

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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March 24, 2017

Mr. David E. Capka, P.E.
Director, Division of Dam Safety and Inspections
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Routing Code: PJ-123
Washington, D.C. 20426

FERC Project No. 2100 – Oroville Emergency Recovery – Spillways,
Independent Forensic Review of the Oroville Dam Spillway

Dear Mr. Capka:

This is in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) March 20, 2017 letter to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding the investigation of the Independent Forensic Review of the Oroville Dam Flood Control Outlet and Emergency Spillway Incidents. The California Department of Water Resources Acting Director, Mr. William Croyle, has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Thank you for your approval of the candidates for the Independent Forensic Review Team. Based on your approval, DWR is immediately working to obtain the services of these expert individuals. DWR has already engaged team leader, Mr. John France, to develop a plan and schedule to complete the review and complete the forensic analysis report, which will include an evaluation of the root cause of the incident and any other contributing factors. Although DWR has gathered the information that will be needed for the team to review, the team is just beginning to digest the information. The team will also have to determine if other information or further exploration or investigations are needed. Therefore, an exact schedule has not yet been developed. However, the following preliminary schedule has been discussed between DWR representatives and team leader Mr. John France:

- March 23 to April 12: Initial review of materials
- April 12 to April 13: Site inspection and meetings with DWR
- April 13 to April 14: Team meeting
- Week of May 1: Team to provide a list of potential causes of the failure to be used in design of interim spillways
- April 14 to TBD: Continue review of materials, perform evaluations, conduct meetings and complete evaluation

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- Date TBD: Team to present preliminary results to DWR, FERC, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and Board of Consultants
- Date TBD: Team to complete forensic report.

Please consider this schedule to be preliminary. Although DWR and the Forensic Team understand the urgency of this evaluation, the team needs to complete an initial review of the material. Then a more detailed and accurate plan and schedule will be developed. The schedule also will depend on the need for further information, including explorations or additional investigations.

As you know, the design and ultimate construction of the repair of the flood control outlet and emergency spillway must be completed in parallel with the forensic investigation. Although DWR is considering potential causes of the incident during the design of the repairs, we have also requested that the Independent Forensic Review Team provide DWR with a list of potential causes of the incident. Potential causes of the incident are being considered as alternative designs for interim repairs are underway. If the forensic team develops any new potential causes during the investigation, this information will be immediately provided to DWR's Recovery Team and FERC for consideration. We will continue working closely with FERC, the Board of Consultants and the DSOD regarding the forensic evaluation and will provide needed information as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (916) 502-2067.

Sincerely,



Ted Craddock, Project Manager
Oroville Emergency Recovery – Spillways
Executive Division

cc: Sharon Tapia
Frank L. Blackett
John France
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Dan Wade

Document Content(s)

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