

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

83 FERC ¶ 62,198

Centralia City Light ) Project No. 10703-011

ORDER MODIFYING AND APPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS SITE PLAN

(Issued June 5, 1998)

On September 23, 1997, Centralia City Light, licensee for the Yelm Project, filed a plan to construct and maintain a public access site to the Nisqually River at the town of McKenna. The plan was filed in response to the requirements of license article 418. The Yelm Project is located on the Nisqually River in Thurston and Pierce Counties, Washington.

Article 418 requires the licensee to file for Commission approval a plan to construct and maintain a public access site to the Nisqually River at McKenna. The public access site shall include access signs, a hand-carried and trailer launched boat access, a bank fishing area, sanitation facilities, and parking to accommodate 20 cars with trailers. The licensee shall design the site to accommodate the disabled, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Further, the licensee shall prepare the plan in consultation with the Nisqually River Council, the National Park Service, the Washington Interagency Commission for Outdoor Recreation, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, and Pierce County.

PROPOSED PLAN

The licensee's proposed plan includes the required information. The proposed facilities would be located on a 4.5 acre site and include two interpretive signs; a concrete boat launch; a bank fishing area; two gravel parking areas that can accommodate 26 vehicles, including 18 cars with trailers; portable restroom facilities; parking and bank fishing access for the disabled; and areas reserved for future development. The licensee proposes to construct the facilities and make arrangements with Pierce County regarding their maintenance.

AGENCY CONSULTATION

The licensee's filing includes documentation of the its consultation with the required agencies. The proposed plan was prepared in close consultation with the agencies. The agencies' comments have been adequately addressed.

Project No. 10703-011

2

RECEIVED

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

JUN 17 1998

The licensee has not identified a completion date for the proposed facilities. The proposed facilities are relatively minor in scope and should be able to be completed within a short period of time. Given this information, the licensee should complete the facilities no later than April 1, 1999.

The proposed plan fulfills the requirements of article 418. The licensee's implementation of the proposed plan would enhance recreational opportunities in the project area. For these reasons the proposed plan, as modified by this order, should be approved.

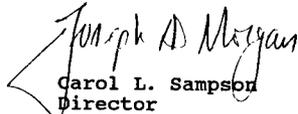
The Director orders:

(A) The licensee's proposed plan to provide a public access site to the Nisqually River filed September 23, 1997, is approved as modified by paragraphs B and C.

(B) The proposed facilities identified in the approved plan shall be completed no later than April 1, 1999.

(C) Within 90 days from the completion date of the facilities, the licensee shall file, for Commission approval, an as-built drawing showing the type and location of the facilities constructed at the site.

(D) 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 CFR § 385.713.

  
Carol L. Sampson  
Director  
Office of Hydropower Licensing

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

P-10703  
DIRECTOR  
WASHINGTON DEPT. OF FISH & WILDLIFE  
600 CAPITOL WAY NORTH  
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-1091  
101827

*David Wanda*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

City of Centralia ) Project No. 10703-016  
Light Department )

ORDER APPROVING AND MODIFYING RIPARIAN  
HABITAT REHABILITATION PLAN

( Issued February 12, 1998 )

On December 5, 1997, the City of Centralia Light Department (licensee), filed a plan to rehabilitate the aquatic riparian habitat in the lower section of Thompson Creek of the Yelm Hydroelectric Project. The aquatic habitat rehabilitation plan was filed pursuant to Article 410 of the project license. 1/ The purpose of the plan is to rehabilitate the riparian zone of Thompson Creek that has been extensively eroded by spillway flows. The Yelm Hydroelectric Project is located on the Nisqually River in Thurston and Pierce Counties, Washington.

LICENSEE REQUIREMENTS

License Article 410 requires the licensee to file, for Commission approval, a plan and schedule to rehabilitate the aquatic riparian habitat in the 4,800-foot-long section of lower Thompson Creek. Article 410 requires that the plan include a schedule for: implementing and completing the plan; monitoring and measuring the success of the rehabilitation measures; consulting with federal and state agencies and the Nisqually Tribe; and, filing the results, comments and response to comments with the Commission. Consultation is required with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Nisqually Tribe (Tribe).

LICENSEE'S PLAN

The licensee proposes to revegetate the riparian zone of Thompson Creek as well as the ravine with varying numbers of native plants adapted to the different habitats that occur along the Thompson Creek corridor. The licensee would plant willow, and depending upon availability ninebark, red osier dogwood or black twinberry along Thompson Creek. Along the drier sides of the ravine the licensee proposes to plant Douglas fir and western red cedar while throughout the ravine the licensee would plant red alder.

1/ 78 FERC 1 62,171

*logged* Mudd (?)  
ald

Project No. 10703-016 2

The licensee proposes to monitor the success of the revegetation program. Nine transects every 500 feet would be established along the entire length of lower Thompson Creek. The growth of the planted species and the re-colonization of non-planted areas would be monitored each June at intervals of 1,2,3,5,7 and 10 years after revegetation is implemented. Descriptive and quantitative data would be collected along with photographs of the revegetated areas. Aerial photographs would be taken during the 7th year following revegetation. The licensee expects an 80 percent survival of planted species after 1 year, a minimum of 60 percent overall coverage in the ravine after 5 years, and by year 10 a minimum of 80 percent vegetative cover within the ravine. If these levels are not being met, the licensee would consult with the agencies to discuss contingencies that would include additional plantings. The licensee proposes to complete the revegetation by March 15, 2000, and begin the monitoring program.

RESOURCE AGENCY CONSULTATION

The licensee provided the resource agencies and the Tribe with a draft of the Thompson Creek aquatic riparian rehabilitation plan on September 4, 1997. A meeting and site visit was held on September 22, 1997. Comments specific to the Thompson Creek revegetation plan were received from the FWS in a letter dated October 16, 1997. The FWS recommends: the development of a 300-foot buffer along both sides of Thompson Creek and no construction or timber harvest be allowed in this buffer zone; the revegetation of all areas along Thompson Creek not just a 10 to 15 feet wide strip; no planting of the shrub, hardhack; upland terraces be planted with indigenous species including red cedar; by year 10 a minimum of 80 percent woody vegetative cover should be achieved; and a quantification of the level of erosion to be achieved.

With the exception of FWS's recommendation of a 300-foot wide buffer along both sides of Thompson Creek the licensee has incorporated all of FWS's recommendations in the final revegetation plan. The license states that there is no basis for a 300-foot wide buffer, and that its proposed buffer of 100 feet on both sides of Thompson Creek or 25 feet from the top of the ravine is in accordance with Thurston County's buffer requirement. Further, no construction activity or timber harvest would be permitted in this buffer zone thereby retaining this area as a natural area for wildlife.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The licensee's plan to rehabilitate the riparian zone along the lower section of Thompson Creek and to monitor the success of this effort described above satisfies the requirements of Article 410. In regard to how wide the buffer should be along

Thompson Creek--the licensee's 100-foot wide zone or FWS's 300-foot wide zone, would be dependent upon the need for a buffer of a particular width. In addition to the rehabilitation plan discussed herein for the lower Thompson Creek corridor the licensee proposes to eliminate the use of Thompson Creek as an emergency spillway and thereby the high flows that have caused extensive erosion in the lower channel. No other source of disturbance to vegetation has been reported in this section of Thompson Creek. Further, the licensee's plan includes a 10-year monitoring program to evaluate the success of the revegetation effort which should also evaluate the effectiveness of any buffer zone. Based on the nature and extent of the disturbed area and licensee's rehabilitation plan, licensee's proposed 100-foot buffer on both sides of Thompson Creek should be adequate to protect the riparian zone.

After completing construction (December 15, 1999) of the new emergency spillway that would eliminate the use of lower Thompson Creek for this purpose, the licensee proposes to complete the revegetation program by March 15, 2000. The licensee would then monitor the success of the revegetation program each June for up to 10 years after revegetation takes place. The licensee should prepare reports on monitoring the success of the revegetation program that includes dates of monitoring, methods, turbidity and sedimentation measurements in Thompson Creek and the Nisqually River, percent survival of planted vegetation and percent coverage, and the effectiveness of the buffer zone in protecting the stream. The licensee should provide the resource agencies and Tribe with the report and allow 30 days for comments and recommendations. The licensee should file the report that includes any agency and Tribe comments, licensee's response, and any recommendations for changes to the revegetation plan and buffer zone for approval with the Commission. The first report should be filed with the Commission by November 30, 2000.

The licensee's plan to revegetate the riparian zone and adjacent areas along the lower section of Thompson Creek and to monitor the success of this effort fulfills the requirements of Article 410 of the license. Implementation of this plan should contribute to stabilizing the riparian zone along lower Thompson Creek and to a decrease in turbidity and sedimentation in Thompson Creek and the Nisqually River.

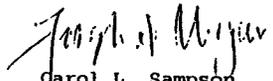
The Director orders:

(A) The licensee's plan, filed December 5, 1997, to rehabilitate the aquatic riparian habitat in the lower section of Thompson Creek for the Yelm Hydroelectric Project, as required by Article 410, and as modified by paragraphs B and C, is approved.

(B) The licensee shall complete the revegetation program as described herein by March 15, 2000.

(C) The licensee shall file with the Commission reports on monitoring the success and effectiveness of the revegetation program and buffer zone during years 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 10 after revegetation is implemented. The reports shall include dates of monitoring, methods, turbidity and sedimentation measurements in Thompson Creek and the Nisqually River, percent survival of planted vegetation and percent coverage, any resource agency and Tribe comments, licensee's response to any comments, and for Commission approval recommendations for changes in the rehabilitation program and buffer zone. The first report shall be filed with the Commission by November 30, 2000.

(D) This order constitutes final agency action. Request for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days from the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 CFR § 385.713.

  
Carol L. Sampson  
Director  
Office of Hydropower Licensing