



Walter D. Pagel
Manager, Eastern Hydro Region

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2004 APR 2
March 31, 2004 11: 58

ORIGINAL

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code: DHAC, PJ-12
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

FILED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
2004 APR 2
A 11: 58
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Subject: Kern River No. 3 (FERC 2290)
Postponement of Fish Population Monitoring Study

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a license to Southern California Edison Company (SCE) for the Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project on December 24, 1996. Article 411 of the license required SCE to develop a plan for monitoring fish populations by sampling once every five years for the license term. Results of the monitoring would be used to determine the effectiveness of fishery enhancement measures required in the license. SCE developed the plan in consultation with CA Department of Fish and Game, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service (agencies). The plan was approved by Commission Order dated October 7, 1997. The first study was completed in the fall of 1998 and the report filed with the Commission on April 28, 1999.

The second study was scheduled to occur in the fall of 2003. However, large amounts of sediment were in this reach of the Kern River due to runoff from land denuded by the 155,000-acre McNally fire of 2003. This large amount of sediment made it inadvisable to conduct the study at that time. Consequently, SCE consulted with the agencies regarding the advisability of postponing the study until the river water cleared sufficiently to conduct sampling. SCE proposed that its staff and local agency representatives monitor the condition of the water, which at this time is still sediment-filled.

The agencies support the postponement of the second Fish Population Monitoring Study until fire-related sediment effects are no longer a problem (enclosed). The US Fish and Wildlife Service has verbally agreed and their letter of support is expected soon. When sediment transport conditions are considered to be sufficiently normal to conduct the study, SCE will consult with the agencies and notify the Commission.

Please contact Candace Irelan at (909) 394-8714 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

cc: T. Yamashita, FERC San Francisco
P. Scordelis, FERC San Francisco
A. Gaffrey, FS Porterville
E. Ostly, FS Porterville
D. Freeland, FS Lake Isabella
S. Porter, FS Lake Isabella
J. Means, CDFG Fresno
W. Lauder milk, CDFG Fresno
H. Werner, NPS Three Rivers



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

Mr. Walter Pagel, Manager
Eastern Hydro Region
Southern California Edison
300 North Lone Hill Avenue
San Dimas, California 91773

MAR 31 2004

Subject: Postponement of Fish Population Monitoring Study for Kern No. 3 Project
(FERC No. 2290).

Dear Mr. Pagel:

The Sacramento U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office (Service) has reviewed Southern California Edison's (SCE) March 23, 2004, e-mail and letters from the Sequoia National Forest (FS) (November 13, 2003) and from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) (November 3, 2003) concerning SCE's current request to postpone the Fish Population Monitoring Study required by Article 411 in SCE's Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2290) License. One year of monitoring has been completed to date.

SCE's request for postponement is based on the increased sediment transport and water turbidity in the Kern River resulting from the 2002 McNally Fire in the Kern River watershed upstream of the FERC Project No. 2290. The Service concurs with SCE's proposal to postpone the Fish Population Monitoring Study until water clarity in the Kern River improves to a level that will allow adequate sampling conditions.

The Service would like to be notified when sediment conditions have improved and the Fish Population Monitoring Study is resumed. If you have any further questions, please contact William Foster at (916) 414-6528.

Sincerely,

David L. Harlow
Acting Field Supervisor





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sequoia National Forest

900 West Graud Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257
(559) 784-1500
(559) 781-6650 TDD

File Code: 2770-2

Date: November 13, 2003

Mr. Walt Pagel
Southern California Edison Company
Hydro Division
300 N. Lone Hill Avenue
San Dimas, CA 91773

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Dear Mr. Pagel:

The Sequoia National Forest is in agreement with Southern California Edison's (SCE) proposal to postpone fish monitoring required by Article 411 in SCE's Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2290) license.

We agree that the 151,000-acre McNally fire in 2002 in the Upper Kern River watershed was an event that significantly altered the sediment transport and fisheries habitat in the Upper Kern River. Since the McNally fire, the North Fork Kern River has been dark brown from the transport of large volumes of sediment from land denuded by the McNally fire. When the water quality returns to its pre-fire condition, resumption of fish monitoring would be appropriate.

We remain interested in the monitoring of fisheries associated with the license conditions of Kern River No. 3 and appreciate the valuable information being collected.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Erik T. Ostly, FERC Coordinator at (559) 784-1500, extension 1136.

Sincerely,

for ARTHUR L. GAFFREY
Forest Supervisor

cc: J. Kennedy
C. Irelan



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
(559) 243-4014

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November 3, 2003 -

Mr. Walter Pagel
Manager, Eastern Hydro Region
Southern California Edison
300 North Lone Hill
San Dimas, California 91773

Dear Mr. Pagel:

**Postponement of Fish Population Monitoring Study
Kern No. 3 Project (FERC No. 2290)**

This responds to your email, dated October 27, 2003, which proposed to postpone implementation of the fish population monitoring study for the above referenced Project. The monitoring study, as described in Article 411 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License issued on December 24, 1996, for the Project, requires that fish population monitoring be conducted every five years for the life of the Project. One year of monitoring has been completed to date. The current proposal to postpone the monitoring study, is based on the increased sediment transport conditions in the Kern River resulting from the 2002 McNally Fire in the Kern River watershed above the Project. The study will be resumed when sediment conditions return to normal.

Based on the large volumes of sediment currently being transported by the Kern River from lands affected by the McNally Fire, we concur that it would be appropriate to postpone the fish population monitoring study until sediment transport conditions in the Kern River return to normal levels.

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates being kept informed of this aspect of the Project and requests that our Department be notified when sediment conditions have returned to normal and the monitoring study is implemented. If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. Julie Means, Environmental Scientist, at the address or telephone number (extension 240) on the letterhead.

Sincerely,


W. E. Loudermilk
Regional Manager

cc: See Page Two

Mr. Walter Pagel
November 3, 2003
Page Two

cc: Mr. Art Gaffrey
Forest Supervisor
United States Forest Service
Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, California, 93257-2035

Mr. James Canaday
State Water Resources Control Board
Post Office Box 2000
Sacramento, California 95812-2000

Ms. Debbie Giglio
United States Fish and
Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825

cc: C. Irelan
J. Kennedy



Harold_Werner@nps.gov
01/26/2004 04:03 PM

To: Candace.Irelan@sce.com
CC:
Subject: Re: Postponement of KR3 fish population monitoring study

Candace:

I fully support postponing the fish survey until water clarity improves. To survey under reduced visibility would not provide useful comparative data, and may compromise safety of the crews implementing the survey.

Harold Werner
Wildlife Ecologist
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, California 93271
Telephone: (559) 565-3123
FAX: (559) 565-3730
email: harold_werner@nps.gov



Candace Irelan
01/26/2004 11:39 AM

To: Deborah_Giglio@fws.gov
cc:
Subject: Re: Postponement of KR3 fish population monitoring study



FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Hi, Debbie:

I just FAXed you the letters. Thanks so much for your help!

Candace Irelan
SCE Hydro Relicensing
300 North Lone Hill
San Dimas CA 91773
(909) 394-8714, PAX 47714
Deborah_Giglio@fws.gov



Deborah_Giglio@fws.gov
ov
01/26/2004 08:23 AM

To: Candace.Irelan@sce.com
cc:
Subject: Re: Postponement of KR3 fish population monitoring study

Hi Candace, I understand the situation. Please fax the letters that DFG and FS wrote.

Thank you.

Deborah A. Giglio
Acting Chief, Energy and Instream Flow Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Habitat Conservation Division
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825
phone (916) 414-6579
fax (916) 414-6713
e-mail deborah_giglio@fws.gov

Candace.Irelan@sce.com
deborah_giglio@fws.gov, harold_w._werner@nps.gov
01/23/2004 04:27 PM
fish population monitoring study
To:
cc: wlifton@entrinx.com
Subject: Postponement of KR3

Hi, Julie and Harold:

This past fall was scheduled for the second fish population monitoring survey for the KR3 Project. Unfortunately, the water turbidity after the McNally fire was severe enough to prevent conducting the study at that time. I have already asked the Forest Service and the CA Dept. of Fish and Game to provide letters of support for postponing the study until water clarity will allow adequate sampling conditions. They have each provided such a letter in support of the postponement. So, the purpose of this e-mail is to request that you also consider supporting this postponement, so that I can make a formal request of the FERC to change our due date. Unless your agency will not allow e-mailed correspondence, an e-mail from you regarding your agreement to the temporary delay until better water conditions, would be sufficient for my FERC request. If you wish, I'd be glad to FAX you the CDFG and FS letters I already have. I appreciate your help with this as I'm working to avoid a noncompliance situation with the due date.

THANKS!

Candace Irelan
SCE Hydro Relicensing
300 North Lone Hill
San Dimas CA 91773
(909) 394-8714, PAX 47714

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