the near drought conditions experienced in the area during the spring and summer of 2007. Downstream from the Middle Appleton Dam, several individual Eurasian water-milfoil plants were found scattered along the shallow waters near the shoreline. One dense cluster was found in the middle of the main river channel below the dam. Approximate locations of the individual plants and the large cluster of plants are marked on the map of the survey areas (Figure 1). No other aquatic plants were found in project waters either above or below the Middle Appleton Dam.

Fox River Paper Company personnel have been monitoring for zebra mussels as outlined in the Project's *Invasive Species Monitoring Plan*. To date, there have been no observed occurrences of zebra mussels associated with project structures. If zebra mussels are observed in the future, zebra mussel monitoring at the project will be discontinued and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will be contacted.

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