



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company**

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SECRETARY**

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**FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION**

May 19, 2004

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas,
FERC Office of the Secretary
888 First Street, N.E., #1A East
Washington, DC 20426-0002

**Upper North Fork Feather River Project (FERC No. 2105)
Follow-up on Boat Dock Congestion in Big Cove, Lake Almanor**

Dear Secretary Salas:

This letter provides a follow-up to the Commission's October 28, 2003 letter concerning, in part, the issue of congestion and crowding of commercial dock facilities in the Big Cove area of Lake Almanor. This issue was identified during the June 2003 environmental inspection on the Upper North Fork Feather River Project, FERC No. 2105 (Project).

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the Company) currently has 10 commercial permittees with operations that include boat docks in Big Cove. There is one additional commercial resort requesting a 20 slip marina, which has not yet been submitted to FERC for approval. In addition to the commercial docks there are 10 permitted non-commercial dock (less than 3 slip) in the Big Cove area. The license agreements with the commercial permittees contain a provision that, in addition to meeting all of the other requirements for boat docks located in Lake Almanor, the docks may not exceed a length of 200 feet from the shoreline, or a distance no more than 1/3 of the distance across the cove, whichever is less. Early in the summer recreation season, more than ample space exists for even the longest boat docks. However, later in the summer, particularly during dry years, docks longer than 200 feet need to be shortened to stay within this policy. The Company recently met with the Plumas County boat patrol officer and reviewed the concern for boating safety in Big Cove. No additional needs beyond the enforcement of this provision were identified.

In past years the Company has not conducted a specific on-site survey to gage compliance with the permit provision. During the 2004 recreation season (through to the Labor Day weekend) the Company plans a proactive approach in monitoring compliance with this provision. After the Labor Day weekend, boating use drops off significantly and congestions is less of a concern. It also becomes more difficult for resort owners to meet the 1/3 distance requirement of the permit. Monitoring techniques that Licensee is

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considering include the use of survey equipment or a fly-over by helicopter to judge if the 1/3 distance rule is becoming critical.

The Company is also developing a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) in collaboration with Plumas County and other interested parties. The Plan was an outgrowth of the collaboration process that lead to the recently signed relicensing settlement agreement. This agreement has been submitted to the Commission for its consideration in the relicensing of the Project. While the SMP is not intended to address site-specific permit terms and provisions, the current internal draft includes a new section specifically addressing enforcement practices. The monitoring proposed above is consistent with the enforcement provisions included in this draft of the SMP

If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 973-1646.

Sincerely,



Bill Zemke
Senior License Coordinator

Original and eight copies to FERC

cc: Ms. Antonia Lattin
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