

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

Project Nos. 637-052 and 053

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSIONS OF TIME TO CONSTRUCT TRAIL
EXTENSION AND CONDUCT WHITEWATER BOATING STUDY

(Issued September 2, 2008)

On June 2, 2008, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD or licensee) filed a request for extensions of time to begin construction of the required trail extension, and begin spills for the required whitewater boating study at the Lake Chelan Project (FERC No. 637). The project is located on the Chelan River, near the City of Chelan, in Chelan County, Washington.

The licensee is required, in pertinent part, per the Commission's April 14, 2008 Order Approving Recreation Resources Management Plan Under Article 407,¹ to design and construct a paved trail linking Chelan PUD's existing Riverwalk Loop Trail and Reach 1 Access Trail, and to start a three-year whitewater boating monitoring study in the Chelan River, within one year of license issuance.

Chelan PUD requests an extension of time through mid-2009 to begin trail construction, and until the summer of 2009 to start the spills for the whitewater boating study. The extension of time for trail construction would allow for a concerted effort to coordinate use of the soil removed from the low-level outlet construction project, and relocation of the soil to develop the area for the Riverwalk Loop Trail Extension. The joint implementation of these two projects would allow for more efficiency and would provide a benefit to both projects.

The original schedule for the whitewater boating study was tentative, based on habitat restoration work being done in the lower reaches of the Chelan River. Because of the habitat restoration work, it was determined that spills for whitewater boating on the scheduled two weekends in July and two weekends in September would not occur until 2009. Plans for the first year of the whitewater boating study would continue to be coordinated and discussed with the Lake Chelan Recreation Forum.

The reasons advanced by the licensee in support of the extensions of time are reasonable and justify the extensions.

¹ 123 FERC ¶ 62,047

The Director orders:

(A) The deadline for beginning trail construction work is extended to July 31, 2009.

(B) The deadline for starting the whitewater boating study is extended to July 1, 2009.

(C) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days from the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 CFR § 385.713.

Robert J. Fletcher
Chief, Land Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower
Administration and Compliance