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**OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS**

Project No. 637-040 – Washington  
Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project  
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

Ms. Michelle Smith  
Licensing & Compliance Manager  
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County  
P.O. Box 1231  
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231

**November 15, 2010**

**Subject: Notice of Revised Schedule for the 2010 Whitewater Boating Monitoring Study**

Dear Ms. Smith:

This letter is in reference to your July 7, 2010 filing notifying the Commission of a change in the schedule for the 2010 whitewater boating study in the Chelan River for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 637). The whitewater boating monitoring study was filed on November 6, 2007 as appendix B of the recreation resources management and implementation plan, and approved by the Commission on April 14, 2008 pursuant to article 407.<sup>1</sup>

Article 407 of the project license require the licensee to file a recreation resources management plan which include, in part, a whitewater boating monitoring plan pursuant to settlement agreement article (II)(h). The approved whitewater boating monitoring plan requires you to submit annual reports to the Commission on or before June 1 for the previous year's whitewater boating monitoring study for the initial three years after the effective date of the license. On September 2, 2008, you were granted an extension of time to begin the whitewater boating monitoring during 2009.

You report that in coordination and discussion with American Whitewater and the Lake Chelan Recreation Forum, spill releases for the first weekend of whitewater boating, July 10 and 11, 2010, was cancelled due to high volume runoff forecasts into Lake Chelan and potential large spill volumes down the Chelan River. It has been a cooler and

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<sup>1</sup> See Order on Offer of Settlement and Issuing New License issued November 6, 2006 (117 FERC ¶ 62,219) and Order Approving Recreation Resources Management Plan Under Article 407 issued April 14, 2008 (123 FERC ¶ 62,047).

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wetter than average spring, resulting in the later than average water runoff. Almost 50 percent of the high elevation snowpack remained and was 280 percent of average for that time of year. Temperatures were forecasted to warm into the high 90s over the following week. With these temperatures, snowpack would melt quickly and inflows will likely exceed turbine capacity, requiring high spill volumes through the Chelan River (up to 4,000 cfs) to maintain lake level and to prevent flooding. In comparison, spill releases required for whitewater boating are 350 cfs to 450 cfs. You met your target lake level elevation of 1,098 feet on July 1, 2010. The maximum license lake level elevation is 1,100 feet.

You additionally report that to meet the license-required ramping rates and to prevent fish stranding in reach No. 4 of the Chelan River, decreasing spill releases would need to occur slowly during daylight hours to allow fish to move from potential stranding areas in reaches No. 1-4 of the Chelan River. This would require spill releases to be reduced two to three days earlier than the scheduled Saturday and Sunday whitewater boating days. Limiting spill releases for four to five days restricts the ability to manage lake elevations and provide adequate flood control. The high runoff volumes were expected to diminish through the month of July 2010 as warmer weather melts the higher elevation snowpack. Spill releases for the remaining 2010 whitewater boating study, scheduled for July 24, 25 and Sept 11, 12, 25, 26, were expected to occur as planned.

You included a copy of a July 7, 2010 email that you sent to the Lake Chelan Recreation Forum, informing them of the changes to the schedule for the 2010 whitewater boating monitoring study. You also included a copy of a July 6, 2010 letter from American Whitewater documenting your discussion on June 30, 2010 regarding the decision to cancel the whitewater releases on the weekend of July 10 - 11, 2010.

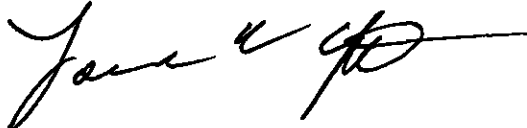
We understand that several factors including the elevation of Lake Chelan, higher than average snowpack in the watershed that has persisted later than normal, and higher the normal air temperatures resulted in operational constraints that would make it difficult to balance lake level, spill releases, and whitewater recreation. In light of the fact that you are in the second year of a three-year whitewater boating monitoring study you found it necessary to cancel the July 10 - 11, 2010 releases. Your reasons were clearly documented and alternatives to provide this opportunity should be evaluated as part of the final report to be submitted to the Commission upon completion of the monitoring study.

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Thank you for keeping the Commission informed of these changes and for your cooperation and efforts to provide whitewater recreation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at 678-245-3084.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorance W. Yates", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lorance W. Yates  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Division of Hydropower  
Administration and Compliance