



03/04/2022

Keith Francis
City of Branson, Missouri
100W. Maddux
Branson, MO 65616

RE: Proposed gate operations

Dear Keith,

We appreciate the City of Branson, Missouri's (Branson's) January 4, 2022 comments (Comments) to The Empire District Electric Company's (Empire's) proposed License Application Amendment (Project No. 2221) to increase the height of the Obermeyer Gates at the project dam. As you know, after receipt of your Comments, on January 21, 2022, Empire and Branson met to discuss the concerns raised with respect to the water surface elevations proposed by Empire in its Amendment Application. On January 27, 2022, Empire, with the cooperation of the upstream Table Rock project, conducted a test that allowed Branson and Empire to view the effects of the proposed elevations on the Branson Lakeside RV Park and related facilities.

In order to address the concerns raised in Branson's Comments, Empire proposes to modify the Gate Operations as indicated below. Empire believes that operating at these levels will eliminate the flooding issues identified in Branson's Comments and as confirmed by Empire's testing.

As proposed in its Application Amendment (Exhibit B, page B-5), Empire proposed the following lake levels:

Table B-3. Gate Operation – Proposed Conditions

Gate	Raise	Lower
1	EL 701.9	EL 703.1
2	EL 702.2	EL 703.2
3	EL 702.4	EL 703.4

Empire now proposes to modify the gate levels as follows:

Table B-3. Gate Operation – Proposed Conditions (revised)

Gate	Raise	Lower
1	EL 701.8	EL 702.3
2	EL 701.9	EL 702.4
3	EL 702.0	EL 702.5



In addition, at the end of a high water event, the Project will lower the lake level to 701.3 or lower at the end of the water flow event. This will be done primarily with generation. If generation is not available, this will be done by changing the gate operating levels as shown in Table B-3A or by operating the gates manually.

Table B-3A. Gate Operation – Proposed with no Generation Available

Gate	Raise	Lower
1	EL 701.3	EL 701.6
2	EL 701.3	EL 701.7
3	EL 701.5	EL 702.0

Empire hopes to expeditiously resolve this issue with FERC and obtain a new License for its project. If you agree that the proposed levels address your concerns, we would appreciate it if you would notify FERC that the levels proposed are satisfactory to Branson and address the concerns raised in your Comments.

If you have any questions, please let me know. We thank Branson for working collaboratively with Empire and look forward to many more years of cooperation at Lake Taneycomo.

Sincerely,

Randy Richardson

The Application for Amendment of License for Project No. 2221 filed on May 6, 2021 is modified as follows:

Exhibit B, Table B-3, is modified as follows and Table B-3A and accompanying text is added:

Table B-3. Gate Operation – Proposed Conditions

Gate	Raise	Lower
1	EL 701.8	EL 702.3
2	EL 701.9	EL 702.4
3	EL 702.0	EL 702.5



The Project will lower the lake level to 701.3 or lower at the end of a water flow event. This will be done primarily with generation. If generation is not available, this will be done by changing the gate operating levels as shown in Table B-3A or by operating the gates manually.

Table B-3A. Gate Operation – Proposed with no Generation Available

Gate	Raise	Lower
1	EL 701.3	EL 701.6
2	EL 701.3	EL 701.7
3	EL 701.5	EL 702.0