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TO:

Pat Regan - Regional Engineer
Office of Energy Projects - FERC
Division of Dam Safety and Inspection
Portland Regional Office
101 Southwest Main Street - Suite 905
Portland, Oregon 97204

SUBJECT:

March 2007 Monthly Report for the Falls Creek Hydro-electric Project
FERC # P-11659

DATE SUBMITTED:

4/19/07

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Dear Mr. Regan,

Please find enclosed the Monthly Construction Report for the Falls Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC # P-11659.

Gustavus Electric Company (GEC), as the licensee for the above project, submits this report.

Sincerely,
Richard Levitt
GEC President

Contact Richard Levitt (richardlevitt@cs.com) to add names to distribution list.

Falls Creek Hydroelectric Project (P-11659)
MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION REPORT TO FERC
March 2007

1) Progress of Work

Excavation work was done at both the impoundment and powerhouse sites.

2) Status of Construction

The Blueberry Hill road cut was drilled in February. This area was blasted on March 1st for the production of shot-rock. Drilling and blasting was also conducted in a few locations along the intake service road so that culverts could be placed in bedrock areas. This blasting was done on March 8th.

Excavation at the Intake site.

Exploratory excavation was conducted at the impoundment site in an effort to get a better idea on the availability of bedrock for impoundment structure foundation design. An approximately 75 by 30 foot area was excavated to creek level at the uppermost extent of the service road. Bedrock was located throughout this excavation. The area was backfilled with shot rock in order to avoid sedimentation to the creek as spring runoff increased flow during the rest of the month. The area will remain in this state until we have approval for installation of the cofferdam at this location.

Early phase of drilling for the powerhouse grade.

Considerable excavation was conducted at the powerhouse site. This was done as part of completing the road access to the powerhouse site and to prepare the ground for the location of the powerhouse structure. Drilling and blasting was done in support of this effort. Shot rock produced from this location was stock-piled at the staging area above the powerhouse. Waste materials generated by excavation were used to back-fill the area excavated along the lower end of the penstock route (this area had been cleared in February).

This was the scene at the powerhouse site on March 30. Very wide angle photo (~270 degrees view).

The pipe fusion technician for HD Fowler Company of Bellevue WA (the HDPE pipe supplier) conducted training for 6 members of the crew on site on March 22nd.

3) Construction Difficulties

Considerable accumulations of snow occurred during the first half of the month. Much time was devoted to plowing to keep the access road and service road clear. Warming temperatures began to open the creek up in the lower reaches but spring runoff was not difficult to manage.

5) Critical Events and Dates

There were no critical events this month.

8) Sources of Major Construction Material

No construction material was used this month.

11) Photographs

Ten photo vantage points have been established throughout the project area. Very little change occurred at photo points with the exception of the powerhouse (point 10).

12) Environmental Compliance Issues

Monitoring of turbidity was performed only during the last week of the month. The creek was 100% iced over until slightly warmer temperatures opened the lower reaches in few locations. Warming did not result in opening of the creek near the intake until March 30th. The initial thaw in this area resulted in the highest recorded turbidity for March at about 10 NTUs.

Till cut-banks continued to slough material even during the colder weather. When temperatures warmed in the latter part of March the banks began to weep and ooze down into the ditches and onto the road. Very little sediment was added to the stream by these sources because the construction crew performed maintenance when necessary and because the shot-rock road is doing an excellent job of capturing most of the material. A long-term plan for how to manage erosion and sediment at the exposed till slopes will be drafted this spring.

Waste from the powerhouse excavation was dumped in the steel penstock right of way clearing.

A few openings in the surface ice developed in the anadromous reach during the second half of March.

Till cut-banks along the road, above the intake and above the powerhouse slough blocks of till and ooze fine sediments when they get wet.

An approximately 5 gallon diesel spill at the Y was reported to the ECM on March 12th. Absorbent pads were used to clean up what was visible and a weed-burner was used to burn the residual off of the rock.

13) Wildlife Activity

Wildlife activity was generally low during the first half of the month. Wolf tracks, wolverine tracks, moose tracks and marten tracks were all observed at the intake service road during the second half of the month. Considerable wolf activity, again through tracking, was noted throughout the “ski area” on the Yellow Legs Savannah. Skiing on the Yellow Legs Savannah was popular with Gustavus residents again this month.

14) Biotic Monitoring

Observations for the frazzle ice model were made during the first half of the month. This may be the last cold snap of the season.

Information on dissolved oxygen and flow was collected to better understand overwintering fish habitat in the bypass reach during prolonged low flow periods. By mid-March there had been about a month of 5-10 CFS flows. Overwintering pools were at the base of the lower falls and in the vicinity of the powerhouse were surveyed for barriers to fish passage and to sample water quality. No barriers to fish passage were identified and dissolved oxygen numbers remained very good for overwintering juveniles and eggs (~12 mg/L).

Manually collected flow measurements at the intake site and powerhouse area suggest that even after prolonged periods of low flow some accretion does occur. Flow data collected in March suggest that accretion adds about 30% to creek flow between the intake area and the powerhouse.

The following sections are not yet applicable to the date of this report:
4) Contract Status
6) Reservoir Filling
7) Foundations
9) Materials Testing and Results
10) Instrumentation

Skiers on the Yellowlegs Savannah.

A YSI probe was used this month to measure dissolved oxygen in frozen over pools. Results were ~ 12 mg/L

Weather station for ice model in the foreground. An area of the creek near the intake was kept free of ice to allow for manual discharge measurements during low flows.

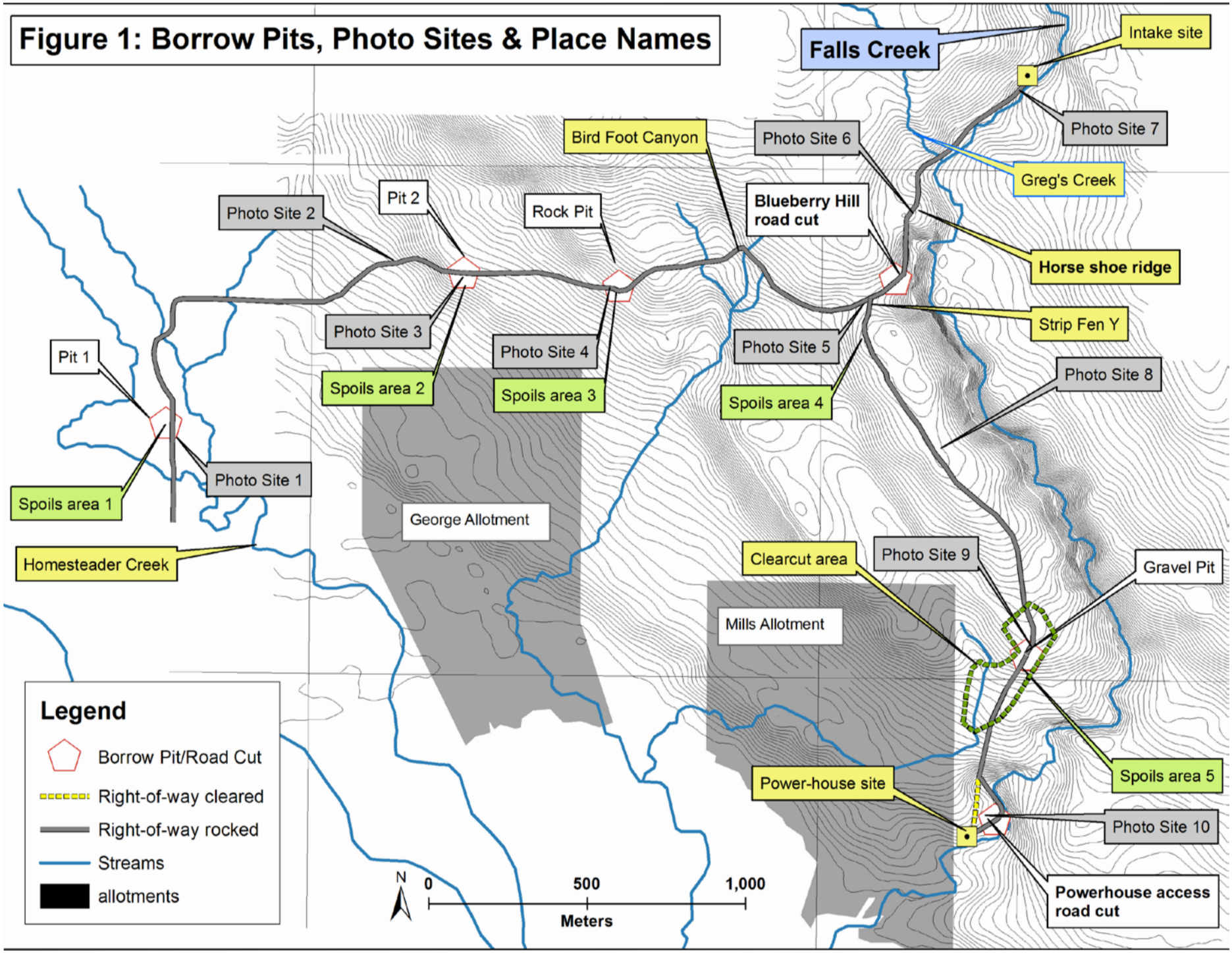
Figure 1: Borrow Pits, Photo Sites & Place Names
Falls Creek
Intake site
Photo Site 7
Greg's Creek
Horse shoe ridge
Strip Fen Y
Photo Site 8
Photo Site 6
Bird Foot Canyon
Blueberry Hill road cut
Photo Site 5
Spoils area 4
Photo Site 2
Pit 2
Rock Pit
Photo Site 3
Photo Site 4
Spoils area 2
Spoils area 3
Pit 1
Photo Site 1
Spoils area 1
Homesteader Creek
George Allotment
Clearcut area
Photo Site 9
Gravel Pit
Mills Allotment
Spoils area 5
Power-house site
Photo Site 10
Powerhouse access road cut
Legend
Borrow Pit/Road Cut
Right-of-way cleared
Right-of-way rocked
Streams
allotments
N
0
500
1,000
Meters

APPENDIX 1: MARCH 2007 PHOTOS FROM VANTAGE POINTS

01_photo_site.jpg

02_photo_site.jpg

03_photo_site.jpg

04_photo_site.jpg

05_photo_site.jpg

06_photo_site.jpg

07_photo_site.JPG

08_photo_site.jpg

09_photo_site.jpg

10_photo_site.jpg

Photo site 10 has been moved to the location of the powerhouse.