PCWA-L-216

ORIGINAL

Placer County Water Agency

Power System: 24625 Harrison St. • Mail: P.O. Box 667 • Foresthill, California 95631
(530) 367-2291 (530) 885-6917 FAX (530) 367-4440

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pauline Roccucci • Alex Ferreira
Otis Wollan • Lowell Jarvis
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David A. Breninger, General Manager
Ed Tiedemann, General Counsel

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2005 Aug 11 P 3:37

SION

July 29, 2005

Office of the Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, Northeast
Washington D.C. 20426

RE: Project No. 2079-CA

Dear Secretary:

In accordance with the orders we received on August 1, 1989 from J. Mark Robinson, Director, Division of Project Compliance and Administration, seven copies of this letter are being mailed to you concerning a violation that occurred at Hell Hole Dam on June 27, 2005. Article 37 of the license requires that during most water years 20 cfs be released from May 15 through December 14 and 10 cfs be released from December 15 through May 14. On June 27, 2005, 20 cfs was the required minimum flow release. Releases from the dam are measured at a gaging station named, "Rubicon River Below Hell Hole Dam, Near Meeks Bay, CA,", USGS Gage No. 11428800, which is located 600 feet downstream from Hell Hole Dam.

Due to the fact that Hell Hole Reservoir would begin spilling May 25, 2005, generation at Hell Hole Powerhouse at the base of Hell Hole dam was increased from 400 KW to the generator nameplate value of 725 KW on May 23rd. The stream maintenance flow is normally released through the powerhouse.

On June 27th, due to the fact that Hell Hole Dam had stopped spilling, the order was given to a new, apprentice Hell Hole Station Attendant to lower the generation to what it had been before it was raised on May 23rd. The Station Attendant lowered the generation between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. According to the Ralston Powerhouse log, as entered by our Senior Operator, at 10:31 a.m., a low flow alarm was received at the main powerhouse, Ralston Powerhouse, which is normally staffed during the day, due to the release only being 17.1 cfs which corresponds to an under-release of 2.9 cfs. The Station Attendant was notified to increase the generation to a value that would raise the release as recorded at the gaging station to a value over 20 cfs. According to the Ralston Powerhouse log, at 11:23 a.m., the Station Attendant reported that the generation had been increased to 580 KW, which provided a flow of 22.6 cfs at the gaging station. The reason lowering the generation to the value it was on May 23rd before it was raised to the full nameplate value caused an under-release was because

the amount of side water flowing into the Rubicon River between the powerhouse and the gage as a result of melting snow had significantly decreased between May 23rd and June 27th.

The record of 15 minute gage readings for June 27 is as follows:

TIME	GAGE HEIGHT (ft)	FLOW (cfs)
0000 to 0745	4.20	26.0
0800	4.08	18.3
0815 thru 1100	4.06	17.1
1115	4.07	17.7
1130	4.10	19.5
1145	4.12	20.7
1200 thru 2345	4.14	21.9

As can be seen from the above table, the flow dropped below the required minimum flow release sometime between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. We are currently investigating why the low flow alarm did not come in until about 10:31 a.m. Enclosed is a copy of the strip chart record and a copy of the provisional record of average daily releases for October 1, 2004 through July 6, 2005. The provisional record shows an average release of 23 cfs for June 27th.

The Station Attendant was instructed on the importance of checking the flow at the gage and making certain the generation is adjusted to provide the required minimum flow release, as measured and recorded at the gage, with a reasonable and prudent over-release to provide a margin of safety against a potential under-release.

If you have any questions, please call me at (530) 885-6917, or you may send me an email at sjones@pcwa.net.

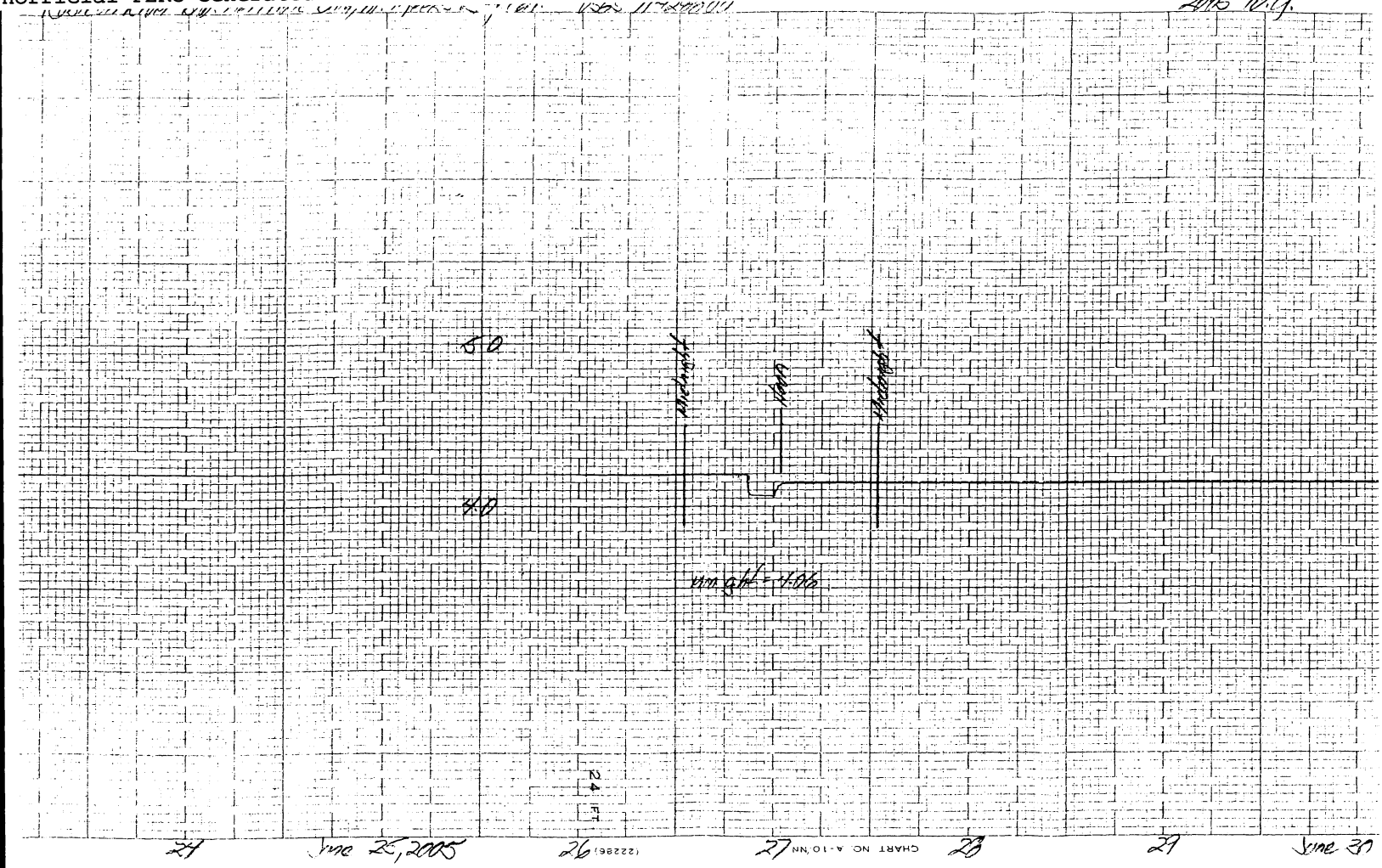
Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Stephen J. Jones

Stephen J. Jones
Power System Manager

2005 W.G.



SURFACE WATER DATA, INC.
R6 RUBICON RIVER BLW [illegible] HOLE DAM, NEAR MEEKS BAY, CA

LOCATION.--Lat 39 03'24", long 120 24'25", in NE 1/4 NE 1/4 sec.21,
T.14 N., R.14 E., Placer County, Hydrologic Unit 18020128, Eldorado NF.
USGS #: 11428800

DAILY DISCHARGE IN CUBIC FEET PER SECOND WATER YEAR OCT 2004 TO SEP 2005

Day	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
1	22	21	21	12	13	13	16	14	31	22		
2	22	21	21	12	13	14	16	14	30	22		
3	21	21	21	12	13	13	16	14	29	22		
4	21	21	21	12	13	13	16	14	29	22		
5	21	21	21	11	13	13	16	16	29	22		
6	21	21	21	12	13	13	15	16	28	22		
7	22	21	21	13	13	13	15	15	28			
8	22	21	24	12	12	13	14	17	29			
9	21	21	23	12	12	13	14	26	32			
10	21	21	22	13	12	13	14	18	30			
11	22	21	22	13	12	14	14	17	29			
12	21	21	21	12	13	14	13	18	28			
13	21	21	21	12	13	14	13	26	28			
14	21	21	21	13	13	14	12	31	27			
15	21	21	15	14	13	14	12	32	27			
16	21	21	12	15	14	14	12	38	27			
17	22	21	12	15	14	14	13	26	28			
18	22	21	11	15	13	13	13	30	27			
19	22	21	11	16	13	16	13	43	27			
20	23	21	11	15	15	17	12	32	27			
21	22	21	11	15	14	17	12	28	27			
22	21	21	12	15	14	24	12	28	26			
23	21	21	11	14	13	18	13	31	26			
24	22	21	11	14	13	16	13	33	26			
25	21	21	11	15	13	16	13	34	26			
26	22	21	11	19	13	16	13	34	26			
27	22	21	11	15	13	19	13	34	23			
28	21	21	11	14	13	22	14	32	22			
29	21	21	11	13	------	18	14	31	22			
30	21	21	12	13	------	17	14	30	22			
31	21	------	12	13	------	16	------	31	------			------
TOTAL	665	630	497	421	366	474	410	803	816	132		
MEAN	21.5	21.0	16.0	13.6	13.1	15.3	13.7	25.9	27.2	22.0		
MAX	23	21	24	19	15	24	16	43	32	22		
MIN	21	21	11	11	12	13	12	14	22	22		
AC-FT	1,320	1,250	986	835	726	940	813	1,590	1,620	262		
										*	*	*

CAL YEAR 2004	TOTAL	6,340	MEAN	17.3	MAX	24	MIN	10	AC-FT	12,580
WTR YEAR 2005	TOTAL*	5,214	MEAN	18.7	MAX	43	MIN	11	AC-FT	10,340

* Incomplete Record