20080905-0126 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 08/28/2008

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections – San Francisco Regional Office
901 Market Street, Suite 350, San Francisco, California 94103
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August 28, 2008

In reply refer to:
Project No. 2100-CA

Mr. Raphael A. Torres
State Water Project Deputy Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: 2008 Dam Safety/Operation Inspection Follow-up

Dear Mr. Torres:

On May 6-8, 2008, Mr. Leon Holden performed a dam safety/operation inspection for the Feather River Project (FERC Project No. 2100). Overall the project is in good condition properly maintained. Although there are no new findings or action items arising from the 2008 inspection, there are a few items remaining from the 2007 that require DWR's attention. These are as follows:

Oroville Dam

(1) The spalling concrete in the spillway channel was being identified and mapped. Repair was scheduled for completion by October 2008.

(2) Some mineral deposits remained on some of the steps in the dam gallery. A crew was scheduled to return to complete the cleaning.

(3) The repair was complete. Removal of the construction safety support had not been completed.

(4) The spillway drains were scheduled to be cleaned and flushed by the end of May 2008.

Thermalito Forebay Dam

The recommendation was scheduled to be completed by June 2008. The oil leak was not

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observed at the radial gate hoist during the May 2008 inspection.

Thermalito Afterbay Dam

There were three recommendations related to clearing of vegetation from the toe drains outlets and one recommendation related to oil leaks at gate hoists at the Western Canal entrance.

The vegetation was cleared from the toe drains outlets in November 2007. DWR is awaiting environmental clearance for the clearing of vegetation at station 273+80 and station 59+00. The clearance had not been granted at the time of the May 2008 inspection.

The oil leak was oil residue from maintenance lubrication activities. DWR personnel indicated that measures would be taken to reduce or eliminate the residue caused by maintenance activities.

Please review the above remaining follow-up items and the recommendations from the Seventh Part 12D Safety Inspection Reports and submit a plan and schedule status update to this office by September 30, 2008. We thank you and appreciate your cooperation in dam safety matters. If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact me or Mr. Leon Holden of this office at (415) 369-3363.

Sincerely,

(For) Ron Adhya, P.E.
Regional Engineer