

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2113-235 - Wisconsin
Wisconsin River Headwaters Project
Wisconsin Valley Improvement
Company

Mr. Thomas Kipp
2301 North Third Street
Wausau, WI 54403

July 21, 2015

Subject: Reservoir Water Level Deviation – Article 403

Dear Mr. Kipp:

Thank you for your letter filed on June 22, 2015, notifying the Commission of a deviation from the maximum reservoir water level requirement at the Little St. Germain Development of the Wisconsin River Headwaters Project No. 2113.¹ For the reasons discussed below, we will not consider the deviation that occurred from June 8 through June 11, 2015, a violation of Article 403 of your license.

License Requirement

Article 403 of your license, in part, requires you to operate the Little St. Germain reservoir to maintain a water surface elevation between 1,612.05 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) and 1,613.88 feet NGVD on a year-round basis. You must set a goal to operate the Little St. Germain reservoir as near as practical to 1,613.71 feet NGVD between June 1 and September 15. You may temporarily modify the minimum and maximum water level requirements of Article 403 if required by operating emergencies beyond your control, for scheduled maintenance, and for short periods upon agreement between you, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. If the water surface elevation deviates from the authorized elevations, you are required to notify the Commission within 10 days and file a report within 30 days of the incident. The report must identify the cause of the incident and include operational data, a description of corrective actions, and any comments from resource agencies.

¹ *Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company*, 76 FERC ¶ 61,050 (1996).

Deviation

Your filing explains that you deviated from the maximum water surface elevation of 1,613.88 feet NGVD at the Little St. Germain Development beginning on June 8, 2015. You report a maximum elevation of 1,613.96 feet NGVD and you returned the water surface elevation below the maximum elevation requirement on June 11, 2015. Your filing explains that the deviation was a result of heavy rains and you adjusted the gate opening to return the water surface elevation below the maximum elevation requirement.

Review

Based upon our review of the available information, the reservoir water level deviation that occurred at the Little St. Germain Development from June 8 through June 11, 2015, was a result of heavy rains. Therefore, we will consider this deviation a violation of Article 403 of your license. You took corrective action to return the reservoir water level below the maximum elevation requirement and you notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources of the deviation.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Jeremy Jessup at (202) 502-6779 or Jeremy.Jessup@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kelly Houff
Chief, Engineering Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance