

Electronically filed August 23, 2022

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

Mr. Chris Stine (via email)
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
165 East Seventh Ave – Suite 100
Eugene, OR 97401

**Subject: Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-308)
 2022 Forebay Flushing Report**

Dear Addressee:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a new operating license for the Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Project (Project) January 5, 2017. Annual flushing of the Project forebay is permitted under Appendix A, Condition 5 of the license. On August 2, 2017, the Commission issued an Order Modifying and Approving the Turbidity Monitoring Plan for Forebay Flushing under Appendix B, Condition 10 of the Project license. This letter report satisfies the annual reporting requirement for forebay flushing.

PacifiCorp flushed the forebay for 55 hours commencing at 8:00 AM on June 8, 2022 and ending at 3:00 PM on June 10, 2022. Prior to the flush, PacifiCorp notified agency stakeholders¹ via e-mail on May 24, 2022 of the planned flushing event. Agency stakeholders declined the offer of a pre-flush coordination conference call.

The final Turbidity Monitoring Plan for Forebay Flushing, dated June 2, 2017, requires that natural inflow to the Project be greater than or equal to 15 cubic feet per second (cfs) for flushing to occur. The flow in the lower bypassed reach of East Fork Wallowa River, as measured at U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage #13325000 at 8:00 AM on June 8, 2022, was 57.1 cfs. Bypassed reach flows remained greater than 35 cfs for the duration of the 55-hour flushing event.

The following general sequence of flushing events occurred:

June 5, 2022

- PacifiCorp's contract biologist mobilized to the Project and deployed two In-Situ datasondes in the East Fork Wallowa River at both the upstream and downstream monitoring sites. To alleviate meter malfunction or faulty readings due to environmental factors, redundant meters were placed at each monitoring site, for a total of four meters deployed. The upstream site is located above the inlet to the Project forebay and downstream site is located at the USGS gage.
- A graph and hourly turbidity data recorded at the upper and lower monitoring sites for the period of June 6, 2022 through June 12, 2022 are provided in Attachment 1 to this letter report.

¹ Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service.

June 7, 2022

- PacifiCorp personnel mobilized to the Project forebay and initiated penstock head gate closure allowing the penstock to drain. The generator was already offline due to mechanical issues.

June 8, 2022

- Personnel closed the penstock isolation valve downstream of the steel wye and opened the bypass valve on the upstream side of the wye².
- Personnel re-opened the penstock head gate and the slide gate on the 16-inch low level outlet pipe to initiate forebay draining and flushing.
- Once the forebay was drained, personnel used trash pumps with a suction hose to mobilize sediment into the water flowing through the center of the forebay and discharging to the bypass reach.

June 10, 2022

- The forebay flush was completed and the penstock head gate and penstock bypass valve were closed to refill forebay. At this time, the low level outlet slide gate was partially closed and adjusted to allow flow greater than minimum license requirement (5 cfs) into the East Fork bypassed reach downstream of the dam.
- The penstock isolation valve and penstock head gate were both opened to re-water the penstock for generation.
- Annual maintenance activity continued until generation resumed on June 17, 2022.

June 12, 2022

- In-Situ datasondes were removed from the East Fork Wallowa River upstream and downstream locations.
- PacifiCorp's contract biologist conducted a survey of the lower East Fork of the Wallowa River searching for any fish that may have been impacted by flushing activities. No live, dead or injured fish were located.

With the use of both the low level outlet pipe and the penstock with the wye installed in 2019, PacifiCorp was able to drain the Project forebay and successfully mobilize accumulated sediment into

² As described in the 2020 Forebay Flushing Report, the penstock wye with knife gate valves (penstock isolation and bypass valves) was installed during the intake rebuild project of 2019 to allow more water to be bypassed through the dam during annual forebay flushing

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the East Fork Wallowa River downstream of the Project dam (see Attachment 1: Photos). Throughout the flushing period hourly turbidity was recorded at the upstream and downstream monitoring site (see Attachment 2: Turbidity Data).

This letter report and its enclosures have been filed electronically. The security classification of each component in this submittal is shown in the enclosure table. Copies have been transmitted to those cited below. If you have any questions, please contact Russ Howison at 503-813-6626 or russ.howison@pacificorp.com.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Sturtevant
 Vice President, Renewable Resources

MAS: RH: BB

Encl:	Letter – Public
	Attachment 1: Wallowa Falls 2022 Forebay Flush Photos – Public
	Attachment 2: Wallowa Falls 2022 Forebay Flush Turbidity Data – Public

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