



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - Chicago Regional Office

230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3130

Chicago, Illinois 60604

(312) 596-4430 Office - (312) 596-4460 Facsimile

In reply refer to: P-3142

July 14, 2009

Mr. Sumedh Bahl
City of Ann Arbor
919 Sunset Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

Re: Safety Related Incident, Barton Project (P-3142)

Dear Mr. Bahl:

This office has been informed of another safety related incident at your Barton Project No. 3142. The information indicates that on July 11, 2009 flow on the Huron River below the Barton dam fluctuated several times from practically zero flow to 1,600 cfs over a short period of time. River flow fluctuations of this magnitude endanger downstream recreationists. The information appears to indicate that this incident is a repeat of a March 2009 incident where project operations were interrupted by a loss of power to the project.

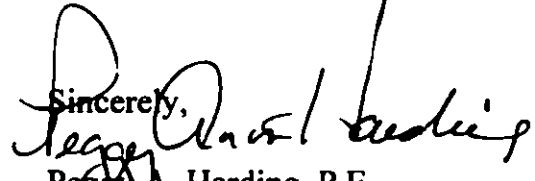
There are both public safety and dam safety implications associated with this incident. Rapid fluctuations in downstream flow present a hazard for downstream recreationists and an inability to operate gates when the units trip could result in the overtopping and failure of the dam.

A similar condition occurred on March 16, 2009, during which power was lost and the gates could not be operated. In our June 24, 2009 letter in response to that event we stated that you should develop and test procedures that will allow for automatic and uninterrupted control of the spillway gates. Your response is due July 31, 2009. As part of your July 31, 2009 submittal, please also include an incident report on this condition affecting the safety of the project. Your report should address the information described in Part 12.10(a)(2)(i through vii) and explain how your newly developed plans will prevent any further instances of gate inoperability due to loss of power.

Please include in the incident report an assessment of any environmental damages that may have resulted from your failure to operate the project as required and copies of any letters you may have received from, or a summary of any discussions you may have

had, with the resource agencies or other parties concerning project operation during the subject incident. Also, include any proposed modifications to your public safety plan to minimize any potential for a future recurrence of this incident if appropriate.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at 312.596.4430 or Ms. Sullivan at 312.596.4458 or at margaret.sullivan@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Peggy A. Harding, P.E.
Regional Engineer