FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - Atlanta Regional Office
Gwinnett Commerce Center
3700 Crestwood Parkway, Suite 950
Duluth, Georgia 30096
(678) 245-3000 Office - (678) 245-3010 Facsimile

October 4, 2023

In reply refer to:
P-2354-03 Tallulah Falls

VIA Electronic Mail

Mr. Todd Barber, P.E.
Hydro Services Supervisor
Southern Company Generation Hydro Services
tbarber@southernco.com

Subject: Final QCIP, TCEAP and Drawings for Spillway Gate Replacement, Sluiceway Plugging, and Intake Headgate Replacement

Dear Mr. Barber:

Your letter dated September 12, 2023, submitted the final, stamped drawings, QCIP, and TCEAP for the modernization work proposed at the Tallulah Development of the North Georgia Project No. 2354. The work will involve the replacement of the existing bottom-hinged spillway gates and flashboards, the permanent closure of two sluiceways, and the replacement of the intake headgates and actuators. The revised QCIPs and TCEAP adequately address review comments from our August 29, 2023 letter. The final stamped drawings adequately address review comments from our May 15, 2023, letter.

Your September 22, 2023, letter submitted the report summarizing the August 29, 2023, design meeting with representatives from your construction contractor, your engineering consultant, your staff, and our staff to discuss issues related to the construction, design, and quality control. We have reviewed your submittal and find that it adequately summarizes the meeting discussion topics. We concur with the action items identified in your September 22, 2023, letter except for items 4, 7 and 11. We have provided our comments in the Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) Enclosure

This letter authorizes you to begin construction according to the submitted plans and specifications and subject to the conditions set forth in the enclosures.

File your submittals using the Commission's eFiling system at https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview. When eFiling, select Hydro: Dam Safety and Atlanta Regional Office from the eFiling menu. The cover page of the filing must indicate that the material was eFiled. For assistance with eFiling, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

We appreciate your continued cooperation in ensuring the safety of your project. If you have any other questions, please contact Ms. Elise Dombeck of this office at (678) 245-3008 or by email at elise.dombeck@ferc.gov

Sincerely,

WILLIAM BROWN Digitally signed by WILLIAM BROWN Date: 2023.10.04 09:14:04 -04'00'

William J. Brown, P.E.
Regional Engineer

Cc: VIA Electronic Mail

Mr. Richard L. Mickwee II, P.E.
Manager, Hydro Dam Safety
Southern Company Generation Hydro Services
RLMICKWE@southernco.com

Enclosure 1: Licensee Requirements during Construction

1. Obtain any necessary federal, state, or local permits for the work.

2. If requested by the Regional Engineer, conduct weekly update phone calls to discuss construction activities completed the previous week, construction activities planned for the upcoming week, any difficulties or problems encountered, instrumentation and monitoring results, and other pertinent design and construction issues.

3. Submit monthly construction reports and a final construction report. If the construction period is less than two months, you may submit a single report to cover the entire period. In the cover letter submitting monthly reports, please highlight any significant schedule changes and any updates to the status of the environmental permits. See Enclosure 2 for additional guidance on monthly and final construction reports.

4. Required Certifications. Within 90 days after completing construction you must submit the following certifications to this office in a letter notarized in accordance with 18CFR Part 12, Paragraph 12.13 of the Commission's Regulations:

    a. A certification by the Design Engineer that the project was constructed in accordance with the design intent.

    b. A certification by the QCIP Manager that the results of the inspection and testing program support the conclusion that the project was constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications.

    c. A certification from the Licensee that the construction fulfills the design Intent and was constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications reviewed by FERC.

5. If during the design and construction process the plans and specifications are revised, it is your responsibility to assure these changes are properly coordinated between the design engineer, the QCIP manager, FERC, and yourself. Also, if any changes are made that require a change in the operation of the project, it is your responsibility to assure these changes are properly coordinated with FERC.

Enclosure 2: Licensee Guidance for Preparing Construction Reports

MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION REPORTS

When mobilization for construction commences, FERC requires monthly reports to provide timely information on construction progress. At a minimum, include the information described below with supporting photographs. In cases where there is nothing to report under a specific heading, note that the item is not applicable for the report period.

1. Progress of Work. Provide a brief narrative description of construction activities and related events during the reporting period. Report major items of work which reflect overall progress, rather than detailed statistical information.

2. Status of Construction. Describe the status of progress, as related to the original schedule and quantity estimates of items such as: (1) excavation for tunnels, structures, and roadways; (2) embankment, concrete, and other materials placed; (3) installation of machinery and equipment; (4) reservoir clearing; (5) necessary relocations; and (6) installation or construction of recreation, fish, and wildlife facilities. Furnish construction schedules and progress charts. Report the status of construction in terms of percent physically complete and percent of contract time elapsed. Provide an appraisal as to whether work is proceeding at such a rate as to indicate completion within the specified contract time. If not, give the reasons why and estimate a revised completion date.

3. Construction Difficulties. Describe unanticipated construction difficulties which could significantly increase project costs and/or affect job progress such as latent conditions, serious job accidents, floods, labor difficulties, quantity overruns, material shortages, and similar events. Include copies of any Design Change Notices (DCNs) or Non-Conformance Reports (NCRs) with your monthly construction report submittals.

4. Contract Status. Identify principal contractors and subcontractors engaged on the work. Describe any special expertise or equipment possessed by contractors.

5. Critical Events and Dates. Report important items and events such as dates of river diversion, start and completion of construction, tunnel closure, initial

unit testing, and date of initial commercial generation for each unit.

6. Reservoir Filling. Prior to filling, provide the anticipated schedule and procedures for filling. During filling, note the date of initiation of reservoir filling, filling progress, and the performance of instrumentation installed to reflect structural conditions as affected by reservoir level, such as weir measurements of seepage and flows from wet spots. Report the date maximum normal reservoir level is attained.

7. Foundations. Report specifically on foundation conditions, foundation preparations, the type of material and conditions of placement. Include photographs and descriptions of the foundation areas that have been uncovered. Uncovering of foundation areas may reveal faults, cracks, and other conditions which require special treatment. In such cases, comment on the corrective measures utilized. Include with the construction report copies of any special reports on the foundations or treatment. During excavation for major structures such as dams, powerhouses and tunnels, map the foundation for record purposes.

8. Sources of Major Construction Materials. Provide information on the sources of major construction materials. Include all materials and equipment that may have an important bearing on the safety and efficiency of the project works, such as: aggregate cement, hydraulic control equipment, turbines and generators, etc. Include a plan of the project area showing the location of borrow areas and/or quarries.

9. Materials Testing and Results. Include periodic summaries of tests on concrete specimens and results of all tests. Field control tests that fail to meet specifications and as a result of which an area was reworked, shall be reported. Reference tests to ASTM or other applicable standards.

10. Instrumentation. Include the schedule for installation and the program for reading the instrumentation during construction. Provide pertinent construction monitoring instrumentation readings along with action/threshold values in monthly reports. Before filling the reservoir, the Licensee must develop and furnish a schedule for monitoring the instrumentation.

11. Photographs. At the outset of construction, establish several photographic

vantage points to use for periodic progress photographs to document progress. Include progress photos in monthly reports along with detailed photographs to record significant elements of the work. Date and caption each photo in the report.

12. Erosion Control and Other Environmental Measures. Include a discussion of erosion control and other measures and their effectiveness. Describe all instances where sediments or other construction discharges entered the stream(s), the extent of the discharges, an assessment of any damage to the stream(s) and corrective actions taken, including measures to prevent further problems.

13. Other Items of Interest. Note here events not reported elsewhere in the inspection report. Typical items are meetings of boards of consultants, matters requiring continuing or follow-up action, public relations, job safety, important visitors, changes in job management, environmental problems, abnormal weather events, etc.

Report significant events involving interested government agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, State and county highway and health authorities, State and Federal industrial safety enforcement organizations, and recreational and conservationist groups.

FINAL CONSTRUCTION REPORTS

Submit a final construction report within 90 days from the completion of work. Include all construction information pertinent to dam safety Include a summary of each of the applicable sections indicated below. Present test results in tabular form with applicable standards for conciseness. Omit sections that are not applicable. Include construction difficulties under sections where it applies.

1. General. Briefly present the reason for construction and description of work with dates of beginning and end of construction. Include reservoir drawdown and filling dates.

2. Foundations. Present condition of foundation (faults, etc.) When uncovered, and foundation treatment. Attach foundation mapping.

3. Embankments. Describe the construction equipment, type of materials used in filters and fills. Attach gradation and compaction requirements and all test results.

4. Concrete work. Describe construction equipment and materials, include all concrete and grout test results. Describe surface treatments.

5. Anchors. Summarize drilling operations. Include boring logs; results of water pressure tests; anchor design calculations, design loads, specification; results of grout test; results of proof and performance tests; and summary of acceptance criteria.

6. Instrumentation. Present plots of existing instrumentation readings during the construction if the readings are affected. Include details and plan of calibration/reading of all new instrumentation. The installation of new instrumentation requires an update to the Dam Safety and Surveillance Monitoring Plan (DSSMP). Provide a plan and schedule to update the DSSMP.

7. Drawings. Attach as-built drawings reduced in size to 8.5"x11" or 11"x17". Include plan, section and details of the structure affected by the new work. Also include any new instrumentation on plan and section drawings.