



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Carlson, Mital, Helgeson, Schlossberg and Brown
FROM: Susan Ackerman, Chief Energy Officer; Mike McCann, Generation Manager; and
Mark Zinniker, Generation Engineering Supervisor
DATE: August 19, 2019
SUBJECT: Owner's Dam Safety Program Audit
OBJECTIVE: Information Only

Issue

In response to a FERC request in February 2018, EWEB proposed a team of three dam safety specialists from the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) to perform an audit of our Owner's Dam Safety Program (ODSP). FERC authorized EWEB to proceed with the audit in November 2018, and the audit team completed their work during the first quarter of 2019.

Background

Following FERC auditing guidelines, the ASDSO audit team completed an extensive document review, analyzed confidential questionnaire responses, conducted in-person interviews, and made site visits to both Leaburg-Waltermville and Carmen-Smith. Their findings are documented in an audit report that EWEB submitted to the FERC in March 2019.

Discussion

While the audit team noted that many elements of EWEB's ODSP are successful, the team also highlighted six critical concluding opinions as follows:

- The ODSP is reactive, not proactive.
- Safety in general is clearly a high priority at EWEB, but the importance of dam safety in particular needs to be clearly highlighted from the highest levels of the organization.
- More capital investment is needed to reduce dam safety risks by improving aged facilities.
- EWEB faces serious dam safety risks (Leaburg Canal performance issues were highlighted).
- EWEB's Chief Dam Safety Engineer is not independent; a separation of duties is necessary.
- There are serious dam safety communication issues, both within EWEB and with the FERC.

Related to these critical findings, the audit team provided 25 specific recommendations which fall into three general categories: organizational improvements, resourcing improvements (staffing/investment), and communication improvements.

Recommendations

In response to the audit team's recommendations, EWEB staff have proposed to the FERC a number of constructive actions to strengthen the ODSP. The specific proposals include:

- Issuance of a dam safety policy with clear directives to staff from the Executive Team/Board
- Creation of a Chief Dam Safety Engineer (CDSE) position.
- Reorganization of dam safety functions from the Generation Engineering Department to a new Dam Safety Department reporting to the Generation Manager, and ensuring a direct line of communication between the CDSE and the Chief Energy Officer (CEO).
- Increasing dam safety staffing from two FTE to at least three FTE.
- Issuance of an RFP for consulting engineering support to develop a prioritized plan for dam safety capital investments and monitoring program improvements.
- Initiation of monthly meetings between the CDSE and CEO.
- Improvement of annual dam safety reporting to management.
- Continuation of monthly teleconferences between EWEB dam safety staff and the FERC.
- Initiation of annual Generation Management face-to-face meeting with the FERC

Requested Board Action

None, information only