

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

901 MARKET STREET, SUITE 350
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January 27, 1998

In reply refer to:
Project No. 7454-CA
Weber Dam

Mr. Steve Hutchings
Senior Engineer
El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Mr. Hutchings:

On January 21, 1998, Mr. Jerry Lutticken met with you to conduct a field inspection of Weber Dam. The inspection was made to assess the performance of the dam and recent remedial construction that was completed at the bypass tunnel.

Based on a visual estimate, the reservoir was at about elevation 2227 (an equivalent storage of about 100 acre-feet), about three feet above the invert of the bypass tunnel inlet. As such, flows were exiting from the tunnel and the recently constructed 48-inch diameter steel outlet pipe. The completed, rock-lined, plunge pool appeared to be accommodating the discharge adequately. The estimated flow was perhaps 50 cfs. In addition, the discharge flow from the penstock outlet was about 10 cfs. The reservoir head on the inlet side was about 7 feet. It appears there is a restriction/flow blockage in the penstock outlet pipe, which has resulted in a lower discharge at the powerhouse/pipe exit location. The lower outlet is closed, as agreed to by the District, FERC, and the concerned agencies. The discharge flows from both locations were clear.

Restoration of the immediate area at the tunnel outlet/discharge location is good, and we are comfortable that the bypass tunnel is functioning as intended. As discussed with you during the inspection, the source of the apparent flow blockage in the penstock outlet pipe (possibly at the strainer location, or at the inlet grizzly) should be investigated, and corrected, to assure full outlet discharge capability.

Please submit, by March 1, 1998, the District's as-built drawing(s) for Weber Dam that reflect the recently completed remedial construction.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this aspect of the Commission's dam safety program. If you have any questions or concerns relating to the above discussions, please call Jerry Lutticken at 415-356-5309. In his absence, call James Goris at 415-356-5314.

Sincerely,

Noel Folsom
Noel Folsom, P.E.
Regional Director

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