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**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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**Office of Energy Projects**

Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - San Francisco Regional Office

**FEDERAL ENERGY**  
**REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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December 29, 2003

In reply, refer to:

Project No. 2105-CA

NATDAM ID No. CA00327,

CA00326, CA00413

Mr. Randall Livingston, Lead Director  
Hydro Generation  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Mail Code: N11E  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

RE: Followup letter 2003 Operation Inspection, P-2105, Upper North Fork Feather River Project

Dear Mr. Livingston:

On September 3 and 4, 2003, Ms. Milada Pajaczkowski, staff civil engineer and Ms. Kate Bellinger, summer intern, of our office, conducted the operation inspection of the North Feather River Project. Mr. Bill Zemke, Senior License Coordinator, Mr. Ted McDonald, and Mr. Mike Malloy, of your office accompanied them. We would like to extend our appreciation for the excellent assistance these gentlemen provided during the inspection.

The project facilities were observed to be in good operating condition, efficiently operated and well maintained. Except for the following minor items, they noted no other operation or maintenance items that require follow-up action.

**Canyon Dam (Lake Almanor).** Remove the tree trunk below the flip bucket. Minor small, inappropriate trees (pines, cedars) and bushes (raspberry) need removal on the upstream slope below the rocky dike/road. Construct permanent access to the weirs at the toe of the dam. A few young trees on the downstream slope should be removed. The spalling, cracks, staining, erosion, spring and past repair condition of the outlet structure should continue to be monitored. A better photo file of the features should also be started.

**Butt Valley Dam.** Near the left upper groin, remove the small trees that are within ten feet of the edge of the dam. Remove the inappropriate vegetation (small trees, bushes) on the lower face and along the left groin below the road level. Remove inappropriate vegetation about midway along construction joints and at and below the toe of the spillway channel. Seal the joints if needed. Monitor the erosion below the access road at the left side of the dam. Monitor the two small holes (<2" diam) in the embankment fill at the right lower groin.

**Belden Forebay Dam.** Remove the minor vegetation (bushes, tree) along both ends of the upstream face of the dam. Continue to monitor the organic growth, staining, efflorescence, single cracks, and small spalling spots from small freeze-thaw action at the concrete structure and walkway above and around the gates and at the spillway channel. Remove the minor inappropriate vegetation in the spillway channel about midway down the length, above the pool in the flip bucket, and midway at the gates when accessible.

Provide the annual notarized letter attesting to the gates certification at Belden Forebay Dam, as well as the minimum flow required data for all the dams.

For future inspections, monitoring and deferred maintenance needs for **all three dams and spillways**, do a more comprehensive evaluation and monitoring as part of a larger systematic planned inspection program of the condition of the staining, efflorescence, cracks, organic growth, and spalling of the concrete structures. For example, the program can include plan and section plots, annual photo file, periodic measurements, hammer investigation, closeup inspection of features for voids or progressive deterioration (when accessible), of the features.

By February 17, 2004, please provide a schedule to address these matters. Thank you for your continued support in the dam safety program. If you should have any questions, contact Ms. Pajaczkowski at (415) 369-3395 or via e-mail at [milada.pajaczkowski@ferc.gov](mailto:milada.pajaczkowski@ferc.gov).

Sincerely,

**JOHN SCOTT**

(For) Takeshi Yamashita, P.E.  
Regional Engineer