



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

Thursday, August 20, 2020

## SECORD LAKE ASSOCIATION

[www.secordlakeassociation.org](http://www.secordlakeassociation.org)

There were 2 letters issued by FERC regarding Secord Dam / Lake late afternoon on Aug 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Letter 1: Secord Hydroelectric Project No. 10809 Right Retaining Wall Erosion Repair Design – Aug 17, 2020

We shared yesterday Boyce Hydro submitted a letter to FERC with preliminary drawings for Right Retaining Wall Erosion Repair Design for Secord Dam (aka to fix the hole). In their letter, submitted on August 17, Boyce Hydro asked sought “FERC pre-approval of the design is requested so limited financial resources (being administered by the Bankruptcy court) are not wasted”.

The FERC response includes the following: “The **submittal provides only two drawing sheets** outlining proposed repairs to a hole in the right concrete retaining wall near the downstream toe”. FERC goes on to explain in detail the complete repair process outlined in their earlier letter to Boyce Hydro. “**The drawing sheets provided for the repairs cannot be pre-approved** as requested in your letter. Additional information is needed in order to complete our review of the design. A complete design package will be required prior to FERC approval”.

### Letter 2: Extension of Time Request for Endangered Species Act Consultation and Outstanding Dam Safety Directives

While this letter pertained to all 4 dams, below are key points as they relate specifically to Secord Dam / Lake:

“By letter dated May 20, 2020, the Commission **required** you (Boyce Hydro) to perform a dam safety inspection of the Secord Dam. You filed inspection reports for the Secord Dam on July 8, 2020. Further, supplemental dam safety reports are **required for the Secord Dams by August 20, 2020**. The **Secord Project reservoirs cannot be returned to normal operating levels until you file the above information and demonstrate that the dams are safe**. Your **failure** to comply with the Division of Dam Safety and Inspections (D2SI) directives **has resulted in a prolonged state of drawdown and the reservoirs cannot be refilled until compliance is achieved**”.

The letter does provide an extension for the separate issue of the Mussel survey, but then goes on to emphasize the other dam safety deadlines are not changed. The letter then reminds Boyce Hydro of the following: “Section 31 authorizes the Commission to assess civil penalties exceeding \$20,000 per day, per violation, for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a license”.

If you want to learn more, you can visit the FERC eLibrary (google search) and type Boyce Hydro into the Text Search box at the bottom of the General Search page.

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