FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections – Portland Regional Office
805 SW Broadway, Suite 550
Portland, Oregon 97205
(503) 552-2700

3/24/2021

In reply refer to:
P-2307

VIA Electronic Mail

Mr. Randy Sutak
8447 Kimberly St.
Juneau, AK 99801
rsutak@gmail.com

Subject: Dam and Public Safety Concerns, Salmon Creek Project

Dear Mr. Sutak:

This letter acknowledges your January 11, 2021 letter transmitting your dam and public safety concerns for the Salmon Creek Project, FERC No. 2307. We appreciate you reaching out to us regarding the safety of this project. We discussed these concerns in a virtual meeting with you on January 20th.

As we stated at the meeting, the Division of Dam Safety and Inspection's primary responsibility is to keep the public safe from dam failures and misoperation. Please be assured that we take this important responsibility very seriously. The Salmon Creek Project, including the Salmon Creek Dam, is inspected by the Alaska Electric Light and Power Company (AEL&P) on a regular basis. AEL&P is the Licensee for the Salmon Creek Project and we work directly with them. The Salmon Creek Dam is annually inspected by FERC's dam safety engineers. In addition, every five years the project design and construction documentation and analyses are reviewed, and the project is inspected by an Independent Consultant who is a qualified, experienced dam safety engineer.

The most recent 5-year Independent Consultant inspection concluded that the Salmon Creek Dam is safe for continued operation under the restricted maximum reservoir level of 1,140 feet. This reduced reservoir level was based on a seismic stability analysis. The Salmon Creek Dam has also been analyzed for normal, flood, and seismic loading conditions taking into account the reduced cross section due to freeze thaw damage and based on concrete core sampling and testing. Despite this weathering, there is ample concrete thickness remaining to maintain the safety of the structure.

Concrete condition and loss of surface concrete is monitored by AEL&P and data is provided to FERC to ensure that the analyses of record are still appropriate for current conditions. The concrete condition and analyses of record are also reviewed every five years by the Independent Consultant.

As we discussed during our meeting, there are no known deficiencies or conditions at the Salmon Creek Dam that would warrant any of your suggested requirements. The Salmon Creek Dam is in satisfactory condition to maintain the current pool level limitation of 1,140 feet.

In your letter you expressed an interest in obtaining project documents labeled CEII (Critical Electric Infrastructure Information). To receive CEII documents from the FERC, you would need to follow the CEII request process. The following web page has information on how to file a CEII request for any records on e-Library: https://www.ferc.gov/enforcement-legal/ceii.

We hope this information has been helpful. If you have any further questions with the FERC dam safety program you can find more information at:
https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/hydropower/dam-safety-and-inspections

You may also contact me directly to discuss FERC's dam safety program at (503) 552-2715.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Johnson, P.E.
Regional Engineer

CC: Christy Yearous AEL&P
VIA Electronic Mail
christy.yearous@aelp.com