

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Office of Energy Projects**

**Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - Chicago Regional Office**

**230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3130**

**Chicago, Illinois 60604**

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In reply refer to: P-2056

August 9, 2022

VIA Electronic Mail

Mr. Scott Crotty  
Senior Operations Manager  
Xcel Energy  
Scott.a.Crotty@xcelenergy.com

Subject: 2022 Annual Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Report (DSSMR)  
June 22, 2022 – 12.10 Report Regarding May Seepage  
Annual Dam Safety Inspection Follow-up Comments  
St. Anthony Falls Hydroelectric Project FERC No. P-2056

Dear Ms. Crotty:

The annual dam safety inspection of the St. Anthony Falls Hydroelectric Project No. P-02056, which is integral with the USACE's Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock & Dam, was conducted June 28, 2022 by Mr. Scott Airato, P.E. There were no observations with respect to dam safety that required immediate remedial action. Nor were any significant dam safety concerns identified in the review of the DSSMR filed March 31, 2022 as well as the subsequent monitoring data reviewed during the inspection.

However, as noted in the 12.20 report, during high flows on May 10-11, 2022 causing an approximate 2-foot rise in the reservoir elevation, the downstream side of the Hennepin Earth Island Dam (P-2056-02-01) was observed to have active seepage emerging about 4 feet below the reservoir level without signs of internal erosion. Over the next several weeks, the reservoir rose a little higher and the seepage increased as well. As the flood receded, the seepage quantity similarly reduced. At the time of the inspection, the reservoir had returned to normal levels leaving a trickle of clear seepage and wet areas along the downstream toe's limestone walls.

As indicated in the 12.10 report, the Drilling Program Plan (DPP) was subsequently filed July 22, 2022, to perform a geotechnical boring evaluation. A response to the DPP will be provided under separate correspondence. As noted during the inspection, a stockpile of sand and gravel filter materials has been delivered to the project site and there are construction crews and equipment that can place the materials if needed on short notice. No materials have been needed yet or are anticipated for the

current river conditions. The 12.10 report satisfies the requirements of 18 CFR §12.10(a).

The DSSMR was prepared by Mr. Dean Steines, P.E., Principal Engineer, and includes a statement from your Interim Chief Dam Safety Official, Mr. Russell Girtz, that the dam is safe for continued operation. The 2022 DSSMR satisfactorily fulfills the annual requirement under Chapter 14 – Appendix K of the FERC’s Engineering Guidelines.

Please contact Mr. Scott Airato, P.E. at (312) 596-4431 (scott.airato@ferc.gov) or me at (312) 596-4430 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JA Zygaj".

John A. Zygaj, P.E.  
Regional Engineer