



Pacific Power |
Rocky Mountain Power

825 NE Multnomah
Portland, OR 97232

Electronically filed October 14, 2019

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Bigfork Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2652
2019 Whitewater Releases, Revised cover letter – removed 2018 reference**

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Bigfork Hydroelectric Project (Bigfork project) is a 4.15-mega-watt hydroelectric facility located on the Swan River in Flathead County, Montana. PacifiCorp received a new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) operating license for the project on July 25, 2003. License article 403 required, in part, that PacifiCorp file a flow monitoring plan (Plan). The Plan requires measures to monitor reservoir elevations and flows in order to document compliance with the run-of-river mode of operation required by article 401, the minimum flow required by article 402, whitewater flows, and for other flow monitoring purposes. The Plan, submitted to FERC in January 2004, is the result of consultation between PacifiCorp and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Geological Survey (USGS), and American Whitewater Association (AWA).

On February 4, 2009, the FERC issued an order approving the whitewater flow release schedule proposed by PacifiCorp in a report filed with the FERC on January 23, 2007. Whitewater releases are provided every Wednesday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the months of July and August, provided that flows, as measured at the Swan River U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage, are 800 cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater at 8:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled release.

Ordering paragraph (B) directs PacifiCorp to file a report with the FERC, prior to December 31 each year, which documents the days when whitewater flows were released, the flow amount provided on each release day to enhance whitewater boating, the Swan River USGS gage readings that were taken at 8:00 a.m. on each scheduled flow release day, and how notification of whitewater flow release cancellation was provided to whitewater boaters on scheduled days when flow, at 8:00 a.m., was less than 800 cfs.

On September 6, 2019 PacifiCorp provided a copy of the whitewater flow releases to the stakeholders for their 30-day review and comment period (**Attachment A**). Comments received from the stakeholders is provided in **Attachment B**.

The security classification of each enclosed document is identified in the Enclosure Table.
If identified as *Privileged (CUI//PRIV)*, *Protected*, or *Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CUI//CEII)*,
DO NOT RELEASE.

Table 1 shows that the required whitewater releases were made in 2019 according to the Commission’s order.

Table 1. Swan River Flow and Dates of 2019 Whitewater Flow Releases. Flow values are in cfs.

Swan River White Water Release 2019

Date	Release Y or N	USGS Flow @ 08:00	Wicket gate position @ 16:00		Water used for generation @16:00	Water in bypass reach @16:00	Shutdown Time	Restart Time
			G1	G2				
July 3	Y	1320	G1	0	0	>1300	12:00	21:00
			G2	0				
			G3	0				
July 10	Y	1170	G1	0	0	>1170	12:00	21:00
			G2	0				
			G3	0				
July 17	Y	964	G1	0	0	>900	12:00	21:00
			G2	0				
			G3	0				
July 24	N	792	G1	0				
			G2	0				
			G3	0				
July 31	N	629	G1	0				
			G2	0				
			G3	0				
Aug. 7	N	566	G1	0				
			G2	0				
			G3	0				
Aug. 14	N	621	G1	0				
			G2	0				
			G3	0				
Aug. 21	N	558	G1	0				
			G2	0				
			G3	0				
Aug. 28	N	470	G1	0				
			G2	0				
			G3	0				

Each year the boating community is advised to visit the USGS Swan River Gage website (http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=12370000) on scheduled release days to verify whether flows are 800 cfs or greater at 8:00 a.m. A flow less than 800 cfs indicates a release cancellation. A notice containing the gage website information runs weekly in the local newspaper during the whitewater release season.

PacifiCorp intends to continue with this obligation as a mandatory condition of the Bigfork FERC license and implement accordingly in 2020.

If you need further information, please contact Jessica Kimmick at (503) 813-6945.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Sturtevant
Vice President, Renewable Resources

MAS:JK:km

Encl:	Letter – Public
	Attachment A: Notice of 30-day review to Agencies – Public
	Attachment B: Agency Comment(s) - Public

eFile:	Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Via eLibrary at www.ferc.gov	eMail:	Kevin Aceituno, USFWS
eMail:	Ben Conard, USFWS	eMail:	Aroscott Whiteman, USGS
eMail:	Mr. Leo Rosenthal, MFWP	eMail:	Thomas O’Keefe, American Whitewater

Attachment A

McCune, Kimberly

From: McCune, Kimberly
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 8:27 AM
To: Ben Conard; Leo Rosenthal; Norm Midtlyng; Thomas O'Keefe; 'Aceituno, Kevin'
Cc: Kimmick, Jessica
Subject: RE: RESPONSE REQUESTED: Bigfork 2019 Whitewater Releases; 30-day review period
Attachments: 09062019 BF Whitewater Release 30 day review.pdf

Good morning.

Attached is a copy of the 2019 whitewater release report for your review and comment. A hard copy will follow today via U.S. Mail.

Please submit any comments to Jessica Kimmick (Jessica.Kimmick@pacificorp.com) by **close of business Monday, October 7, 2019.**

Thank you for your attention to this report.

Kimberly McCune
Sr. Business Administrator
PacifiCorp – Hydro Resources
825 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1800
Portland, OR 97232
Ph: (503) 813-6078

September 6, 2019

Mr. Norm Midtlyng
US Geological Survey
3162 Bozeman Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Mr. Leo Rosenthal
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
490 N. Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Mr. Ben Conard
US Fish and Wildlife Service
780 Creston Hatchery Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Mr. Thomas O'Keefe
American Whitewater
3537 NE 87th St.
Seattle, WA 98115

Mr. Kevin Aceituno
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Creston Fish and Wildlife Center
780 Creston Hatchery Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

**Subject: Bigfork Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2652
2019 Whitewater Releases**

Dear Gentlemen:

The Bigfork Hydroelectric Project (Bigfork project) is a 4.15-mega-watt hydroelectric facility located on the Swan River in Flathead County, Montana. The current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) operating license for the project was issued to PacifiCorp July 25, 2003. License article 403 required, in part, that PacifiCorp file a flow monitoring plan. The plan requires measures to monitor reservoir elevations and flows in order to document compliance with the run-of-river mode of operation required by article 401, the minimum flow required by article 402, whitewater flows, and for other flow monitoring purposes. The plan, submitted to the FERC in January 2004, is the result of consultation between PacifiCorp and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Geological Survey (USGS), and American Whitewater Association (AWA).

On February 4, 2009, the FERC issued an order approving the whitewater flow release schedule proposed by PacifiCorp in a report filed with the FERC on January 23, 2007. Whitewater releases¹ are provided every Wednesday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the months of July and August, provided that flows, as measured at the Swan River U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage, are 800 cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater at 8:00 a.m. on the day of the scheduled release.

Ordering paragraph (B) directs PacifiCorp to file a report with the FERC, prior to December 31 each year, which documents the days when whitewater flows were released, the flow amount provided on each release day to enhance whitewater boating, the Swan River USGS gage readings that were taken at 8:00 a.m. on each scheduled flow release day, and how notification of whitewater flow release cancellation was provided to whitewater boaters on scheduled days when flow, at 8:00 a.m., was less than 800 cfs. This report is for your review prior to our submittal to the FERC and contains the reporting requirements for 2019.

¹ A Whitewater release must occur in July and August under the following conditions:
On the scheduled Wednesday release, if the river flow @ 08:00 is 1500 CFS or above at USGS gauge, any water over 1500 CFS may be used for generation. If the flow is below 1500 then the plant must be shut down and all flow given to the whitewater release.
If the river flow is 800 CFS at the USGS gauge at @08:00 on Wednesday morning, then a release will not occur.
When the USGS gauge is at 2160 CFS then action is required. 2160 CFS is 660 for full generation and 1500 in the bypass reach.
During low flows and USGS at or near 1500 CFS, attempt to bring water in the bypass equal to inflow by 17:00.
This may mean a shutdown or generation reduction as early as 14:00.
An outage request must be submitted a minimum of 24 hours in advance of shutdown start time.

Table 1. Swan River Flow and Dates of 2019 Whitewater Flow Releases. Flow values are in cfs.

Swan River White Water Release 2019

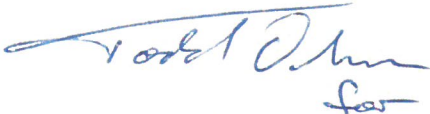
Date	Release Y or N	USGS Flow @ 08:00	Wicket gate position @		Water used for generation @16:00	Water in bypass reach @16:00	Shutdown Time	Restart Time
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Each year the boating community is advised to visit the USGS Swan River Gage website (http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mt/nwis/uv?site_no=12370000) on scheduled release days to verify whether flows are 800 cfs or greater at 8:00 a.m. A flow less than 800 cfs indicates a release cancellation. A notice containing the gage website information runs weekly in the local newspaper during the whitewater release season.

PacifiCorp intends to continue with this obligation as a mandatory condition of the Bigfork FERC license and implement accordingly in 2020.

Any comments or suggestions should be sent to Jessica Kimmick via email at jessica.kimmick@pacificorp.com by close of business Monday, October 7, 2019. If you need further information, please contact Jessica Kimmick at (503) 813-6945.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Sturtevant
Vice President, Renewable Resources
PacifiCorp

MS:JK:km

Encl:	Letter – 2019 Whitewater Releases; Bigfork
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Attachment B

McCune, Kimberly

Subject: RE: RESPONSE REQUESTED: Bigfork 2019 Whitewater Releases; 30-day review period

From: Kimmick, Jessica
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 9:54 AM
To: Aceituno, Kevin <kevin_aceituno@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: RESPONSE REQUESTED: Bigfork 2019 Whitewater Releases; 30-day review period

Good morning Kevin,
Thank you very much! Please feel free to let me know if anything comes up.
Sincerely,
Jessica

Jessica Kimmick
Senior Environmental Analyst, Recreation and Cultural Resources
PacifiCorp
825 NE Multnomah, Suite 1800
Portland, OR 97232
Desk: 503-813-6945
Cell: 503-545-1904

From: Aceituno, Kevin [mailto:kevin_aceituno@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 9:38 AM
To: Kimmick, Jessica <Jessica.Kimmick@pacificorp.com>
Subject: RE: RESPONSE REQUESTED: Bigfork 2019 Whitewater Releases; 30-day review period

Hello Jessica,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received PacifiCorp's September 6, 2019 letter soliciting comment on the Bigfork Hydroelectric Project's 2019 Whitewater Release Report. At this time the Service does not have any comments or recommendations regarding the report. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to review these reports and provide input.

Take care,
Kevin

Kevin Aceituno
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Creston Fish and Wildlife Center
780 Creston Hatchery Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-6871