



Province of British Columbia  
*Water Act*

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**ORDER  
WATER ACT  
SECTION 39**

File Nos.: 76975-35/STAVE, 0045208, 0087939, 0241216, 0042437, 0265631,  
2001975, 0036376, 0085236, 2001984

WHEREAS, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) is the holder of Conditional Water Licence 117537 which authorizes the storage of water in Stave Lake Reservoir; Conditional Water Licences 117530, 117531, and 117532 which authorize the diversion and use of water for power purpose at the Stave Falls generating station; Conditional Water Licence 117536 which authorizes the storage of water in Hayward Lake Reservoir; and Conditional Water Licences 117535 and 117533 which authorize the diversion and use of water for power purpose at the Ruskin generating station;

WHEREAS, the works authorized by Conditional Water Licence 117530, 117531, 117532, and 117533, 117535, 117536, and 117537 (the Works) include:

- The Stave Falls Generating Station consisting of, Stave Falls and Blind Slough dams, approach channel, intakes, two tunnels, Stave Falls Powerhouse, tailrace channel, and tailrace protection berm; and
- The Ruskin Generating Station consisting of, a dam, intakes, tunnels and Ruskin Powerhouse;

WHEREAS, the operation of the Works can also benefit:

1. The viability of the Stave River system for fish, fish habitat and the ecosystem;
2. Recreational opportunities; and
3. Protection and management of archaeological resources;

WHEREAS, the licensee has engaged in a consultative process to determine values for system parameters and to develop operating procedures that may provide benefits as described above;

WHEREAS, the licensee has submitted a Water Use Plan, titled the Stave River Water Use Plan (Stave Falls and Ruskin Projects), as per condition 14 of the July 10, 1995 disposition order (#20127) issued under the Utilities Commission Act, S.B.C, c.60;

WHEREAS, the Stave River Water Use Plan (Stave Falls and Ruskin Projects) includes values for parameters and procedures for the operation of the dams, reservoirs, and generation stations, which are intended to provide specific benefits for:

1. The viability of the Stave River system for fish, fish habitat and the ecosystem;
2. Recreational opportunities;
3. Protection and management of archaeological sites; and
4. Power generation;

WHEREAS, I have accepted the Stave River Water Use Plan (Stave Falls and Ruskin Projects) dated December 15, 2003;

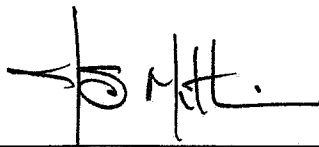
WHEREAS, the licensee has proposed a monitoring program to determine if operating the works in accordance with the operating procedures in the Stave River Water Use Plan (Stave Falls and Ruskin Projects) will provide the above listed expected benefits; and

WHEREAS, clause i) of Conditional Water Licences 117530, 117531, 117532, 117533, 117535, 117536, and 117537 require the licensee to operate the Works in accordance with an order of the Comptroller that may set values for operational parameters and procedures;

I HEREBY ORDER THAT:

1. The works authorized under Conditional Water Licences 117530, 117531, 117532, 117533, 117535, 117536, and 117537 must be operated in accordance with Schedule A, the operating parameters.
2. The licensee must undertake a monitoring program as set out in Schedule B.
3. The licensee may operate the works in an alternate manner in the event of an emergency, a dam safety requirement or an extreme hydrological event.
4. All emergency operations or other deviations from Schedule A set out in 1 above be reported to the Comptroller of Water Rights in a timely manner.

Dated at Victoria BC this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004



James S. Mattison, P. Eng.  
Comptroller of Water Rights

## SCHEDULE A OPERATING PARAMETERS

### OPERATING CONDITIONS FOR THE STAVE RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

1. WITH RESPECT TO THE STAVE RIVER DOWNSTREAM FROM THE RUSKIN GENERATING STATION, BC HYDRO MUST:
  - 1.1. Discharge sufficient water from the Ruskin Generating Station to maintain a minimum tailwater elevation of:
    - 1.1.1. 1.8 metres<sup>1</sup> for the period of October 15 to November 30; and
    - 1.1.2. 1.7 metres at all other times.
  - 1.2. For the period of October 15 to November 30, when the discharge is less than 100 cubic metres per second, change the rate of discharge through the Ruskin Powerhouse only once over a seven-day period (weekly block loading). After each change the discharge must be greater than that of the previous seven-day period. Changes to discharge are to be conducted within a period of four hours or less.
    - 1.2.1. When the Ruskin Powerhouse discharge in the October 15 to November 30 period exceeds 100 cubic metres per second changing the rate of discharge is permitted on the condition that a minimum discharge of 100 cubic metres per second is maintained and the duration of each peaking event is less than 12 hours.
  - 1.3. For the period of February 15 to May 15, when the discharge is less than 100 cubic metres per second, change the rate of discharge through the Ruskin Powerhouse only once over a twenty-four hour period (daily block loading). Changes to discharge are to be conducted within a period of four hours or less.
    - 1.3.1. When the Ruskin plant discharge in the February 15 to May 15 period exceeds 100 cubic metres per second changing the rate of discharge is permitted on the condition that a minimum discharge of 100 cubic metres per second is maintained.
  - 1.4. In the event of a forced outage, re-establish the pre-outage flow as soon as possible, by spilling water if necessary, to maintain the block load flow or 100 cubic metres per second, whichever is lower.
  - 1.5. During the time periods specified in 1.2 and 1.3 above, decrease the rate of discharge at a rate not to exceed:
    - 1.5.1. 35 cubic metres per second per ten minutes when discharge is 100 cubic metres per second or less; and
    - 1.5.2. 113 cubic metres per second per thirty minutes when discharge exceeds 100 cubic metres per second.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE ELEVATION OF HAYWARD LAKE RESERVOIR, OTHER THAN FOR FACILITY MAINTENANCE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACCESS, FOR WHICH A MINIMUM ELEVATION OF 33 METRES APPLIES, BC HYDRO MUST:
  - 2.1. For the periods of February 15 to May 15 and October 15 to November 30 operate the works such that the minimum operating elevation is 39.5 metres.
  - 2.2. For the periods of May 16 to October 14 and December 1 to February 14 operate the works such that the minimum operating elevation is 41.08 metres.
  - 2.3. Provide priority to the flow conditions downstream from Ruskin in accordance with 1 above. In the event that insufficient water is available from Stave Lake Reservoir to maintain those flow conditions, Hayward Lake Reservoir may be operated to a minimum of 33 metres to support the provision of those flow conditions.
  
3. WITH RESPECT TO THE ELEVATION OF STAVE LAKE RESERVOIR, BC HYDRO MUST:
  - 3.1. For the period of May 15 to September 7 operate the Stave Falls Generating Station to achieve water levels in Stave Lake Reservoir of 76 metres or higher, and to be within an elevation band of 80 to 81.5 metres for 53 days or more.
  - 3.2. In the case of a conflict between the target elevations, described in 3.1 above, and the flow constraints downstream of the Ruskin generating station described in 1 above, give higher precedence to the flow constraints downstream from Ruskin.
  - 3.3. For purposes of the Stave River Archaeology Management Plan (June, 2002) developed by BC Hydro with the Kwantlen First Nation, not draft the reservoir below the minimum operating elevation stated in clause e) of Conditional Water Licence 117536 (73.0 metres) prior to receiving leave in writing from the Comptroller of Water Rights.
  
4. WITH RESPECT TO MAINTENANCE AND PROVISION OF RECORDS BC HYDRO MUST:
  - 4.1. Keep records of :
    - a) daily elevations for Stave Lake Reservoir, Hayward Lake Reservoir and the Ruskin tailwater.
    - b) plant loading at the Ruskin Generating Station to confirm block loading.
  - 4.2. Maintain the records kept in support of 4.1 a) and b) above for a minimum period of ten years.
  - 4.3. Provide a written report to the Comptroller of Water Rights on February 1 of each year summarizing the records from the previous calendar year.
  - 4.4. Provide on request of the Comptroller of Water Rights records collected under 4.1 a) and b).

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Foot note

1. All elevations are referenced to Geodetic Survey of Canada datum

## SCHEDULE B

### EFFECTIVENESS AND VALIDATION MONITORING

1. BC Hydro shall in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the provincial fisheries agencies, Kwantlen First Nation and the District of Mission develop the terms of reference with a proposed schedule for a monitoring program with the following objectives:
  - 1.1. Determine the effectiveness of operating the works in accordance with Schedule A in attaining the expected benefits in the following areas:
    - 1.1.1. Stave and Hayward Reservoirs, with respect to:
      - Total Carbon production, macrophyte community and fish biomass in Stave Lake Reservoir; and
      - Periphyton and macrophyte biomass and production in Hayward Lake Reservoir.
    - 1.1.2. Downstream from Ruskin, with respect to:
      - High elevation spawning being deterred by peaking when the fall block load is equal to or greater than 100 cubic metres per second;
      - Adult stranding;
      - Fry stranding; and
      - High velocity deterring mid channel spawning.
    - 1.1.3. Hayward Lake Reservoir Water Quality, with respect to:
      - Changes to frequency or magnitude of turbidity events as a result of change in normal operating elevation of Hayward Lake Reservoir.
  - 1.2. Evaluate nutrient inflow to Stave Lake Reservoir to provide a better understanding of factors affecting whole lake productivity and relationship of any observed changes in 1.1.1 above with operational parameters set out in Schedule A.
2. On approval in writing by the Comptroller of Water Rights of the terms of reference for the monitoring program noted above, BC Hydro shall implement the monitoring program and submit information to the Comptroller in accordance with the terms of reference.

3. BC Hydro will prepare a report summarizing the monitoring data collected providing the following information:
  - 3.1. An assessment of how effectively operation of the works as specified in Schedule A has provided the anticipated benefits to the promotion of health and productivity of the Stave River system for fish, fish habitat and the ecosystem.
  - 3.2. A discussion of reservoir productivity addressing which measured changes (if any) in Stave Lake Reservoir noted in 3.1 may be attributed to regulation of the works as specified in Schedule A versus natural variation or other management activities. Additionally, discuss the implications for water management decisions in the future on Stave Lake and other reservoirs.
  - 3.3. A summary of any deviations from the ordered parameters and responses to those deviations.
  
4. Based on the results of studies conducted in accordance with the Stave River Archaeological Management Plan prepare a report which discusses how operations may be affecting archaeological resources within Stave Lake Reservoir, Hayward Lake Reservoir, and the Stave River downstream from the Ruskin Dam and whether the system parameters and operational procedures may be amended to better manage those archaeological resources.
  
5. The report prepared in 3 and 4 above will also provide a recommendation regarding the continued application, or amendment, of the values set for system parameters and operational procedures as set out in Schedule A.