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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Placer County Water Agency

Project No. 2079-026
California

ORDER AMENDING LICENSE, REVISING ANNUAL CHARGES,
AND APPROVING REVISED EXHIBIT M
AUG 30 1995

On May 3, 1995, and supplemented on June 6, 1995, Placer County Water Agency, licensee for the Middle Fork American River Project, FERC Project No. 2079, filed a revised exhibit M to the Commission for approval. The filing was made in accordance with a March 13, 1995, Order Amending License.¹

Background

There are five developments that make up the Middle Fork American River Project, Ralston, Middle Fork, Oxbow, French Meadows, and Hell Hole. The March 13, 1995 order amended the license² to reflect the installed capacity at the Oxbow Powerhouse. The license was amended to show the Oxbow Powerhouse as "containing one 8,700 hp Kaplan turbine connected to a 6,128 kW generator." The licensee's May 3 and June 6, 1995 filings state that the installed capacity of the turbine is 8,800 hp instead of 8,700 hp. Staff contacted the licensee and the licensee explained that the 8,800 hp turbine had been installed since the Oxbow development went on line in 1966. The capacities did not change at the Ralston, Middle Fork, or French Meadows developments, which went on line in 1966. The Hell Hole development was later added and went on line in 1983.

On March 15, 1995, the Commission issued a Final Rule for Charges and Fees for Hydroelectric Projects.³ The Rulemaking states that "the authorized installed capacity would be expressed in kilowatts, and would be the lesser of the capacity of the ~~generator or the turbine~~ ... the rating on the generator's nameplate at licensing will be deemed to be the capacity of the generator ..." In our review, we found that the installed capacity at the Oxbow Powerhouse is limited by the generator, which has a capacity of 6,128 kW. Therefore, the total installed capacity for the five developments is 211,153 kW and not 210,428 kW.

¹ 70 FERC ¶62,163.
² 29 FPC 460, Order Issuing License (Major), March 13, 1963.
³ 70 FERC ¶61,293, Charges and Fees for Hydroelectric Projects, effective April 21, 1995.

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as stated in the March 13, 1995 order. In accordance with the Rulemaking, the annual administrative charges for the Middle Fork American River Project will be based on 211,153 kW.⁴

The revised exhibit M, filed on June 6, 1995, reflects the installed capacity of 6,128 kW and other mechanical and electrical equipment at the Oxbow Powerhouse.

The Director orders:

(A) The revised exhibit M, filed on June 6, 1995, conforms to the Commission's rules and regulations and is approved and made part of the license. The revised exhibit M supersedes, in part, the current exhibit M.


(B) Ordering paragraph (B) (ii) of the license is revised, in part, as follows:

All project works consisting principally of the following described developments: " ... Oxbow Powerhouse, contains one 8,800 hp turbine connected to a 6,128-kW generator, ... "

(C) Subparagraph (i) of Article 41 of the license, is revised to read as follows:

(i) For the purposes of reimbursing the United States for the Commission's costs, pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, a reasonable amount as determined in accordance with the provisions of the Commission's regulations in effect from time to time. The authorized installed capacity for that purpose is 211,153 kilowatts, effective the date of this order. Under the regulations currently in effect, projects with authorized installed capacity of less than or equal to 1.5 MW will not be assessed an annual charge.

(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 C.F.R. §385.713.


J. Mark Robinson
Director, Division of Project
Compliance and Administration

⁴ The Final Rule also states that the Commission will substitute kilowatts for horsepower in stating a project's authorized installed capacity. This change is to reflect the modern usage in the rating of equipment used in hydropower project. For annual charge purposes, the installed capacity measured in horsepower is converted to kilowatts by multiplying by 3/4. The value is rounded off..