



August 4, 2020

Brian G. Grennell
Cultural Resource Management Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

**RE: Au Train Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 10856
Section 106 Review Request: Notice of Intent to Surrender License, Expedited Request
for Spillway Upgrades, and Application for Surrender of License**

Dear Mr. Grennell:

Renewable World Energies, LLC (RWE), acting as Agent on behalf of U.P. Hydro, LLC (Licensee) filed a Notice of Intent to Surrender License for the Au Train Hydroelectric Project (P-10856) (hereafter referred to as "Project") and expedited request for spillway capacity upgrades with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) on June 2, 2020. RWE also distributed a Draft License Surrender Application (P-10856) to agencies, including the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), for review and comment on June 12, 2020. Since that time, RWE has filed the Final License Surrender Application (P-10856) with FERC on July 17, 2020.

RWE, on behalf of the Licensee, requested to be designated as the Commission's non-federal representative for the license surrender application and spillway capacity upgrades under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and to conduct information consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) pursuant to the regulations at 50 C.F.R. 50 C.F.R. §402.08 implementing Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). By letter on July 21, 2020, the Commission designated the Licensee and RWE its non-federal representatives for the purpose of conducting consultation with the Michigan SHPO, appropriate Indian tribes, and other consulting parties, pursuant to the regulations at 36 C.F.R. Part 800.2(c)(4) implementing section 106 of the NHPA.

U.P. Hydro, LLC has determined that it is no longer economically feasible to operate the Project long term. RWE is requesting consultation with the Michigan SHPO regarding the Notice of Intent to Surrender License, request made to FERC seeking authorization to perform dam safety upgrades at the Project beginning in August 2020, and application for Surrender of License.

Corporate Office

P.O. Box 264
100 S. State Street
Neshkoro, WI 54960
Fax: 920-293-4100

Phone: 855-99HYDRO
(855-994-9376)

www.renewableworldenergies.com

Administrative Office

1001 Stephenson Street
Norway, MI 49870
Fax: 906-563-9344



RWE does not propose to remove the Project dams, as North Dam provides flood control for the downstream Village of Au Train. RWE intends to perform spillway capacity upgrades at the Project to meet Michigan state dam safety standards, as well as remove all the power generating and appurtenant equipment from the powerhouse and other measures to secure the site. These measures will have no meaningful impact on environmental resources and historic properties.

The spillway modifications will allow the Project to pass a 200 year flood through the north dam under Michigan's regulations. The spillway will be lowered by 5.5 feet, a section of the North Embankment will be lowered by 18 inches, and a section of the south levee will be modified to be no higher than 6 feet. The reservoir level will remain lowered permanently at a level that is consistent with the annual low water levels under the current license. This level will be above the current licensed low limit. The 200 year and below floods will no longer impact the south levee. As the water level is consistent with annual low reservoir levels, the proposed dam safety upgrades are expected to have minimal impacts on environmental resources.

RWE is initiating formal consultation with Michigan SHPO under Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966, as amended. The Michigan SHPO Application for Section 106 Review form and associated attachments are enclosed.

If there are any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact me at 855-994-9376 ext. 102 or jason@rwehydro.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kreuzscher", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jason Kreuzscher
Vice President
Renewable World Energies, LLC
Agent for U.P. Hydro, LLC

cc: Lesley Brotkowski, TRC
Sharon White, Van Ness Feldman, LLP
Kimberly Nguyen, Environmental & Project Review Branch, DHAC/OEP
Marybeth Gay, Environmental & Project Review Branch, DHAC

Enclosures:

Michigan SHPO Application for Section 106 Review

Attachment A: Notice of Intent to Surrender License and Expedited Request for Authorization to Commence Spillway Upgrades (June 2, 2020)

Attachment B: Application for Surrender of License (P-10856) (July 17, 2020)