

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

4/26/2024

In reply refer to:
P-14803

VIA Electronic Mail

Mark Bransom
Chief Executive Officer
Klamath River Renewal Corporation
mark@klamathrenewal.org

Shannon Davis
Eastern Regional Administrator
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Shannon.davis@deq.oregon.gov

Tony Meyers
Principal Operating Officer
State of California, Department of Water Resources
anthony.meyers@water.ca.gov

Subject: Phase 1B-1 Power Intake Structure Blast Incident Report, Copco No. 1
Development, Lower Klamath Project

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

This letter is to acknowledge Mr. Bransom's April 5, 2024 letter transmitting the Phase 1B-1 Power Intake Structure Blast 12.10(a) Incident Report for the Copco No. 1 Development of the Lower Klamath Project, FERC No. 14803. Mr. Bransom's letter described large concrete rubble from the blast that partially blocked the low-level outlet conduit, causing the reservoir level to rise by approximately 10 feet from the pre-blast run-of-river condition. Mr. Mort McMillen, Mr. Gary Lee, and Mr. Sean Iiams of McMillen notified this office of the incident by phone on April 2, 2024. The subject letter fulfills your Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 12.10(a) written report requirements.

The incident report stated that Kiewit and McMillen inspected the dam and surrounding area immediately after the blast and identified a partial flow blockage from the low-level outlet pipe. Kiewit reportedly mobilized equipment immediately to the base of the dam to remove the rubble and clear the low-level outlet conduit, lowering the reservoir to its previous level.

Kiewit and McMillen's actions taken in the days following the incident were expedient and appropriate. We concur with the proposed recommendations to limit to future blast incidents and associated damage as the removal proceeds, summarized below:

1. Perform smaller blasts and reduce powder factors to start with and build up to larger as necessary based on performance.
2. Use fewer or individual hole delays rather than whole rows per delay.
3. Have equipment operators on standby for each blast to decrease response times.
4. Perform blasts before 4:00p.m.
5. Prior to any additional blasts, complete construction activities required to fully open the diversion tunnel to limit impact from flow restrictions if the low-level outlet becomes unusable.

You are reminded that you must report, by email or telephone to the Regional Engineer, as soon as practicable, any condition, event, or action at the project which might compromise the safety, stability, or integrity of any project work or the ability of any project work to function safely for its intended purposes (18 C.F.R. § 12.10(a)(1)).

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