



Province of British Columbia

Water Act

Order
Water Act
Section 88

File No. 76975-35/Spillimacheen

WHEREAS British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) is the operator of the Spillimacheen hydroelectric project, in respect of which it holds Final Water Licences 120903 and 120904;

WHEREAS the licensee has submitted the Spillimacheen Project Water Use Plan, which recommends changes to the operations of the Spillimacheen Project and which are intended to benefit fisheries and wildlife;

WHEREAS BC Hydro has engaged in public consultation to determine values for system parameters and to develop operating procedures which may provide benefits as described below;

WHEREAS I have accepted the Spillimacheen Project Water Use Plan dated July 15, 2005; and

WHEREAS the Spillimacheen Project Water Use Plan proposes a monitoring programme to determine whether operating the facility in accordance with the operating parameters and procedures in the Spillimacheen Project Water Use Plan will provide the expected benefits.

I HEREBY ORDER THAT:

1. The licensee shall release a minimum flow of 0.85 cubic metres per second (m^3/s) from Spillimacheen Dam (PD 24224) into the Spillimacheen River year round when inflows exceed 0.85 m^3/s . When inflows are less than 0.85 m^3/s the licensee shall release the available inflow.
2. The licensee shall, for planned outages, ramp down the generation units at a maximum rate of 4.25 m^3/s per hour when total reduction in discharges will reduce river flow immediately downstream of the generating station by more than 20%.
3. The licensee shall submit a monitoring plan within four months of the date of this order for acceptance by the Comptroller, outlining details of the following monitoring programmes:
 - a. Assess various rampdown rates (initially a 2-hour rate and up to a 5-hour rate) over a five-year period to determine the lowest threshold rate at which river stage change impacts on fish can be effectively mitigated. As part of this study, review

- efficacy of reducing headpond operating range to reduce spill discharge lag time and, consequently, stage change impacts on fish.
- b. Conduct three field surveys over a five-year period to determine whether the release of 0.85 m³/s is adequate to prevent total freeze-up of pool habitat and maintain habitat connectivity within the canyon channel during sustained periods of cold weather.
 - c. Assess the recruitment of gravel through the undersluice to the lower reaches of the river over a period of five years.
4. The licensee shall implement monitoring in accordance with the monitoring plan accepted by the Comptroller of Water Rights and shall report monitoring results to the Comptroller annually until the conclusion of the five-year monitoring term.
 5. With respect to the maintenance and provision of records the licensee must:
 - a. Keep records of
 - i. Flow release from Spillimacheen Dam into Spillimacheen River
 - ii. Flow release from Spillimacheen Powerhouse into Spillimacheen River
 - b. Provide a written report to the Comptroller of Water Rights on or before February 1 of each year summarizing the records from the previous calendar year; and
 - c. Provide on request of the Comptroller of Water Rights records collected under 5.a.
 6. The licensee may operate the works in an alternate manner in the event of an emergency, dam safety requirement, or an extreme hydrological event.
 7. All emergency operations or other deviations from operations ordered above shall be reported to the Comptroller of Water Rights in a timely manner.

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 21st day of July, 2005.



Pieter J. Bekker
Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights