

11<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Mr Roger Gould  
Senior Resource Management Officer  
Compliance Monitoring  
Environment Canterbury  
PO Box 550  
TIMARU 7940

Dear Roger

**Opua Water Ltd – Consent Self Monitoring Annual Report**

Pleased find enclosed our 2012 Consent Self Monitoring Annual Report.

I have to firstly apologise for the late delivery of this report for which I must take full responsibility. The report has previously been coordinated and prepared by Contact Energy, who were our contracted operator of the dam and power station, with input and Environmental Consultancy Services who provide us with expertise and support in our flow environmental monitoring and recording. With the change-over in October last year from Contact Energy to TrustPower, I had overlooked this function which is not within TrustPower's brief. Richard de Joux did flag with me that he had information for the report but with Richard away for a period overseas, the report compilation was unfortunately overlooked. However, it is finally completed for submission to you.

This year, the report includes a summary from the Comprehensive Dam Safety Review, a five-yearly event, which was undertaken in the latter part of the reporting period by Pickford Consulting and which replaced our annual dam safety inspection and report which is usually prepared by Tonkin & Taylor Ltd. I had previously obtained approval from ECan (Gould/Gebler) for the Comprehensive Review to obviate the need for the Annual Inspection. Tonkin & Taylor continue to be engaged by Opua Water Ltd for the on-going engineering support for dam safety matters.

The report also includes a report on the annual river survey which again is showing little change in the geomorphology or biota in the surveyed area.

The reporting period April 2011 – March 2012 was notable for the very low inflows through the 2011 winter period and then the summer which featured regular rain and inflows that enabled us to maintain a near full lake. The winter inflows were so low that we started the irrigation season on restrictions – a situation unprecedented in Opua's 13 year history as far as I am aware. Significant rain in late October broke the dry winter period and filled the lake from 50% full in a period of only eight days.

The modification to the penstock anchor/thrust block which was mentioned in my report to you last year has been completed. This work was required after one of the pre-stressed anchor rods failed during an inspection test in 2010.

We are currently investigating some alternative options to provide us with a more resilient downstream weir facility that will reduce the likelihood of the fusible embankment section washing out and also provide us with a better ability to create flushing flows in an effort to improve downstream river health. I am intended that this modification work will be started within our current financial year.

Once again Roger, I would like to thank you and your other team members for your support of our operation throughout the year and your willingness to provide input and advice to us as we attempt

to continuously improve the environmental performance of our operation. Of particular note in this regard was the response from ECan to the allegations in May of toxic chemicals in the lake. I have not referred to this incident in the Compliance Report however I would like to acknowledge the very professional approach to this taken by ECan personnel.

Yours sincerely  
OPUHA WATER LTD



Tony McCormick  
Chief Executive

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