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Thompson Falls Proposed Dock Modification Program

October 24, 2023



Thompson Falls Final License Application to be Filed 12/31/2023

- NorthWestern requesting 2.5 ft of allowable reservoir fluctuation to support flexible capacity generation.
- Studies in 2021 and 2022 showed many dock structures have limited functionality at reduced reservoir elevations.
- Intent of the “Dock Modification Program” is to provide a funding mechanism to support modification of existing privately-owned docks and associated structures on Thompson Falls Reservoir to ensure dock use at fluctuating reservoir elevations if reservoir fluctuation of 2.5 ft is approved by FERC.



Thompson Falls Proposed Dock Modification Program

Program Goals:

- Modify structures to provide access to 3 ft of water at the end of the dock when the reservoir is 2.5 ft below full pool.
- Modify structures to provide 1 ft of water beneath near-shore floats to prevent damage due to grounding.

Basic Criteria:

- Program applies to existing dock structures.
- Modifications and costs must be pre-approved and occur within the first five years of the new license being issued by FERC.



Program Details:

- Funding through the program will support achievement of the goals. Additional modifications that go beyond the scope of the program goals will not be approved for funding.
- Modified structures must align with NorthWestern's Shoreline Standards.
- Modifications may pertain to gangways, docks, shoreline anchor points, or a combination of these structures.
- Modifications will generally be of like or similar products. Complete replacements are unlikely to be approved.



Program Process:

- Project applications submitted to NorthWestern for review.
- Once approved and all required permits and/or land use licenses are secured, structure owner completes the work.
- Upon completion, structure owner submits request for reimbursement along with receipts.
- Structure owner will receive reimbursement within 30 days of request for approved work.
- NorthWestern is indemnified of any liability associated with modifications as well as any future requests for modification or reimbursement.



Example Projects:

- Extension of dock to reach 3 feet of water and/or for near-shore floats to suspend in 1 foot of water at -2.5 ft reservoir elevation.
- Lengthening of gangway to position dock in deeper water and ensure 3-foot water depth at -2.5 ft elevation.
- Relocate shoreline anchor point to reduce slope of gangway at -2.5 ft reservoir elevation.



Key Elements:

- Implementation only if 2.5 ft reservoir fluctuation is approved.
- Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Exploring multiple solutions is encouraged.
- This is a reimbursement program; structure owners must fund the work and will be reimbursed.
- Only approved projects will be approved for reimbursement.
- Structures may only be modified a single time under this program.
- Permitting and land use licenses may be required.
- NorthWestern assumes no liability.



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