

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Baranof

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

P.O. Box 499
Sitka, AK 99835

December 22, 1977

Regional Director
Federal Power Commission
U.S. Customs House
San Francisco, CA

Dear Sir:

Pertaining to the September 7, 1977, Federal Power Commission Amendment to Project 2230, Article 28, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the City and Borough of Sitka has determined that an emergency electrical power situation exists in the city of Sitka. Reference is made to the attached two letters from the City and Borough of Sitka.

In consideration for the health and welfare of the citizens of Sitka we hereby authorize a shut-off of the fish bypass valve to Sawmill Creek. Normal flow from this valve should be reestablished when the lake level again increases so that operation can be continued by the rule curve method.

We urge that the City and Borough of Sitka and Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company continue cooperative efforts to eliminate any wasting of water from the reservoir.

Sincerely,

Artwin E. Schmidt for
Richard D. Reed
Regional Habitat Protection Supervisor

Enclosures (2)

cc City and Borough of Sitka
Richard D. Reed



City and Borough of Sitka

P.O. BOX 79 · SITKA, ALASKA · 99835

December 22, 1977

Artwin E. Schmidt
Fishery Biologist
ADF & G, Sport Fish Division
Box 499
Sitka, Alaska

Re: Water Levels - Blue Lake

Dear Art:

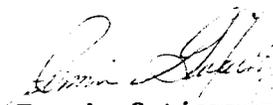
With reference to the attached ADF & G letter by Commissioner Brooks, the City and Borough of Sitka requests permission to reduce the discharge rate of the Medvetcha River fish valve to zero.

Due to a record system electrical demand this winter we calculate March 1, 1978 as the cutoff date for full power production of the Blue Lake Hydro plant, if the present drawdown rate continues.

Should this happen indeed, the "health and welfare of the citizens of Sitka could be jeopardized".

Once lake levels have attained the elevations necessary to operate by the rule curve methods you may be assured we will again adjust flows to the required discharge rate.

Sincerely,


Fermin Gutierrez
Administrator

FG:mm

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

210 Ferry Way
Juneau, Alaska
99801

November 1, 1976

Regional Director
Federal Power Commission
555 Battery Street, Room 415
San Francisco, California
94111

RE: Blue Lake Project No. 2230

Gentlemen:

The Department of Fish and Game has, in cooperation with the City of Sitka, completed evaluation of the impacts which flow variations have upon the fishery resources of the Medvetcha River as requested by your agency. Results of the study are included in the enclosed report Inventory and Cataloging, Special Management Problems (pages 55 thru 68).

In general, we recommend that the river's historical flow pattern be reestablished. This could be accomplished by maintaining 22 CFS discharge during January through April, 50 CFS during May through November, and 37 CFS during December.

The City of Sitka has reviewed the completed report and has no objections.

They did request authority to reduce the flows below the minimum mentioned in the report if "the health and welfare of the citizens of Sitka could be jeopardized by maintaining the minimum flows specified in the report." The Department of Fish and Game has no objection to this request provided we are allowed to review and comment upon any such decision prior to its being made.

Hopefully, with the eventual establishment of the proposed Green Lake facility, much of the fishery resource-related problems on the Medvetcha River will be alleviated.

Sincerely,

James W. Brooks, Commissioner

Richard D. Reed

BY: Richard D. Reed
Regional Habitat Protection Supervisor

*cc: F. Gutierrez, City of Sitka
w/enclosure*

Enclosure

City and Borough of Sitka

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 79 . SITKA, ALASKA . 99835



December 22, 1977

Artwin E. Schmidt
Fishery Biologist
ADF & G, Sportfish Division
Box 499
Sitka, Alaska

Re: Water Levels - Blue Lake

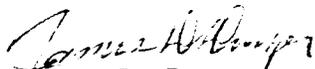
Dear Art:

Blue Lake power plant operating date indicates that water levels are dropping at an alarming rate, closely paralleling the December 1975 situation. We are enclosing two curves showing lake levels of this period during 1976 - 1977. They will reflect an 18' deficit under last year for the current date. If drawdown continues at the present rate we anticipate March 1, 1978 as the last date of full power production at the Blue Lake plant.

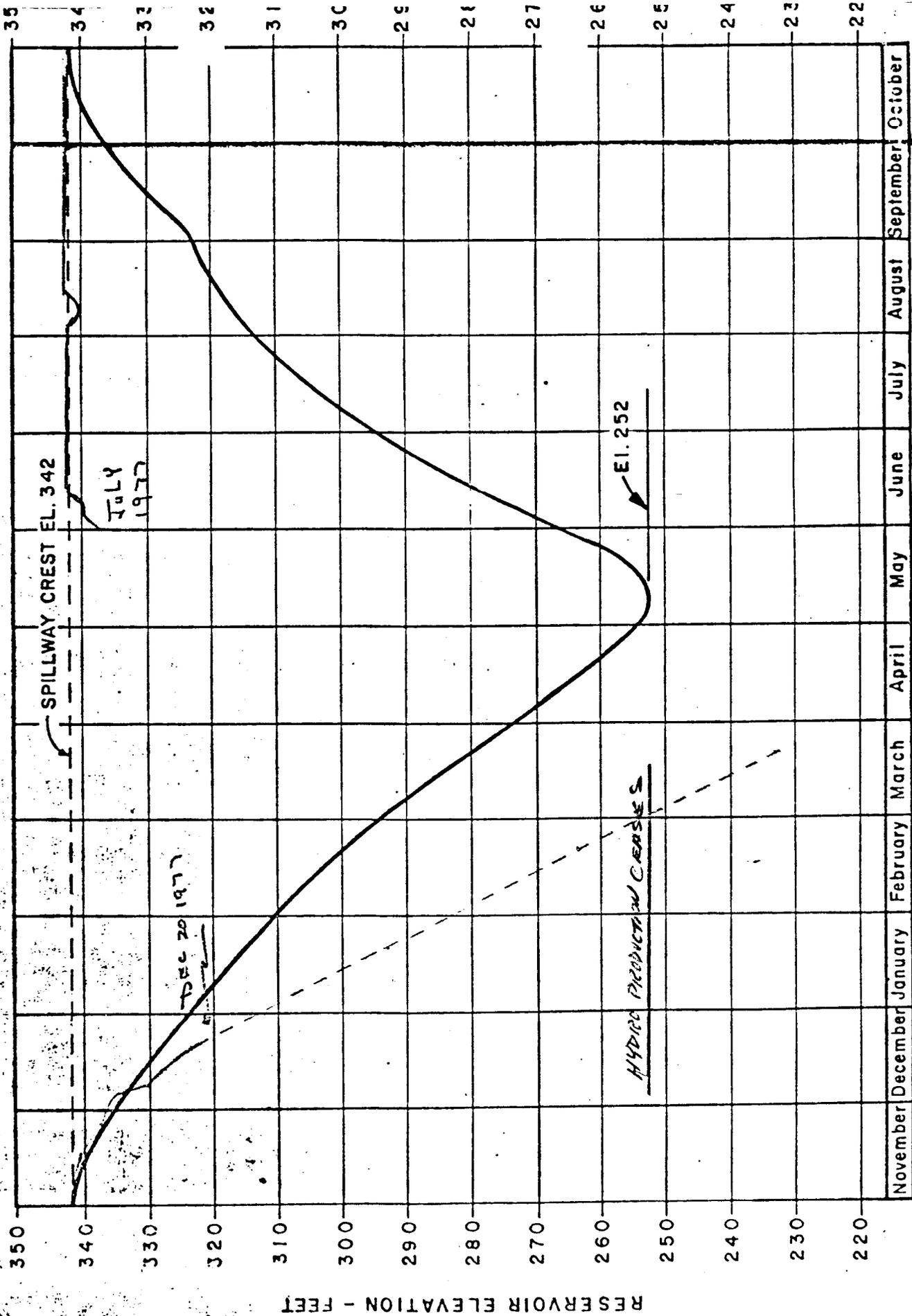
During the month of November we purchased from the Alaska Lumber & Pulp Co. 2000 kilowatt of power when possible in an attempt to slow down the rate of descent. These purchases amounted to 688,800 KWH. In December we increased the power draw from the mill to 3000 kilowatt for a monthly total to date of 1,440,000 KWH. In addition, to meet the highest system demand recorded since the installation of the Blue Lake plant, we are utilizing our diesel generators an average of 15 hours daily for an approximate output of 360,000 KWH. Highest system demand during the current month was 9100 kilowatts, up 1550 kilowatts over last year's peak.

This department asks for permission to reduce Sawmill Creek fish valve discharge flow to zero until water levels again reach the elevation stipulated under the rule curve method of operation.

Sincerely,

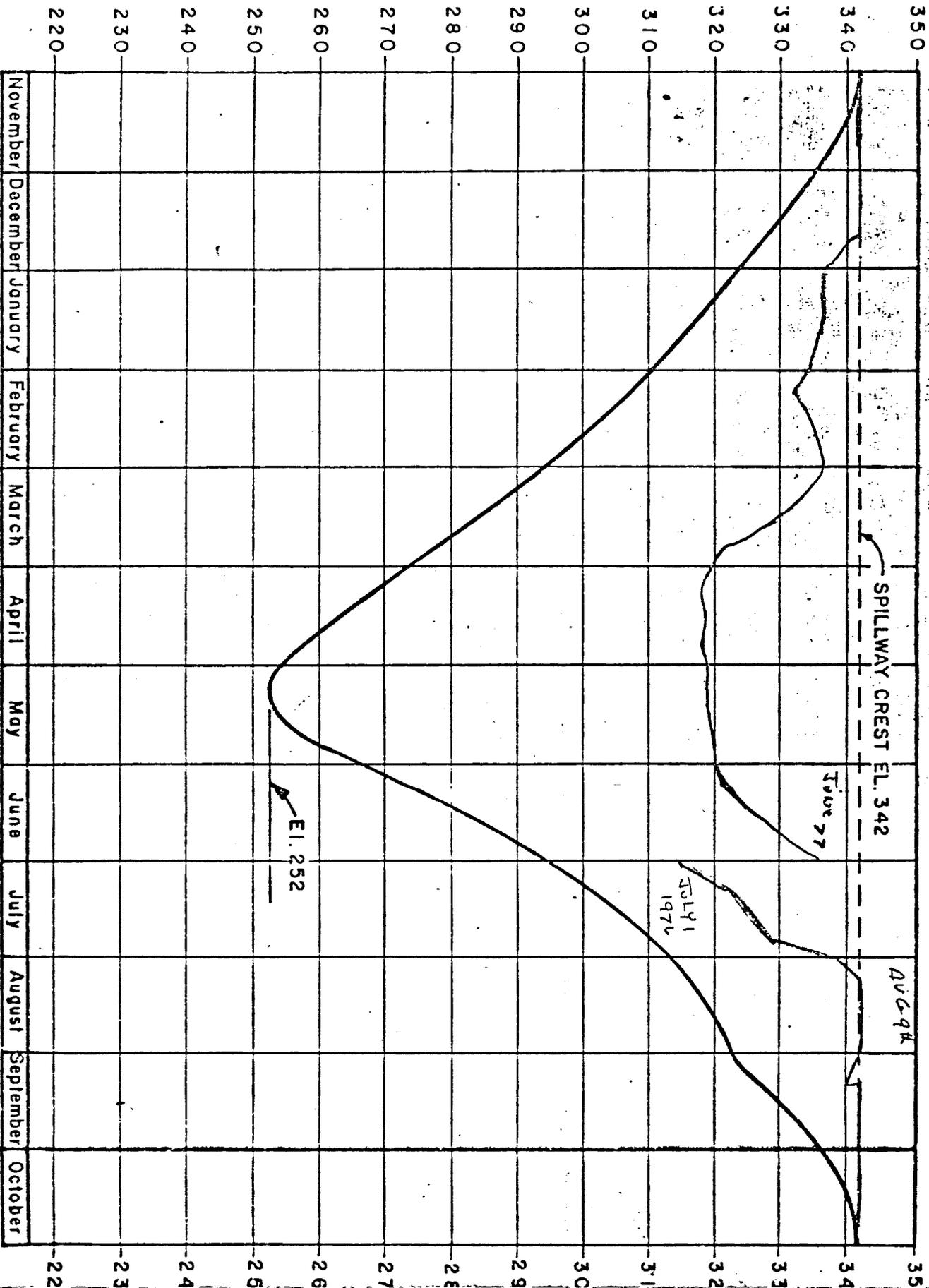

James D. Dwyer
Superintendent

cc: Fermin Gutierrez



RESERVOIR ELEVATION - FEET

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1976-77

PILE CURVE