



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER  
DIRECTOR

August 28, 2020

Mr. Jason Kreuzscher  
Renewable World Energies, LLC  
100 State Street  
PO Box 264  
Neshkoro, Wisconsin 54960

**RE: AU TRAIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT – REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION  
NORTH DAM MODIFICATION (P-10856)**

Dear Mr. Kreuzscher,

Thank you for your consultation request on behalf of Renewable World Energies, LLC (RWE) for the proposed modifications to the North Dam and spillway at the Au Train project. The project does not currently meet the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) guidelines for spillway adequacy because it cannot safely pass its inflow design flood which is the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the materials included in RWE's August 10, 2020 email, including the August 4, 2020 letter from FERC Division of Dam Safety and Inspections. This letter pertains only to the requests to modify the North Dam, subject to FERC's approval and do not specifically address RWE's proposal to surrender the Au Train project license. Concerns outlined in DNR's July 9, 2020 and August 3, 2020 letters still stand.

We concur with FERC's comments and requests for information. While North Dam modifications are considered interim risk reduction measures for the project's inadequate spillway capacity as compared with FERC guidelines, additional measures are necessary to minimize environmental impacts. Measures for environmental protection include, erosion and sediment control; appropriate disposal of spoils; provisions to reduce harm to aquatic resources, sensitive species, and public safety; and provisions necessary to obtain and comply with Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) permits.

Further, characterizing any of the proposed modifications to the North Dam as 'within license limits' is inaccurate. The existing FERC license does not address a permanent drawdown condition or dam modifications.

The DNR appreciates FERC reminding the licensee that FERC approval is required in advance of work, including any planned work for the purpose of decommissioning or license surrender. The DNR anticipates this approval will only be granted after measures needed to protect human life, infrastructure, and the environment are adequately addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or feel additional clarification would help, please feel free to contact me at [Gulotty@michigan.gov](mailto:Gulotty@michigan.gov), or via work cell phone (906-282-8300) until the Norway Field Office reopens.

NORWAY FIELD OFFICE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
520 WEST US HWY 2  
NORWAY, MI 49870

Sincerely,



Elle Gulotty  
Resource Analyst  
Habitat Management Unit  
FISHERIES DIVISION

cc: (via email)

Brian Kreuzscher, RWE  
John Zygaj, FERC  
Scott Hicks, USFWS  
Bob Stuber, Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition  
Charlie Marsh, USFS  
Dan DeVaun, P.E., Michigan EGLE  
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