

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Southern California Edison Company ) Project No. 1388-022

## ORDER AMENDING LICENSE

(Issued July 29, 1998)

On May 8, 1998, Southern California Edison (SCE), licensee for the Lee Vining Project, FERC No. 1388, filed an application to amend its license. <sup>1/</sup> The project is located on Lee Vining Creek in Mono County, California. In the filing, SCE proposes to add a 1.5-foot-high parapet to the crest of Rhinedollar Dam.

## BACKGROUND

The Lee Vining Project consists of three lakes: Saddlebag, Tioga, and Ellery (also known as Rhinedollar Lake). Both Saddlebag and Tioga lakes drain into Ellery Lake, which is the intake and regulating reservoir for the project's powerhouse. The Ellery Lake is impounded by the 437-foot-long by 17-foot-high rockfill Rhinedollar Dam. At the left abutment of the dam there is a 36-foot-long by 5-foot-deep concrete side channel spillway with a crest elevation at 9492.53 feet.

## THE AMENDMENT

In its amendment application, SCE proposes to add a 1.5-foot-high parapet to the crest of Rhinedollar Dam. The purpose of the parapet is to prevent overtopping of the dam during a probable maximum flood event (PMF). The addition of the parapet will not increase the storage capacity of the reservoir. SCE is planning the addition of the parapet during the same construction season of previously approved gates removal from the spillway. <sup>2/</sup> SCE is planning to start the construction of the proposed work during the summer months of 1998.

## CONSULTATION

SCE consulted with the resource agencies before filing its amendment request. The California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) provided comments. The FS indicated that its comments on the previous amendment for the

<sup>1/</sup> 78 FERC ¶61,110 (1997).

<sup>2/</sup> 80 FERC ¶62,251 (1997).

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gates removal also apply to this amendment request. <sup>3/</sup> In addition, the FS indicated that standard environmental protection measures are required for containment of any spill or material into the waterways.

## DISCUSSION

By adding the parapet to the crest of Rhinedollar Dam, neither the storage capacity of the reservoir, nor the authorized operation of the project will be altered. The need to add the parapet to protect the dam from overtopping during a PMF event, was based on studies done by the State of California, Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD).

The addition of the parapet will not disturb the local terrestrial and aquatic environments during or after the proposed construction. The construction of parapet would not require a coffer dam or the dewatering of any part of the project. Approving the proposed amendment will not affect environmental resources or current project operations, including the project's minimum flow requirements. Given that continued compliance with all license requirements is not affected by the proposed construction, the construction of the 1.5-foot parapet to the crest of Rhinedollar Dam is not expected to result in any significant environmental impacts.

To mitigate any impacts to fishing and recreation during the construction of the parapet, SCE should follow the FS suggestions as indicated in their letters dated March 20, 1997, and March 16, 1998. The FS suggests that SCE: (1) coordinate the proposed work as safely and as least disruptive as possible to the fishing and recreating public; (2) do the proposed work during weekday periods when the public utilizes the area less; (3) designate the work area as "Temporary Closed Due To Construction" during all periods of construction, and avoid damage to forest resources and facilities; and (4) follow standard environmental protection measures for containment of any spills or material into the waterways. We are addressing these suggestions in ordering paragraph (H).

This order approves the amendment of license to add a 1.5-foot-high parapet to the crest of Rhinedollar Dam. Before start

<sup>3/</sup> The FS primary comments on the gates removal, are for the SCE to coordinate the proposed work as safely and as least disruptive as possible to the fishing and recreating public. The FS prefers that the proposed work be conducted during weekday periods when the public utilizes the area less.

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of construction, the licensee must provide plans and specifications for the proposed parapet to the Commission's San Francisco Regional Office for review. We are including this requirement in ordering paragraph (G).

The Director orders:

(A) The amendment of license to add a 1.5-foot-high parapet to the crest of Rhinedollar Dam, of the Lee Vining Creek Project, FERC No. 1388, is approved as provided in this order.

(B) Subparagraph (2) of ordering paragraph (B) of the license is revised to read as follows:

(2) The project works consisting of: (a) the existing 45-foot-high, 600-foot-long, redwood faced, rockfill Saddlebag Dam, impounding 317-acre Saddlebag Lake; (b) the existing 27-foot-high, 270-foot-long, redwood faced, rockfill Tioga Dam, impounding 73-acre Tioga Lake; (c) the existing 19-foot-high, 50-foot-long, constant radius concrete arch Tioga auxiliary dam; (d) the existing 18.5-foot-high (including a 1.5-foot-high parapet), 437-foot-long rockfill Rhinedollar Dam with crest elevation at 9,499 ft, impounding 61-acre Rhinedollar Lake (Ellery Lake), and adjoining the dam at the left abutment a 36-foot-long by 5-foot-deep concrete side channel spillway with a crest elevation of 9,492.53 feet; (e) the existing concrete intake structure at Rhinedollar Dam; (f) the existing 2,452-foot-long, 48-inch-diameter pipeline; (g) the existing 3,680-foot-long, 42-inch to 28-inch-diameter steel penstock; (h) the existing Poole Powerhouse containing one turbine rated at 17,910 hp with a hydraulic capacity of 105 cfs, connected to a generator with a rated capacity of 11,250 kilowatts (kW); (i) the existing 6.4-mile-long, 115-kV transmission line from the Poole Powerhouse to the Lee Vining Substation; and (j) appurtenant structures.

(C) The revised exhibit F-3 drawing that was filed on May 8, 1998, is approved and made a part of the license:

| Drawing | FERC No. | Showing         | Superseding |
|---------|----------|-----------------|-------------|
| F-3     | 1388-18  | Rhinedollar dam | 1388-17     |

(D) The superseded exhibit is deleted from the license.

(E) Within 90 days of the date of issuance of this order, the licensee shall file four original aperture cards of the approved drawing. All aperture cards should be reproduced on silver or gelatin 35 mm microfilm. All microfilm should be mounted on a Type D (3 1/4" x 7 3/8") aperture card.

Prior to microfilming, the FERC Drawing Number (1388-18) shall be shown in the margin below the title block of the approved drawing. After mounting, the FERC Drawing Number should be typed in the upper right corner of each aperture card. Additionally, the Project Number, FERC exhibit (i.e., F-3), Drawing Title, and date of this order should be typed in the upper left corner of each aperture card. See Figure 1.

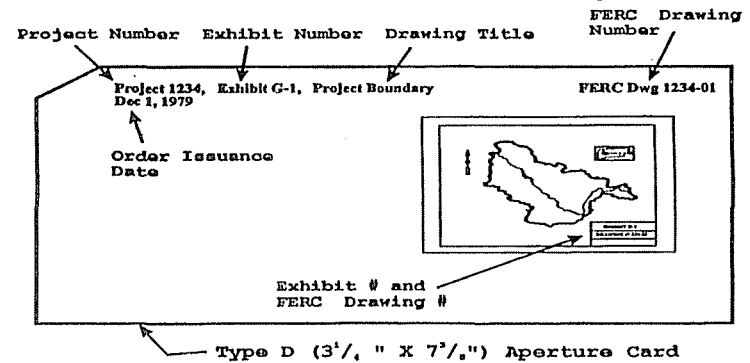


Figure 1. Sample Aperture Card Format

Two aperture cards should be filed with the Secretary of the Commission. One aperture card should be filed with the Commission's San Francisco Regional Office. The remaining aperture card should be filed with the Bureau of Land Management's California State Office. 4/

4/ The Bureau of Land Management's California State Office is located at the following address:

State Director  
California State Office  
Branch of Adjudication and Records (CA-943.5)  
Federal Building, Room E-2845

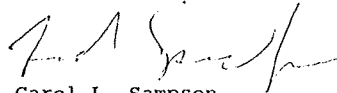
(continued...)

(F) The Licensee shall commence construction of the proposed work within two years, and shall complete its construction within four years from the issuance date of this order.

(G) At least 60 days prior to the start of construction, the licensee must submit one copy to the Commission's Regional Director and two copies to the Commission (one of these shall be a courtesy copy to the Director, Division of Dam Safety and Inspections), of the final plans and specifications for the addition of the parapet to the crest of Rhinedollar Dam. The Commission may require changes in the plans and specifications to assure a safe and adequate project.

(H) To mitigate any impacts to fishing and recreation and to avoid damages to forest resources and facilities, the licensee shall: (1) coordinate the proposed work as safely and as least disruptive as possible to the fishing and recreating public; (2) undertake the proposed work during periods when the public utilizes the area less; (3) designate the work area as "Temporary Closed Due To Construction" during all periods of construction, and avoid damage to forest resources and facilities; and (4) follow standard environmental protection measures for containment of any spills or material into the waterways.

(I) 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.



Carol L. Sampson  
Director  
Office of Hydropower Licensing

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Attn: FERC withdrawal Recordation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 98525-1889