

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2301-034 - - Montana
Mystic Lake Project
PPL Montana, LLC

Mr. Jon Jourdonnais, Manager
Hydro licensing and Compliance
PPL Montana, LLC
45 Basin Creek Road
Butte, Montana 59701

September 30, 2010

Subject: Fisheries Monitoring Plan

Dear Mr. Jourdonnais:

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SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION
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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

We received the August 2, 2010 Fisheries Monitoring Plan you filed for the Mystic Lake Project. The plan is required by U.S. Forest Service (FS) 4(e) Condition No. 16, which is incorporated into the December 17, 2007 project license though ordering paragraph (E).¹ The project license did not become effective until January 1, 2010.

Under 4(e) Condition No. 16, the licensee is to file with the Commission, within one year, a Fisheries Monitoring Plan approved by the Mystic Lake Fisheries, Aquatic Habitats, and Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee).² The Fisheries Monitoring Plan is designed to detect any trends in fish populations or aquatic habitat conditions in Mystic Lake and West Rosebud Creek that may be related to project activities, and includes a fisheries and aquatic habitat monitoring component. The Fisheries Monitoring Plan is to be conducted on a six-year cycle, for the term of the project license.

Your August 2, 2010 Fisheries Monitoring Plan summarized the funding, committee operation, research, reporting, and scheduling elements that will be followed to comply with 4(e) Condition No. 16. Annual reports will be prepared summarizing the prior year's work under the plan, and identifying work that is proposed for the following year. These reports will be submitted to the Advisory Committee, and posted on the PPL Montana Mystic Hydropower Project website. You are proposing to file an updated plan with the Commission in 2016, and every six years thereafter, for the term of the project license. Each updated plan would include summaries of progress made under the

¹ Order Issuing New License. 121 FERC ¶ 62,198 (2007).

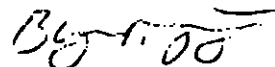
² The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Montana Division of Environmental Quality, and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

previous plan. You included with your filing the signatures of the representatives from the agencies on the Advisory Committee, indicating their approval of the plan.

We appreciate receiving your August 2, 2010 Fisheries Monitoring Plan pursuant to 4(e) Condition No. 16 of the project license. We request that, in addition to filing the annual reports with the Advisory Committee, you file copies with the Commission at the same time, so that we can better monitor the work conducted under the plan. We look forward to reviewing your first annual report, and your updated Fisheries Monitoring Plan in 2016.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 502-6129.

Sincerely,



**B. Peter Yarrington
Fisheries Biologist
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance**