



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Simpson, Brown, Helgeson, Manning and Mital
FROM: Roger Kline Generation Manager and Suzanne Adkins, FERC License Manager
DATE: September 6, 2013
SUBJECT: Walterville Pond
OBJECTIVE: Information Only

Issue

Management has been working on a developing a plan to cease filling the Walterville Pond. This memo presents a summary of the current status of the project being led by Generation Engineering with the help of Public affairs.

Background

The Walterville pond was originally intended to supplement inflows to the power plant as a pumped storage pond. Since its creation, the pond has been manually filled by operations staff during off-peak hours with four 75 cfs pumps which siphon water off from the canal. Discharge from the pond into the canal is controlled by two 4-by-20 foot radial gates. The pond has not been used for pump storage power generation for many years due to engineering/operational issues, as well as significant water quality concerns (temperature, turbidity, and nutrients) associated with pumping pond water into the river downstream of the pond. Use of the pond is also limited by restrictive ramping rates included in the FERC license for the project. The potential for future use of the facility for pump storage power generation is considered highly unlikely due to these restrictions.

There are a number of ongoing regulatory requirements set forth in the Leaburg-Walterville License that are related to Walterville Pond:

- Article 429: Vegetation management & habitat enhancement
- Article 430 & 431: Wildlife monitoring and enhancements
- Article 432: Recreation trails, parking and interpretive signage
- Dam Safety Regulations: Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Plan, Potential Failure Mode Analysis and Mitigation, Emergency Action Planning, and Discharge Gate Certification

All of the FERC License obligations can continue to be fulfilled without adding supplemental water to the pond, which is not expressly required by the license.

Dam Safety Concern

During FERCs 2012 inspection, FERC observed that scouring of the Walterville Pond embankment has increased the potential for a catastrophic breach. If such an event were to occur, there is potential for loss of life and/or significant property damage in the community of Walterville. FERC responded to this concern by reclassifying the pond/canal embankment to “high” hazard. Unless the hazard has been removed, FERC will require EWEB to treat the Walterville Pond embankment as a high hazard potential structure with daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and reporting requirements required by the existing dam safety program. In addition, costly repairs would be necessary to shore the strength of the embankment.

Discussion

The decision to cease filling the pond has been internally ongoing a result of several drivers: 1) Dam safety issues associated with the canal/pond embankment; 2) staff time and O&M costs associated with a discretionary activity and 3) public health concerns due to toxic algal blooms. Because the pond is a key recreation feature of the project and is highly regarded by the public, it is important to consider multiple angles associated with no longer adding water.

Generation Engineering has been coordinating with Public Affairs and the Environmental department to consider and mitigate for impacts associated with having less water in the pond. EWEB has already initiated planning for hazard mitigation by lowering the pond elevation by 1.5-feet based the results from the FERC dam safety inspection. The remaining reductions will occur over a longer time period to help mitigate environmental and recreational impacts at the pond.

Additional incremental reductions in the water level beyond the 1.5 feet already achieved will take place at a rate of one foot per year, the drawdown would be completed no later than October 31st, 2019.

Staff from Public Affairs and the Environmental Departments is participating in regular meetings with project engineers to help identify and plan for issues associated with impacts and communication planning for public outreach.

Recommendation/Action

Information only, no action required.