Reconciling energy generation with water policy and environmental objectives, cross-border flow regulation with information exchange

International experience and good practice

Minna Hanski / Senior expert hydropower environment / Fortum



We are one of the cleanest power generators in Europe – with strong Nordic focus



Hydropower:

124 Hydropower plants4,653 MW of power capacity19.1 TWh of electricity produced43% share of Fortum's power generation





Voluntary and mandatory measures in hydropower

- Voluntary measures
 - Local acceptability
 - Company's climate and biodiversity targets
 - Customer needs
- Mandatory measures
 - Hydropower permits and obligations
 - EU regulation, e.g. Water Framework Directive and Nature Directives
 - Coming: Nature Restoration Regulation





Local acceptability - recreational limits of lake Oulu regulation

- Regulation limits in permits often more flexible than limits agreed with the local people, municipalities and stekeholders.
- Case Olujärvi: "soft limits" due to recreational needs during the summer



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Water Framework Directive Implementation

- Rivers with hydropower plants designated usually as heavily modified water bodies
- Target: good ecological potential
- Identified measures listed in River Basin Management Plans / Programmes of Measures
- E.g. upstream and downstream migration of fish, ecological flows, habitat restoration





Only acceptable hydropower is sustainable hydropower

Spjutmo fishway, Sweden



Commonly used measures

- Enabling migrating fish to move up and down past the hydropower plants
- Promoting biodiversity around the hydropower plants, e,g. recreation of meadows, combatting invasive species



Leppikoski Fishheart, Finland





Cross-border flow regulation, case Vuoksi

Hydropower plants in river Vuoksi





Regulatory Framework for Flow Regulation

- Finnish-Russian Agreement on the Utilisation of Transboudary Watercources in 1964
- Hydropower Agreement in 1972
 - Clear limits for the Svetogorsk HPP on the Russian side for the head water levels and regulation, to prevent losses in Finland
- Lake Saimaa and River Vuoksi Discharge Rule, accepted in 1989
 - Natural water level and discharge in normal circumstances
 - Flood and drought risk management



Source: Kaatra 2012.

Note: a.s.l = above sea level; NN = normal null; m³ = cubic meter; ml = milliliter; QL = .quantity level.



Day-to-Day Practices in Cooperation

- Cooperation procedure of Flow Regulation in the Vuoksi
 - Hydrological models updated by Finnish Environment Institute, relevant forecasts available also in Russian language, authorities monitor the water situation
 - Decision of Finnish authorities, made in co-operation with power companies, to adjust the flow in the Vuoksi upward or downward in case of flood or drought risk, to prevent any anticipated damage
 - Fortum makes intra week planning based on the weekly average discharge given by the authorities, and sends it for information to the Finnish regional water authority and Russian energy company
- Safety needs
 - Fortum take into account in the weekly planning also safety needs,
 e.g. need for maintenance in a Finnish or Russian hydropower plant





