**Withdraws Request for Sept. 16 Drawdown, Sept. 20 Remains the Target Date for Beginning Drawdowns**

**Sept. 8, 2018.**  In a Sept. 6, 2018 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC), Boyce Hydro Power LLC withdrew its request to begin drawing down Sanford, Wixom, Smallwood and Secord Lakes on Sept. 16.  The original Boyce request to begin drawing down the lakes on Sept. 20 is still in effect.  The primary purpose of the drawdowns is to conduct focused spillway inspections in compliance with a FERC order. During the drawdowns, the dam owner also plans to test all the spillway gates.

FERC approval is required for the lake drawdowns. That approval has not yet been granted. FERC is waiting for Boyce to submit a Water Management Plan for the drawdowns, which was due Sept. 7. In the Sept. 6 letter, Boyce stated the Water Management Plan will be delivered Sept. 10. FERC will need time to review the Plan before considering whether to approve the drawdowns. Boyce originally committed to notify local newspapers 2 weeks in advance of the drawdowns, after FERC approves the drawdowns. That is no longer possible if the drawdown is to begin Sept. 20.

Boyce also noted that some of the hardware on spillway gates needs to be replaced before the gate opening tests. The gate opening tests are not part of the focused spillway inspections, but are scheduled to be done in the same time period as the inspections.

We will continue to watch the situation and report any significant happenings.