
State Water Resources Control Board

APR 27 2012

Mr. Richard J. Doble
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P. O. Box 770000, Mail Code N11C
San Francisco, CA 94177

Dear Mr. Doble:

REQUEST TO MODIFY THE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR THE SPRING-GAP STANISLAUS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2130

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) hereby modifies Condition #7 of the Water Quality Certification (Certification) issued under State Water Board Order WR 2009-0039 for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E or Licensee) Spring-Gap Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2130, giving PG&E until September 1, 2013, to complete facility modifications undertaken pursuant to Condition #7 of the Certification. PG&E shall continue to make every effort to comply with the conditions of the Certification within the capabilities of the existing facilities. PG&E shall also notify the State Water Board within 30 days of the completion of the facility modification needed to comply with Condition #7 of the Certification.

BACKGROUND

On February 7, 2012, PG&E submitted a request by email for a time extension to make necessary infrastructure changes to comply with Condition #7 of the Certification issued under State Water Board Order WR 2009-0039 for its Project. On April 2, 2012, PG&E notified State Water Board staff by email that additional time is needed to complete the Project modifications required in the Certification. State Water Board Condition #7 states:

Where facility modification is required to implement or measure the specified minimum streamflows, the Licensee shall complete such modifications as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than three years after license issuance. Prior to completion of such required facility modifications, the Licensee shall make a good faith effort to achieve the specified minimum streamflows within the capabilities of the existing facilities.

During the process of automating the low-level outlet of the Relief Dam, PG&E determined that the existing guard valves were unsafe and in need of replacement before the automation equipment could be installed. The construction season at the 7,000 foot elevation of the Relief

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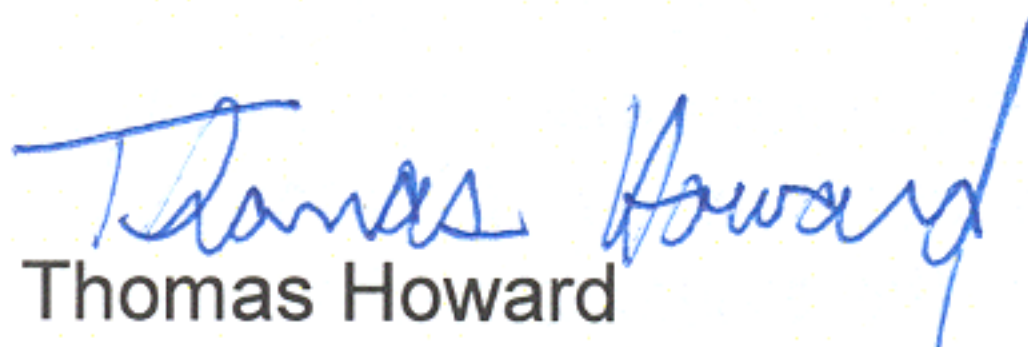
Dam was too short to conduct the repairs and installations needed to complete the automation process by the deadline stated in Condition #7 (i.e., April 24, 2012). PG&E also notes that modifications to Gaging Weir S-83 below the Philadelphia Diversion are needed to comply with ramping rate requirements in the Certification.

The State Water Board provided public notice of PG&E's request for a time extension on April 3, 2012, by posting information describing the request on the Division of Water Right's website and providing notification to interested parties. No written comments were received.

Three years after license issuance falls on April 24, 2012. PG&E requested a time extension until September 1, 2013 for Condition #7 to complete the upgrades on the Relief Dam and modifications on Gaging Weir S-83. That request is granted and Condition #7 is modified to reflect September 1, 2013, as the deadline for completion of those required facility modifications.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Jeff Parks at (916) 341-5319 or by email at jparks@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn: Jeff Parks, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Sincerely,


Thomas Howard
Executive Director

cc: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20426

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Quality Control Board
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