

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Energy Projects  
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections – Portland Regional Office  
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 750  
Portland, Oregon 97232  
(503) 552-2700

2/23/2024

In reply refer to:  
P-14803

VIA Electronic Mail

Mark Bransom  
Chief Executive Officer  
Klamath River Renewal Corporation  
[mark@klamathrenewal.org](mailto:mark@klamathrenewal.org)

Shannon Davis  
Eastern Regional Administrator  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
[Shannon.davis@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Shannon.davis@deq.oregon.gov)

Tony Meyers  
Principal Operating Officer  
State of California, Department of Water Resources  
[anthony.meyers@water.ca.gov](mailto:anthony.meyers@water.ca.gov)

Subject: Dam Removal Overall Blasting Plan, Copco No. 1 Development, Lower  
Klamath Project

Dear Mr. Bransom, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Meyers:

This letter is to acknowledge Mr. Bransom's February 5, 2024 letter transmitting the dam removal overall blasting plan for the Copco No. 1 Development of the Lower Klamath Project, FERC No. 14803. We have reviewed the information provided and have the following comments:

1. The overall blasting plan adequately describes general safety protocols and anticipated blast order, dimensions, and timeline based on currently available information and is acceptable.
2. The plan states that the "first blast for each blast type and design shall be a Trial Blast (if needed)." For the Copco No. 1 dam blasting, we will consider the first

blast of each type and design as a trial blast. Therefore, prior to drilling the holes for the first blast of each type and design, adhere to the following procedures:

- a. Submit individual pre-blast plans, reviewed and signed by the approved responsible personnel designated in the QCIP and by your Independent Blasting Consultant, Michael Kohler, P.E., via email for our review a minimum of 18 hours prior to loading holes and no less than 24 hours prior to detonation. It is our intent to review each blast plan. Any comments we may have will be provided via email within the 24-hour period and are expected to be addressed prior to proceeding with the blast. A non-response from us within this time frame is not cause to delay any blasts.
  - b. Submit a post-blast report following each blast via email. The post-blast report should summarize the blast results and any field changes that were made to the pre-blast plan, noting any unexpected conditions or proposed changes that will be made to future blast designs.
3. The plan indicates that the contractor intends to complete the blasting activities over the course of two weeks, possibly by implementing a 24-hour sequence of drilling at night, blasting in the morning, and blast debris removal following each blast. This accelerated schedule would preclude our review of individual blast plans at the same frequency as that used in previous blasting activities associated with the Lower Klamath decommissioning project. Therefore, please notify this office if changes are made to any blast designs based on Trial Blast results and submit pre-blast plans reflecting the changes following the same procedure described above in Comment 2a. Follow the procedure outlined in Comment 2b, above, for all blasts.
  4. Email the pre-blast plans and post-blast reports to the following individuals: Elisabeth Jacquot-Matt, Kathleen Bensko, and Katie Clarkson. Include the Post-Blast Reports in the Final Construction Report at the end of the project.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and interest in dam safety. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Elisabeth Jacquot-Matt of this office at (503) 552-2712.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Johnson, P.E.  
Regional Engineer

