

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 of CHELAN COUNTY
P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231 • 327 N. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 663-8121 • Toll free 1-888-663-8121 • www.chelanpud.org

October 13, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAILING

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project No. 637
License Article 408, Appendix D Water Quality Certification Condition IV.E. and
Settlement Agreement Article 7(c)(2) -
Notice of Temporary Changes in Pumped Flow to Habitat Channel for fall 2016**

Dear Secretary Bose:

In letters dated October 14, 2013, March 13, 2015, and March 11, 2016, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington (Chelan PUD) notified the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) of temporary pumped flow changes in the Chelan River Habitat Channel for the period of October 15 through November 30 (fall period) of 2013 and March 15 through May 15 (spring period) of 2014-2016. In your letter order dated February 25, 2014, your order dated October 5, 2015,¹ the Commission acknowledged the notifications.

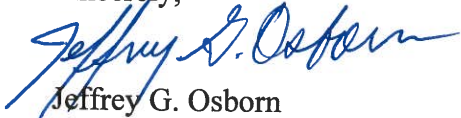
As stated in the letters identified previously, Chelan River Fishery Forum (CRFF) members, specifically the Washington State Departments of Ecology (Ecology), the Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Chelan PUD have conducted instream flow, depth, and substrate size measurements in the Chelan River Habitat Channel in previous years. Results from these measurements show that more Chinook salmon and steelhead spawning habitat is available at lower flows, hence the notification of reducing pump station operations from five pumps to four pumps in previous spawning periods. Chelan PUD requested support from the CRFF for implementing four-pump operation again for the fall 2016 Chinook salmon spawning period. Chelan PUD received comments from James Pacheco, Ecology, and Phil Archibald, Lake Chelan Sportsman Association, supporting the four-pump operation. (Refer to Attachment A for consultation). These flow changes will be reported in the 2017 Annual Flow and Temperature Report and Biological Objectives Status Report.

¹ 153 FERC ¶ 62,007 (2015)

Chelan PUD hereby notifies the Commission of its intent to continue the temporary change in pumped flow to the Chelan River Habitat Channel by operating four pumps rather than five pumps during the fall October 15 through November 30, 2016 Chinook salmon spawning period.

Please contact me (509) 661-4176 regarding any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey G. Osborn
License Compliance Supervisor
jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org

cc: Erich Gaedeke, FERC Portland Regional Office
Breean Zimmerman, Washington Department of Ecology
Chelan River Fishery Forum

Attachment A: Consultation Documentation

ATTACHMENT A CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION

CRFF Members List

James Pacheco's (Ecology) September 21, 2016, email

Phil Archibald's (Lake Chelan Sportsman Association) September 8, 2016, email

The table below identifies CRFF members and participants.

FORUM PARTICIPANTS	AGENCY
Mark Peterschmidt	Washington State Department of Ecology
Jim Pacheco	Washington State Department of Ecology
Brean Zimmerman	Washington State Department of Ecology
Jeffrey Korth	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Graham Simon	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Travis Maitland	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kari Grover Wier	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Richard Vacirca	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Paul Willard	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Emily Johnson	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Ashley Rawhouser	National Park Service
Hugh Anthony	National Park Service
Steve Lewis	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Justin Yeager	National Marine Fisheries Services
Bill Towey	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Bob Rose	Yakama Indian Nation
Carl Merkle	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Robert Cooney	City of Chelan
Phil Archibald	Lake Chelan Sportsman Association
Keith Truscott	Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
Michelle Smith	Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
Steve Hays	Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
Debby Bitterman	Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
Marcie Steinmetz	Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
Jeff Osborn	Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

Sokolowski, Rosana

Subject: FW: Chelan River Sediment Basin Cleanout Project

From: Pacheco, James (ECY) [<mailto:JPAC461@ECY.WA.GOV>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 7:47 AM

To: Osborn, Jeff

Subject: RE: Chelan River Sediment Basin Cleanout Project

Sorry for the late response.

I approve the 4-pump operation.

Jim

From: Osborn, Jeff [<mailto:Jeff.Osborn@chelanpud.org>]

Sent: Friday, September 02, 2016 3:41 PM

To: Ashley Rawhouser <Ashley_Rawhouser@nps.gov>; Bill Towey <bill@ucut-nsn.org>; Bitterman, Deborah <Deborah.Bitterman@chelanpud.org>; Bob Rose <rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov>; Zimmerman, Breean (ECY) <bzim461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Carl Merkle <carlmerkle@ctuir.com>; Clement, Marcie <Marcie.Clement@chelanpud.org>; Emily Johnson <ekjohnson@fs.fed.us>; Simon, Graham A (DFW) <Graham.Simon@dfw.wa.gov>; Hays, Steve <steve.hays@chelanpud.org>; Hugh Anthony <Hugh_Anthony@nps.gov>; Korth, Jeff W (DFW) <Jeff.Korth@dfw.wa.gov>; Pacheco, James (ECY) <JPAC461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Justin Yeager <Justin.Yeager@noaa.gov>; Kari Grover Wier <kgroverwier@fs.fed.us>; Peterschmidt, Mark F. (ECY) <MAPE461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Mike Cooney <mcooney@cityofchelan.us>; Osborn, Jeff <Jeff.Osborn@chelanpud.org>; Paul Willard <pwillard@fs.fed.us>; Phil Archibald <kim.l.lohse@gmail.com>; Richard Vacirca <rvacirca@fs.fed.us>; Smith, Michelle <michelle.smith@chelanpud.org>; Steve Lewis <Stephen.Lewis@fws.gov>; Maitland, Travis W (DFW) <Travis.Maitland@dfw.wa.gov>; Truscott, Keith <keith.truscott@chelanpud.org>

Subject: Chelan River Sediment Basin Cleanout Project

Dear Chelan River Fishery Forum: As you may recall, the Chelan River Sediment Basin Cleanout Project was slated for implementation in 2016. We conducted the project from Monday, August 22 through Thursday, August 25, 2016. In addition to removing gravel and cobble from the sediment basin above the hydraulic control structure, we took the opportunity of having heavy equipment on site to remove gravel from the pool above Noah's Ark (the log jam at the entrance to the Habitat Channel) and the tailrace just above the highway bridge at the confluence with the spill channel. The high spill flows (peak 9,000 cfs) in May and June 2016 deposited significant amounts of gravel and cobble in these areas. Our concern was that these areas would likely be covered by sufficient water depth during Chinook salmon spawning operations, Chinook salmon would spawn in these areas, and then redds would become dewatered upon returning flow from the pumped flow level to the 80 cfs minimum instream flow requirement for the Chelan River. We removed approximately 3,200 cu. yds. of gravel/cobble from the tailrace and 1,600 cu yds. from the sediment basin and pool above Noah's Ark. We placed approximately 25 cu. yds. of finer gravel immediately below Noah's Ark for distribution into the Habitat Channel by higher flows that will occur during the whitewater boating event on September 17-18 (350-425 cfs) and, likely, spill flows during spring 2017. Gravel and cobble removed from the tailrace, sediment basin, and pool above Noah's Ark was stock-piled near the Habitat Channel for placement into the Habitat Channel in future years to refresh lost spawning gravels. All of these maintenance activities were conducted under our 5-year Chelan River maintenance permit obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Photographs of the project are attached as follows:

1. Chelan tailrace during excavation;

2. Chelan tailrace after excavation;
3. Chelan River above Noah's Ark during excavation;
4. Chelan River above Noah's Ark and sediment basin during excavation; and
5. Chelan River above Noah's Ark and sediment basin after excavation.

Additionally, the Chinook salmon spawning operation period, October 15 through November 30, is approaching. For the past number of years the CRFF has recommended that Chelan PUD provide 4-pump operation versus 5-pump operation in the Habitat Channel for this spawning period. I wish to confirm with you continuing the 4-pump operation for the October 15 through November 30 Chinook salmon spawning period for 2016. Please send me a response to this email confirming this operation again for 2016 at your earliest convenience. If someone wishes to discuss a different operation than 4-pumps, then please let me know as soon as possible and I will schedule a conference call of the Forum immediately.

As always, please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Jeff

Jeff Osborn
License Compliance Supervisor
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
327 North Wenatchee Avenue
PO Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231
Phone: 509-661-4176
FAX: 509-661-8108
Email: jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org

Sokolowski, Rosana

Subject: FW: Chelan River Sediment Basin Cleanout Project

From: Kim Lohse [<mailto:kim.l.lohse@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2016 9:45 AM
To: Osborn, Jeff
Subject: Re: Chelan River Sediment Basin Cleanout Project

Jeff, thanks for the update. Looks like you did the right thing with the clean out project. I am on-board with the the 4 pump operation scheme.

Phil

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 2, 2016, at 3:41 PM, Osborn, Jeff <Jeff.Osborn@chelanpud.org> wrote:

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Jeff

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FAX: 509-661-8108
Email: jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org

<Tailrace sediment excavation 2016.jpg>

<Tailrace after excavation 2016.jpg>

<Noah's Ark sediment excavation 2016.jpg>

<Sediment Basin sediment excavation 2016.jpg>

<Sediment Basin after excavation 2016.jpg>