



117 Walnut Valley Rd.  
Blairtown, NJ 07825

**Timothy L. Hicks**  
Manager, Yards Creek

973-401-8657

December 20, 2019

Mr. John Spain, P.E.  
Regional Engineer  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections  
New York Regional Office  
19 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street – Suite 400  
New York, New York 10001

Subject: Annual Certification Letter  
Yards Creek P-02309-NJ

Dear Mr. Spain:

In accordance with FERC requirements, I am submitting this letter to satisfy the 2019 certification requirements for the Yards Creek project.

**Project Safety Incidents:**

There were no conditions or events identified which affected the safety of the Project.

**Statement from the Chief Dam Safety Engineer:**

The 2018 DSSMR includes the statement on the condition of the dams by our Dam Safety Engineer "Based on my personal knowledge, inspections, meetings, and discussions with Yards Creek PSP staff and FirstEnergy's consultant, Stantec, along with review of the DSSMR and Dam Safety Inspection Reports, I conclude that the dams are safe for continued operation".

**Minimum Flow Compliance:**

The minimum flow compliance certification report will be issued in March of 2020.

**Drawdowns and Dewatering:**

There was one drawdown of the Upper Reservoir to an elevation of 1465 from September 8 to December 9, 2019 per NJDEP Water Lowering Permit No. 19-044. The penstock was partially or fully dewatered for the duration of the water lowering. Two 24-hour hold tests were completed as part of the re-watering process.

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No water was released from the Auxiliary Reservoir to supplement storage to the Lower Reservoir.

**EAP Status Report:**

A comprehensive review and update of the EAP is in progress. A functional exercise was conducted on June 26, 2019. This exercise was used to test and solicit additional feedback on the formatting of the EAP. Comments are being incorporated into the revised EAP that will be issued in the first quarter of 2020.

**Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Plan:**

The 2017 DSSMR will be submitted to your office by March 31, 2020.

An updated Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Plan was submitted to your office in March 2019. Instrumentation is being monitored in accordance with the DSSMP.

**Public Safety Related Incidents:**

There were no conditions or events identified in 2019 which affected the public safety

The Public Safety plan will be updated in conjunction with operations at an Upper Reservoir elevation of 1557.

**Recreation Signs:**

Recreation use signs are posted.

**Records:**

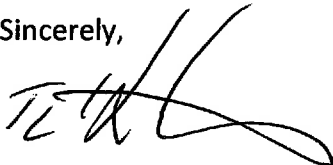
Design drawings and operational history are maintained at the Yards Creek Station and corporate offices.

**Security:**

The annual FERC dam safety inspection was conducted on July 10, 2019 with FERC and NJDEP Bureau of Dam Safety engineers present. Our annual security compliance certification letter was submitted on December 20, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Hicks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Hicks  
Manager, Yards Creek Station

Cc: D. Rossero

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H. Conley

M. Henry

C. Adams – GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

J. Brady – PSEG Fossil, LLC

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