

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Placer County Water Agency)

Project No. 2079-037

ORDER AMENDING LICENSE AND REVISING ANNUAL CHARGES

SEP 13 1999

On August 26, 1999, Placer County Water Agency, licensee for the Middle Fork American River Project, FERC No. 2079, filed a letter with the Commission to resolve a discrepancy in the installed capacity for the Middle Fork development of the project. The project is located on the Middle Fork American and Rubicon Rivers in Placer County, California.

BACKGROUND

There are five developments that make up the Middle Fork American River Project, Ralston, Middle Fork, Oxbow, French Meadows and Hell Hole. During an operation inspection of the project, the Commission's San Francisco Regional Office (SFRO) found the installed capacity of one of the generators of the Middle Fork development to be 61,200 kW. The license authorizes two 82,000 horsepower impulse turbines connected to two 54,900 kW generators for a total installed capacity of 109,800 kW for the Middle Fork development.¹

REVIEW

In its August 26, 1999 letter, the licensee stated that the Unit 1 generator of the Middle Fork development was rewound during the Fall, 1998. The new winding design was same as the original winding design. However, the rating for the Unit 1 generator has increased from 54,900 kW to 61,200 due to the use of better materials. Issuance of this order is necessary to revise the description of the project to reflect correct installed capacity for the Middle Fork development and revise project's annual charges. In accordance with the Commission's policy, the effective date for the revised annual charges will be the date the revised capacity went on-line.² According to the licensee, the increased capacity went on-line on December 9, 1998. There has been no changes either in the hydraulic capacity or the operation of the project as result of the rewind of

¹ 29 FPC 460, Order Issuing License (major), issued March 13, 1963.

² 66 FERC ¶ 61,086 Order on Rehearing, issued January 18, 1994.

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Unit 1 generator. The minor change in the installed capacity will not result in any environmental impacts other those identified during the project review and subsequent amendments to the license.

The Director Orders:

(A) The license for the Middle Fork American River Project is amended as provided by this order effective the first day of the month in which this order is issued.

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

All project works consisting principally of the following described developments: ".....Middle Fork Powerhouse, would contain two 82,000 horsepower impulse turbine, one connected to 61,200 kilowatt generator and the other connected to 54,900 kilowatt generator,....."

(C) Within 60 days of the issuance of this order, the licensee shall file a revised exhibit M to reflect the mechanical features of the Middle Fork American River Project.

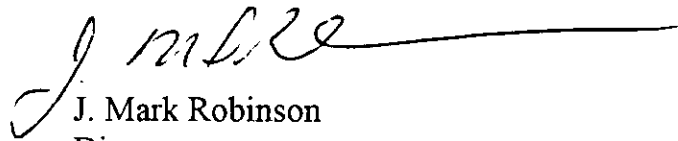
(D) Subparagraph (i) of Article 41 of the license, is revised to read as follows, effective December 9, 1998:

(i) For the purposes of reimbursing the United States for the Commission costs, pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, a reasonable amount as determined in accordance with the provision's of the Commission's regulations in effect from time to time. The authorized installed capacity for that purpose is 217,453 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, 500 kilowatts will not be assessed an annual charge.

(E) Within 60 days of the issuance of this order, the licensee shall affix a new generator nameplate with a rating of 61,200 kW and provide a photograph of the nameplate to the Commission, with a copy to the Commission's San Francisco Regional Office, for verification.

(F) The licensee shall report to the Commission any future proposed changes to the project prior to implementing them.

(G) 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mark Robinson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

J. Mark Robinson
Director

Division of Licensing and Compliance