

70 FERC ¶ 62,171

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mount Ida Associates

Project No. 5465-007  
New York

ORDER AMENDING EXEMPTION

MAR 16 1995

On December 27, 1994, Mercer Management, Inc., on behalf of Mount Ida Associates, exemptee for the Mount Ida Project, FERC No. 5465, filed a letter with the Commission requesting an amendment of its exemption.<sup>1</sup>

**Background**

During a September 12, 1994, inspection of the project by the Division of Project Compliance and Administration staff, it was found that ~~the~~ project's powerhouse contains two horizontal Francis turbines rated at 1,460 kW each. The turbines are connected to two generators with 1,500-kW nameplate capacity. The combined installed capacity of the Mount Ida Project is 2,920 kW as limited by the turbines. The exemption authorizes three generating units at 769 kW each, for a total installed capacity of 2,307 kW. In an October 26, 1994, letter the exemptee was requested to file an application to amend the exemption to reflect the actual condition of the project. On December 27, 1994, the exemptee filed a letter with the Commission requesting the amendment of its exemption.

**The Application**

In the December 27, 1994, application the exemptee states that the powerhouse contains two horizontal Francis turbines rated at 1,460 kW each, with 163.5-foot net effective head. Each turbine is connected to a 1,500-kW generator. The generating equipment reflects the as-built condition as of December 23, 1983, when the plant was originally placed in service. The equipment was chosen because of economic factors and equipment efficiency associated with the flow duration curve. The flow duration curve was submitted in the original application filed April 30, 1982. In selecting the two-unit configuration, the exemptee stated that the average historical flows did not warrant three units because of the low turbine efficiencies at lower flow periods. Furthermore, the exemptee indicated that the hydraulic capacity has not changed since the project went on-line.

<sup>1</sup> 21 FERC ¶ 62,102, Order Granting Exemption from Licensing of a Small Hydroelectric Project 5 MW or Less, issued October 20, 1982.

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**Review**

Staff review of the filing found that, although the changes in the powerhouse configuration were made when the project went on-line in 1984, the exemption was not amended to reflect the as-built condition of the project. The exemption describes a 60-foot by 24-foot powerhouse containing three 769-kW turbine/generator units. The as-built project consists of a 94-foot-deep reinforced concrete caisson powerhouse containing two horizontal Francis turbines rated at 1,460-kW each, connected to two 1,500-kW synchronous generators. All of the remaining features were as described in the exemption.

Although the generators in both units are capable of producing a combined output of 3,000 kW, the combined turbines' maximum output is 2,920 kW. Because the turbine in both units is the limiting factor for power production, the authorized capacity for the project is 2,920 kW.

These minor changes to the project's powerhouse will not result in impacts to the environmental resources other than those identified during the original project review. The issuance of this order is necessary to revise the project's description to reflect the as-built condition of the project. The exemptee must report to the Commission any future proposed changes to the project prior to implementing them.

**The Director orders:**

(A) The exemption for the Mount Ida Project, FERC No. 5465, is amended as provided by this order, effective the first day of the month in which this order is issued.

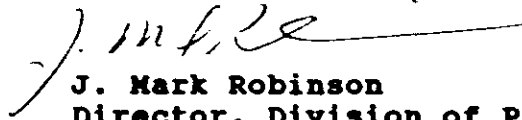
(B) The project is authorized with 2 generating units having a total installed capacity of 2,920 kW.

(C) Appendix A, Project Description, of the exemption is revised, in part, to read:

Project Description: "...; (3) a 94-foot-deep reinforced concrete caisson powerhouse containing two horizontal Francis turbines each rated at 1,460 kW, with 163.5-foot-high net effective head, and connected to two 1,500-kW synchronous generators; ..."

(D) The exemptee shall report to the Commission any future proposed changes to the project prior to implementing them.

(E) 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 C.F.R. §385.713.



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