



May 25, 2021

Via Electronic Submittal (E-File)

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E. Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: UPPER NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER PROJECT, FERC NO. 2105-089
RESPONSE TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUEST**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Licensee or PG&E) submits the enclosed response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) Additional Information Request (AIR) regarding the Licensee's Application for New License for PG&E's Upper North Fork Feather River Project (FERC No. 2105), originally submitted on October 23, 2002. The existing license expired on October 31, 2004, and the Project has been operating under annual licenses.

Response to item 10 in Schedule A of the Commission's January 29, 2021 AIR is included. PG&E performed the requested analysis on the Belden Forebay Dam and determined that the proposed change in the normal operation range for Belden Forebay from elevation 2,965.2 to 2,915.2 (USGS datum) will not adversely affect the safety of Belden Forebay Dam.

The other 17 items were addressed in PG&E's April 26, 2021 filing. This filing concludes PG&E's response to the Commission's January 29, 2021 AIR.

Please call me at (925) 357-7120 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tony Gigliotti
Mail Code N11D
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177

FERC Service List

List of Attachments

Attachment 1—Item 10: Dam Safety – Updated Stability Analysis of Belden Dam

**Upper North Fork Feather River
 FERC Project No. 2105-089**

FERC SERVICE LIST

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UPPER NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER PROJECT

FERC NO. 2105

ATTACHMENT 1

ITEM 10: Updated Stability Analysis of Belden Dam



Date: 05/03/2021

Subject: **Belden Forebay Rapid Drawdown Analysis**

1 Introduction

The Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Geosciences Department has prepared the following memorandum at the request of PG&E Dam Safety to provide an evaluation of the static stability of Belden Forebay Dam (State Dam No. 97-119) under the rapid drawdown load case. This assessment supplements the existing stability analysis (PG&E, 1990) for the dam, which did not consider rapid drawdown. This memorandum also comments on the stability of the reservoir rim during rapid drawdown of the reservoir. These analyses were requested by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in an Additional Information Request for the Upper North Fork Feather River FERC project 2105. The letter, dated 29 January 2021, states:

“The normal operating range for the Belden Forebay is from elevation 2,955 feet to elevation 2,975 feet (PG&E Datum). There is no rule curve or reservoir level restriction for the Belden Forebay. The minimum water surface elevation of 2,905 feet (PG&E Datum) is well below the current normal operating range of the Belden Forebay. Within 120 days of the date of this AIR, please provide an updated stability analysis for the revised drawdown condition (dam and reservoir rim). PG&E’s Chief Dam Safety Engineer should provide a statement confirming that the proposed change will not affect dam safety. The stability analysis should follow FERC Engineering Guidelines and requirements.”

2 Background

Belden Forebay Dam (also referred to as Caribou Afterbay Dam) is a compacted zoned rockfill dam owned and operated by PG&E. The dam is located on the North Fork of the Feather River in Plumas County and is part of PG&E’s Feather River hydroelectric system. The site location and adjacent project components are shown in Figure 1. Belden Forebay was completed in 1958 and for a period of 11 years immediately following completion of the project the reservoir served only as an afterbay for Caribou

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