

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - San Francisco Regional Office
901 Market Street, Suite 350, San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 369-3300 Office (415) 369-3322 Facsimile

October 21, 2005

In reply, refer to:
Project No. 2079-CA
NATDAM No. 00480

Stephen J. Jones, Power System Manager
Placer County Water Agency
24625 Harrison St
P.O. Box 667
Foresthill, CA 95631

Re: Minimum Flow Releases on October 17 and October 19, 2004 at Duncan Creek
Diversion Dam

Dear Mr. Jones:

We received your August 2, 2005 letter that included a memorandum on an apparent minimum low flow violation for Duncan Creek Diversion, FERC Project No. 2079. We believe that comparing average flow releases below the dam for October 17 and October 19 with the average flows upstream of the dam is not appropriate. In this case, you have more detailed flow data at 2-hour intervals and the minimum flow releases required in your license apply to measured or instantaneous flows and not to average daily flows.

Based upon the tabular data you provided in your memo, two short-term violations of the minimum (8 cfs or natural flow, whichever is less, during a normal water year) occurred. One was at the 1800 reading on October 17, 2004 and the other at the 1600 reading on October 19, 2004. We note your analysis indicating that lag times caused by the downstream gage being 2050 feet from the upstream gage and the flow attenuation caused by the reservoir were the cause of the short-term incidents.

Deviations in minimum flow requirements are to be sent to the Secretary of the FERC. Please send a letter to the Secretary of the Commission in Washington, DC explaining the subject incidents. The letter should include a description of the deviations, the reasons for them and your plans to prevent future occurrences. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. John Onderdonk at (415) 369-3339. Your continued cooperation on all dam safety issues is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

TAKESHI YAMASHITA

Takeshi Yamashita, P.E.
Regional Engineer