



Northwest Power Services, Inc.

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

November 28, 2003

Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Buffalo River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project #1413

Dear Ms. Salas,

Please find enclosed a copy of the State of Idaho 401 Water Quality Certification which has been received from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me at (208) 745-0834 or e-mail me at bsmith@nwpwrservices.com.

Sincerely,

NORTHWEST POWER SERVICES, INC.

Brent L. Smith
Brent L. Smith
President

cc: Mr. Dee M. Reynolds, Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

900 North Skyline, Suite B • Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402-1718 • (208) 528-2850

Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
C. Stephen Allred, Director

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION for FERC NO. 1413
For (Buffalo River) Ponds Lodge Hydroelectric Project
November 28, 2003**

ISSUED TO: Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, Idaho 83402
Attention: Dee M. Reynolds

Description of Certified Project:

This project consists of the FERC license renewal and minor improvements to construct a new concrete intake structure, which will include the installation of fish screens. The new intake structure will include a mechanical screen cleaner and a 5-foot gate on the penstock intake. The work will also include the sealing of the upstream face of the existing timber faced rock filled dam to reduce leakage through the dam.

Certification:

This water quality certification is issued under the authority of Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and its Amendments (Clean Water Act) and IDAPA 58.01.02. This certification is in response to the Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative's request for certification dated November 27, 2002. DEQ has reviewed the application submitted to FERC for the license renewal and hereby certifies pursuant to section 401 of the clean water act that, provided the facility operates as described in the application, there is a reasonable assurance the proposed project will comply with applicable requirements of section 301, 302, 303,306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act and the Idaho Water Quality Standards.

This § 401-certification decision may be appealed pursuant to the Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act, Idaho Code § 39-107(5) and the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act. Such an appeal is a prerequisite to any district court action and must be initiated by filing a petition for a contested case in accordance with the Rules of Administrative Procedure before the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Board (IDAPA 58.01.23) within thirty-five (35) days of the date of DEQ's decision regarding the 401 certification.

CERTIFICATION APPROVED



Regional Administrator

Date: 11/10/03

IFRO

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers IFRO
Steve Allred, Director
Doug Conde, Deputy Attorney General
Brent Smith, Northwest Power Services, Inc. Rigby ID.

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