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December 16th, 2011

File: N1L4-0150

Emanuel DaRosa
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer
Northwest Territories Power Corporation
Box 2250
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

Dear Mr. DaRosa,

Re: Late Submission of the Dam Safety Review

The Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) must conduct a Dam Safety Review of all Power Generation Facilities every five years, as required by Part C, Item 16 of Water Licence N1L4-0150. The last NTPC Dam Safety Review was conducted in 2006. On September 9, 2011, NTPC informed Board staff that an engineering firm conducted a dam safety inspection for NTPC on July 18th to 20th, 2011. The water licence states the following:

The engineer's report shall be submitted to the Board no later than sixty (60) days after the inspection, and include a covering letter from the Licensee outlining an implementation plan to respond to the engineer's recommendations. The Licensee shall incorporate the report recommendations in the appropriate and revised Emergency Preparedness Plan, Water Management and Reservoir Operation Plan, and the respective Six Month Reservoir Operation Plans. The Licensee shall provide documentation and rationale of any decisions that deviate from the engineer's Dam Safety Review recommendations.

The engineer's report and covering letter with implementation plan were therefore due on September 20th, 2011 (sixty days after the inspection). Board staff have contacted NTPC staff a number of times (see Attachments) since this deadline to urge the Corporation to submit the Dam Safety Review report and covering letter. The required submissions are now almost three months late.

This letter is to notify NTPC that the Corporation is out of compliance with Water Licence N1L4-0150 and that the engineer's report and covering letter (including implementation plan) must be submitted immediately.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patty Ewaschuk at pewaschuk@wlwb.ca or Brett Wheler at brett@wlwb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V Camsell-Blondin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Violet Camsell-Blondin
Chair, WLWB

Attachments:

- Email Correspondence between Board staff and NTPC

Cc:

- Brendan Bell, Chairman NTPC
- Ken Dies, Manager Systems Control and Hydro Planning
- Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister Responsible for NTPC
- Clint Ambrose, Acting AANDC South Mackenzie District Manager

To: brett@wlwb.ca
Subject: RE: [Fwd: Snare DSR]

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Snare DSR
From: "Ken Dies" <KDies@ntpc.com>
Date: Mon, November 14, 2011 9:35 am
To: "'Brett Wheler'" <brett@wlwb.ca>

Brett,

I tried to send you the draft version of the Snare DSR but it was too large. NTPC is going over the draft and will have the actual Report ready by the end of the month. I will probably have to send it in the mail as it will be too large to email.

Ken Dies

System Control, Manager
Northwest Territories Power Corporation
P.O. Box 2250
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7
Bus: (867) 669-3327
Fax: (867) 669-3316
Cell: (867) 445-6515

[cid:image003.png@01CCA2B0.9E8EBC40]

E-mail: kdies@ntpc.com
Website: www.ntpc.com

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please call us immediately upon receipt and return the document(s) by mail to the address above. Thank you for your cooperation.

From: brett@wlwb.ca
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2011 8:10 PM
To: KDies@ntpc.com
Cc: pewaschuk@wlwb.ca
Subject: snare dam safety review

Hi Ken,

The email you forwarded approximately 2 weeks ago suggested that the DSR would be submitted to NTPC early this week.

Should the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board expect a copy of the report to be forwarded to our office (and electronically to myself and Patty Ewaschuk) this week? Please provide an update, particularly if further delays are anticipated.

Thanks,

Brett Wheler

Regulatory Specialist
Wekeezhii Land and Water Board

From: Brett Wheler [brett@wlwb.ca]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 5:18 PM
To: 'Ken Dies'
Cc: pewaschuk@wlwb.ca
Subject: RE: Snare DSR

Thanks for the update Ken,

Please keep us informed of the timeline for submission.

Also, a reminder that the Dam Safety Review requirements listed under Part C Item 16 of the Water Licence include a covering letter from the Licensee outlining an implementation plan to respond to the engineer's recommendations.

Regards,
Brett

Brett Wheler, M.Sc.
Regulatory Specialist
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
#1-4905 48th St. | Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S3
ph 867.765.4590 | fax 867.765.4593
brett@wlwb.ca | www.wlwb.ca

From: Ken Dies [mailto:KDies@ntpc.com]
Sent: October-28-11 1:12 PM
To: 'Brett Wheler'
Subject: FW: Snare DSR

FYI, the delivery date of the report has been delayed.

Ken

From: Perry Mitchelmore [mailto:Perry.Mitchelmore@mecoengineers.com]
Sent: October 28, 2011 12:34 PM
To: Greg Haist
Cc: Bradley Harrison; Ken Dies; Daniel Roberts; Todd Pittman
Subject: RE: Snare DSR

Hi Greg,

I appreciate your patience. Unfortunately, I have to go to the well once again, and in the process admit that I have taken on more than I could chew in October. Extracurricular duties as pre-president of Engineers Nova Scotia took me to Ottawa for a week in early October and then I was obligated to attend the CDA conference in mid-October. Combine that with commitments to the business and other projects, and I just got a little overloaded. In between, I have been committing two days a week to Snare, but was having difficulty getting my head wrapped around all aspects of the work.

The good news is I did commit this week to the project and have made some great progress. As a result, I had staff redo some of the analysis and re-check some of the initial conclusions and feel I have positioned myself on the right side of the curve for completing the work. I have a few questions of clarification related to some of the dams and the dam safety program developed recently for Brad next week. I also would like to talk with Lloyd Courage at some point, as he seems to have an intimate knowledge of the system.

So I expect to wrap up the DSR report next week and then have Phil Helwig review the report. I expect to issue the report early the following week. Once again, I apologize for the delay, but I think it is prudent to issue a quality report a little late than an inferior report on time. Please let me know your thoughts.

I hope things are well up north. I was hoping to get to the NAPEG AGM at the end of November, but that is seeming less likely. However, you never know...that GNWT Project Management Conference looks interesting. The timing might be good to make a presentation on the findings in the current DSR? Take care.

Perry Mitchelmore, P.Eng., PMP

Phone: (902) 444-3131 | Fax: (902) 404-7777

perry.mitchelmore@MECOengineers.com
www.MECOengineers.com

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From: Greg Haist [mailto:ghaist@ntpc.com]
Sent: October-20-11 9:30 AM
To: Perry Mitchelmore
Cc: Bradley Harrison; Ken Dies; Daniel Roberts
Subject: RE: Snare DSR

Hi Perry:

Thanks for the update. The Water Board was asking when they could see something; so by copy of this email, Ken Dies can let them know that we will receive the draft report about the end of October.

Greg

Gregory G. Haist, P.Eng.
Manager, Civil
Engineering Department
Northwest Territories Power Corporation
4 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT, Canada, X0E1G2
Phone: (867) 874-5267 / Fax: (867) 874-5286
Email: ghaist@ntpc.com

From: Perry Mitchelmore [mailto:Perry.Mitchelmore@mecoengineers.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 4:48 AM
To: Greg Haist
Cc: Bradley Harrison

Subject: RE: Snare DSR

Greg,

Thanks for your patience. I am just returning from the CDA Conference and am booked in the field for today.

I had a good conversation with Brad last week and during the conference. I have a first draft ready, which includes the OM&S sent yesterday. I suggest you wait on an y review of the OM&S until after the full draft is sent.

Outstanding tasks are a thorough review of the content to ensure consistencies and preparing an executive summary. I talked with Brad and told him I would prefer doing the review and checks prior to submitting a draft for NTPC to review, and we sort of informally agreed that MecO should have the draft report ready for later next week for when he returns to work.

Let me know if this later submission date is problematic for NTPC. As always, I hope things are well.

Perry Mitchelmore, P.Eng.

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From: Greg Haist [mailto:ghaist@ntpc.com]

Sent: October-19-11 1:49 PM

To: Perry Mitchelmore

Cc: Bradley Harrison

Subject: FW: Snare DSR

Hi Perry:

Please advise when we may expect the DSR draft report.

Thanks, Greg

Gregory G. Haist, P.Eng.

Manager, Civil

Engineering Department

Northwest Territories Power Corporation

4 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT, Canada, X0E1G2

Phone: (867) 874-5267 / Fax: (867) 874-5286

Email: ghaist@ntpc.com

From: Greg Haist
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2011 1:37 PM
To: 'Perry Mitchelmore'
Cc: Bradley Harrison
Subject: RE: Snare DSR
Hi Perry:

We can wait until mid October 2011 for the DRAFT report. I look forward to your questions and discussion. Brad will be back next week but out at Snare for the week; the following week Brad is on holidays. So maybe send me your emails and copy Brad (just as you have done this time).

Greg

Gregory G. Haist, P.Eng.
Manager, Civil
Engineering Department
Northwest Territories Power Corporation
4 Capital Drive, Hay River, NT, Canada, X0E1G2
Phone: (867) 874-5267 / Fax: (867) 874-5286
Email: ghaist@ntpc.com

From: Perry Mitchelmore [mailto:Perry.Mitchelmore@mecoengineers.com]
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2011 12:08 PM
To: Greg Haist
Cc: Bradley Harrison
Subject: Snare DSR
Greg,

Just left you a phone message and forgot to leave my telephone number...see number below.

I am seeking a couple of extra weeks to submission of a draft report for the Snare DSR. I ahve had quite a few things dumped on my plate in the past couple of weeks and the next two weeks are filled with out of Halifax events. The draft is looking good and my hope is to have a rough draft completed mid next week. Then I want to conduct more research and discuss some of the findings with yourselves, Lloyd Courage and in house prior to submitting a draft.

I will need a couple fo weeks. Will that be a problem?

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From: Brett Wheler [brett@wlwb.ca]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 3:10 PM
To: 'Ken Dies'
Cc: pewaschuk@wlwb.ca; 'Scott Stewart'
Subject: RE: Snare Hydro Dam Safety Review

OK, thanks for the updated Ken. We anticipate receiving the Report shortly thereafter.

As I'm sure you are aware, Part C Item 16 of Licence NIL4-0150 outlines the requirements for the Dam Safety Reviews.

Please keep us up to date regarding the status of the report over the next few weeks.

Thanks,

Brett

Brett Wheler, M.Sc.
Regulatory Specialist
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
#1-4905 48th St. | Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S3
ph 867.765.4590 | fax 867.765.4593
brett@wlwb.ca | www.wlwb.ca

From: Ken Dies [mailto:KDies@ntpc.com]
Sent: October-20-11 7:49 AM
To: 'Brett Wheler'
Subject: RE: Snare Hydro Dam Safety Review

Brett

I have been told that MECO Engineering will have the DSR Report to us by the end of October.

Ken

From: Brett Wheler [mailto:brett@wlwb.ca]
Sent: October 18, 2011 12:58 PM
To: Ken Dies
Subject: RE: Snare Hydro Dam Safety Review

Hi Ken

Please provide an update on the status of the Dam Safety Review.

Thanks,

Brett Wheler, M.Sc.
Regulatory Specialist
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
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From: Brett Wheler [mailto:brett@wlwb.ca]
Sent: September-09-11 10:02 AM
To: 'Ken Dies'
Cc: 'Michael Martin'
Subject: RE: Snare Hydro Annual Report

Thanks for the explanation Ken. Whenever possible, a basic explanation of water levels that are above the daily mean regulated level should be included in the SNP reports (and attached to the Annual Report).

I look forward to receiving the Dam Safety Review.

Thanks,
Brett

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brett@wlwb.ca | www.wlwb.ca

From: Ken Dies [mailto:KDies@ntpc.com]
Sent: September-09-11 9:07 AM
To: 'Brett Wheler'
Subject: RE: Snare Hydro Annual Report

Hi Brett,
I was on annual leave when you called and just got back.
Sorry there was no explanation for the Snare Rapids forebay being at 222.35 on November 21 and 222.33 on December 14.
Inflows from November to January are normally 43 m³/s for this time in 2010 / 11 the inflows were 61.32 m³/s. NTPC started spilling at the Snare Rapids spillway on November 8 to keep the forebay from getting to high, however inflow were a little higher than forecast and on November 17 the forebay reached 222.32 and a maximum on November 21 of 222.35, the forebay was back at 222.30 on December 3, but again reached 222.33 on December 14 and was back under 222.3 on December 22. NTPC did not exceed the high flow limit of 222.5.

The inflows this year are not as high as forecast and it looks like we will not have to spill, unless we get a lot of rain. This will be reflected in the December 2011 Water Management Plan.

The Dam Safety Review has been completed, the site inspection was done July 18 to 20 and NTPC is expecting the Draft Report next week.

If you have any questions I am back in the office – 669-3327, I may be called away today if flight can be arranged. I will be in all next week.

Ken

From: Brett Wheler [mailto:brett@wlwb.ca]
Sent: September 2, 2011 10:46 AM
To: Ken Dies
Subject: Snare Hydro Annual Report

Hello Ken,

Further to my phone message left for you earlier this week, I would like to discuss a few matters related to the NWT/Dogrib Power Corporation's Snare Hydro Water Licences (N1L4-0150/MV2003L4-0014).

The 2010 Annual Report (submitted to the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board on March 4, 2011) notes numerous exceedences of the licenced limits for the daily regulated mean water levels. No explanation is provided (e.g. Were these periods of higher than normal flow? What were the conditions on site that led to these exceedences? Were these exceedences unavoidable, why? Etc). An explanation should be provided.

The June 2011 Water Management Plan noted that the Snare Rapids spillway will need to be used in August to keep the reservoir under 222.3 m (licence limit). Did this happen as planned?

A dam safety review was due to be completed in 2011. Please provide an update on the status of this review.

Feel free to give me a call any time.

Thanks,
Brett

Brett Wheler, M.Sc.
Regulatory Specialist
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