73 FERC ¶62,103

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Central Maine Power Company — Project No. 2519-016 Maine

ORDER APPROVING DOWNSTREAM FISH PASSAGE FACILITY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
(Issued November 14, 1995)

On September 5, 1995, Central Maine Power Company, licensee for the North Gorham Project, filed an operation and maintenance plan for the downstream fish passage facility at the project, pursuant to article 404 of the project license.

The North Gorham Project, on Maine's Presumpscot River, was licensed in a Commission order issued November 22, 1993. Fish passage facilities at the project will provide downstream passage for landlocked salmon and brook trout, supporting efforts by the Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife (MDIFW) to enhance fisheries in the Presumpscot River. The use of the project's deep gates in conjunction with an adjacent downstream plunge pool were approved for the downstream passage of fish in a Commission order issued August 17, 1994.

Background

License article 404 requires, in part, that the licensee file an operation and maintenance plan, and schedule, for ensuring efficient operation and maintenance of downstream passage facilities. The article states that the plan shall include, at a minimum, a description of facility oversight and personnel commitments, and identify back-up equipment and supplies that shall be maintained to ensure fast repairs in the event of fishway breakdown.

Article 404 requires that the plan be prepared after consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), and the MDIFW. Documentation of consultation with the agencies, and copies of comments and recommendations, are to be included with the filed plan.

After the license was issued in November 1993, the licensee requested rehearing on several provisions. The licensee objected to the article 404 requirement that the operation and maintenance plan specify personnel commitments, back-up equipment and supplies for fishway repair, arguing that it amounted to micromanagement of day-to-day operation. This part of the licensee's request relating to the plan was denied by the Commission on October 31, 1995.

Licensee's Operation and Maintenance Plan

The licensee's September 5, 1995 filing contained the required operation and maintenance plan. The plan included sections on deep gate and plunge pool maintenance and operation, describing the tasks to be performed and the affiliations of the staff who would perform them.

Deep gate maintenance and operation. According to the plan, deep gate maintenance will be performed annually, at layout, by the licensee's Southern Hydro Operations personnel. Personnel will conduct and document visual inspections of mechanical, electrical, and structural components of the deep gates for signs of winter damage, and repair them as necessary. As part of the inspection, deep gate mechanical and electrical systems will be energized, and systems will be repaired as necessary. The deep gates will be operated during the spring runoff period by the licensee's Systems Operation personnel. The number 4 deep gate will be operated on a first on-last off basis, because it provides the most favorable fish passage flows into the plunge pool.

Plunge pool maintenance and operation. Plunge pool maintenance will be conducted sometime during the spring runoff period by the licensee's Southern Hydro Operations personnel and Environmental & Licensing personnel. The plunge pool dike, overflow weir, and the pool itself will be inspected for damage and debris loading caused by spring runoff. Repairs and removal of debris will be done as necessary. Inspections will be documented. During deep gate operation, the licensee's Environmental and Licensing Department personnel will observe flows in and out of the plunge pool, and watch for evidence of passing fish. Observations will be documented.

By January 31 of each year, the licensee will submit a report summarizing fishway operations and observations for the previous year to agency personnel and the Commission. The report will be assembled by the licensee's Environmental and Licensing Department staff. The first report will be for 1996, and will be filed by January 31, 1997.

Agency Consultation

The licensee submitted the operation and maintenance plan to the FWS, MDEP, and MDIFW on July 31, 1995 for review and comment. The FWS commented on the plan in a letter dated October 6, 1995. The FWS stated that the plan, as detailed, should ensure that any downmigrating adult landlocked salmon or trout can pass the project safely. The MDIFW indicated, in a November 6, 1995 letter, that the plan adequately addresses the operation of the facility, and should adequately ensure safe passage of salmon and trout. No comments were received from the MDEP.

Discussion and Conclusions

The licensee's plan indicates that the project's downstream fish passage, consisting of deep gates and a plunge pool, will be satisfactorily operated and maintained. The licensee's designation of personnel for specified tasks in the plan indicate that sufficient resources have been allotted. The licensee's operation and maintenance plan meets the requirements of article 404 and should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The licensee's downstream fish passage facility operation and maintenance plan, filed September 5, 1995 pursuant to license article 404, is approved.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days from the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 CFR § 385.713.

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

EDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

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September 1, 1995

Ms. Lois D. Cashell, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street, N.E., Room 3110
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: *Operations & Maintenance Plan for the North Gorham (FERC No. 2519) Downstream Fish Passage Facility*

Dear Ms. Cashell:

Attached please find the Operations & Maintenance Plan for the North Gorham (FERC No. 2519) Downstream Fish Passage Facility. Submittal of this information to FERC fulfills CMP's commitment to provide this plan by September 8, 1995.

CMP submitted this plan to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) on July 31, 1995, for review and comment. As of this date, CMP has not received Agency comments regarding this plan. Agency comments will be forwarded to FERC as soon as CMP receives them.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Robert Richter at (207) 626-9600, extension 2409.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Smith

for F. Allen Wiley, P.E.
Director, Hydro Operations

RCR:aln

Attachments

cc: Service List

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
NORTH GORHAM PROJECT FERC NO. 2519

I, Robert C. Richter III, Central Maine Power Company Licensing and Environmental Studies Department, hereby certify that copies of the foregoing document have been transmitted to the following parties of record by United States mail, postage prepaid:

Eight copies
Federal Expressed,
postage paid to:

Ms. Lois D. Cashell, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street, N.E., Room 3110
Washington, D.C. 20426

One copy,
regular mail,
postage paid to:

Mr. Gordon Russell
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1033 South Main Street
Old Town, ME 04468

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Hydropower Coordinator
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State House Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333

Mr. John Boland
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284 State Street, State House Station 41
Augusta, ME 04333

9-1-95
DATE

ROBERT C. RICHTER, III

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OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PLAN

For The North Gorham Downstream Fish Passage Facility

Prepared

by

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY
Environmental & Licensing Department

JULY 1995

Introduction

This Downstream Fish Passage Operations & Maintenance Plan describes routine yearly activities to be conducted at the North Gorham Downstream Fish Passage Facility.

Project Features

The North Gorham Project (FERC No. 2519) is located on the Presumpscot River in the Towns of Gorham, Windham, and Standish, Maine. The hydroelectric development was originally constructed in 1900-1901. The Project consists of a 24-foot high stone masonry and concrete dam, powerhouse, four deep flood gates (capable of passing 330 cfs of water each), a transformer house, a switch house, and an impoundment extending approximately 1.1 miles upstream. The powerhouse contains two turbines and generators which were installed in 1925-1926. The two generators have an aggregate nameplate rating of 2,250 kW. The powerhouse has a gross head of 34.4 feet available at normal pond level, elevation 221.8' USGS datum.

The downstream fish passage facility at North Gorham includes the use of the Projects deep flood gates in conjunction with a man-made plunge pool area (approximately 180 feet long by 60 feet wide by 6 feet deep) and overflow outlet weir designed to pass resident fish safely by the project. The deep flood gates are only opened in the spring for a 2-3 week period to pass excess spring runoff and then only very intermittently during the remainder of the year. Due to the fact that this is not a conventional downstream fish passage facility, the operations and maintenance plan is limited to documenting that the deep gates are functioning properly, documenting the integrity of the plunge pool area, and attempting to document the passage of fish through this system.

1.1 North Gorham Downstream Fish Passage Operations & Maintenance

1.1.1 Deep Gate Maintenance Ice out

- Conduct and document an annual visual inspection of all deep gate mechanical, electrical, and structural components for signs of winter damage and repair as necessary. (Southern Hydro Operations Personnel)

- Energize and operate all deep gate mechanical and electrical systems. Repair and/or calibrate as necessary. (Southern Hydro Operations Personnel)

1.1.2 Deep Gate Operation — Spring Runoff Period

- Open #4 deep gate on a first on - last off basis as #4 gate provides the most favorable fish passage flows into the plunge pool area. The #4 gate is also the minimum flow gate. (System Operations)

1.1.3 Plunge Pool Maintenance — Following Spring Runoff Period

- Conduct and document a visual inspection of the plunge pool dike, overflow weir, and plunge pool for signs of damage and/or debris loading caused by spring runoff. Repair dike and/or remove debris as necessary. (Southern Hydro Operations and Environmental & Licensing Personnel)

1.1.4 Plunge Pool Operations — During Deep Gate Operation

- Observe water flows passing into and out of the plunge pool area. Look for evidence of fish passage and document observations. (Environmental & Licensing Department Personnel)

- Develop a report summarizing fishway operations and observations and send to Agency personnel and FERC by January 31 of the following year. (Environmental & Licensing Department)