

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2149-156--Washington
Wells Hydroelectric Project
Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County

April 18, 2013

Bill Dobbins
General Manager
PUD No. 1 of Douglas County
1151 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, WA 98802-4497

Subject: 2012 Annual Total Dissolved Gas Report - Article 401(b)

Dear Mr. Dobbins:

On February 25, 2013, you filed the 2012 annual total dissolved gas (TDG) report, pursuant to article 401(b) of the license for the Wells Hydroelectric Project No. 2149.¹ Article 401(b) requires you to file the TDG report with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), pursuant to section 401 Water Quality Certification Condition 6.7(2)(c)(iii), and the National Marine Fisheries Service, pursuant to Incidental Take Statement Condition 2. Further, you are required to file the annual TDG report with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) by February 28 of each year following license issuance.

The TDG report is to document compliance with various requirements of the license with regard to Washington State water quality standards and the downstream migration of juvenile salmonids. The TDG report provides a description of your operations to monitor dissolved oxygen concentrations in the forebay and tailrace of Wells Dam, upstream and downstream of the project. Your report also provides a description of the implementation of operational measures contained in your 2012 Gas Abatement Plan which was previously approved by Washington Ecology. Your report notes that there were no structural modifications proposed or conducted during 2012.

Your report concludes that TDG compliance in 2012 was exceptional given the extremely high flows in the Columbia River throughout the fish passage (spill) season

¹ Order Issuing New License issued November 9, 2012 (141 FERC ¶ 62,104).

(April 9 through August 19, 2012) and maintenance difficulties with two turbine-generating units. The findings of the 2012 fish passage (spill) season have been included in the 2013 Gas Abatement Plan and the 2013 Bypass Operating Plan, which were approved by Commission order issued March 25, 2013, and were incorporated into your 2013 Spill Playbook.

In addition, your 2013 TDG report is to include data for total dissolved gas levels for the entire year [including both within and outside the fish passage (spill) season]. Your February 25, 2013 filing of the 2012 annual total dissolved gas report fulfills the filing requirements of license article 401(b).

Please be advised that, while Commission staff will continue to review these filings, staff will no longer issue acknowledgement letters for future filings under this license requirement, unless further Commission action is needed. When your future filings for this requirement are posted on the Commission's eLibrary system, you may consider that as acknowledgement of the Commission's receipt of your submittal.

Thank you for your cooperation and efforts toward water quality management. If you have any concerns regarding this matter, please contact John Mark at (212) 273-5940 or by email at john.mark@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. LoVullo
Chief, Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance