

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Portland, OR 97205

MAR 26 2009

RECEIVE

MAR 30 2009

Licensing & Compliance

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 637-057 -- Washington
Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project
Chelan County PUD

COPY

Ms. Michelle Smith
Licensing and Compliance Manager
Chelan County PUD
P.O. Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231

Subject: 2009 Annual Lake Chelan Fishery Work Plan, Article 404

Dear Ms. Smith:

This acknowledges receipt of your 2009 Annual Lake Chelan Fishery Work Plan, filed February 17, 2008, pursuant to license Article 404 and the December 4, 2007 Order Modifying and Approving Lake Chelan Fishery Plan for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 637).

The ordering paragraph (B) of the December 4, 2007 order requires you to file with the Commission by June 1, an Annual Fish Stocking Report. Your filing identifies potential monitoring and evaluation measures to capture projects that could be accomplished in the future and would be evaluated on an annual basis by the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum (LCFF). These measures and associated monitoring relate to Westslope cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, kokanee, burbot, smallmouth and largemouth bass, and bull trout. For 2008, you plan to implement the following monitoring and evaluation program measures: (1) continue bioenergetics food web model development; (2) tributary barrier confirmation and removal planning; (3) fish stocking and associated funding to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); (4) kokanee spawning surveys; (5) habitat assessment for Stehekin River cutthroat and rainbow trout and expanded kokanee spawning surveys; (6) lower Stehekin River cutthroat and rainbow trout spawning surveys; (7) tributary estimates of juvenile cutthroat and rainbow trout abundance; (8) kokanee creel surveys; and (9) fish stocking monitoring and evaluation.

Regarding tributary barrier removal, you state that on-the-ground removal efforts would commence in early 2011. Efforts to implement barrier removal in Lake Chelan tributaries in 2009 in order to avoid further delay will include the following: (1) conduct a site visit to primary tributaries by the design consultant and LCFF in late March or early

April to document existing conditions and discuss concepts for barrier removal and stream mouth restoration; (2) continue photo documentation of tributary mouth existing conditions; (3) conduct initial designs of barrier removal and stream mouth restoration; and (4) initiate acquisition of all required permits to conduct barrier removal and stream mouth restoration efforts. Beginning in 2009, you plan to monitor trends in abundance of cutthroat and rainbow trout spawners at 10 to 12 index sites in the lower 8 to 10 miles of the Stehekin River. Also beginning in 2009, and every third year thereafter, the WDFW will sample First, Mitchell, Fish, Grade, Gold, Prince and Safety Harbor Creeks to obtain information on adfluvial Westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout population abundance, age class composition and other biological characteristics.

Your filing adequately fulfills the requirement identified herein. Thank you for your filing. If you have any questions, please contact me at (503) 552-2716 or via email at erich.gaedeke@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erich G. Gaedeke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Erich G. Gaedeke
Fishery Biologist
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance