

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

September 14, 2011

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, and Nathanial J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary ATTN: OEP/DHAC FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426

## Re: Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project No. 2145-102 License Article 406 – Proposed Entiatqua Trail Feasibility Study Request for Time Extension

Dear Secretary Bose and Deputy Secretary Davis:

The Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington (Chelan PUD or licensee) hereby requests an extension of time to complete the proposed Entiatqua Trail Feasibility Study and file the study results with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to December 31, 2011.

On October 12, 2010, the Commission issued the "Order Modifying and Approving Revised Recreation Management Plan"<sup>1</sup> for the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project (Project). Ordering Paragraph (B) requested that, within 1 year of the date of issuance of this order, the licensee shall complete the proposed study and file the results with the Commission along with documentation of agency consultation.

Chelan PUD is well on the way to the completion of the feasibility study that has been conducted over the past several months. However, it has been determined that additional time is needed to complete the environmental evaluation and consultation with the agencies. On August 29, 2011, Chelan PUD sent an email to the interested parties indicating our need for a time extension to December 31, 2011, to complete this work. Refer to the attachment to view the email and the parties responses to Chelan PUD's request. Below is the proposed revised time schedule for completion.

• Time extension request sent to forum members - August 29

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 133 FERC ¶ 62,040 (2010)

COMMISSIONERS: Carnan Bergren, Dennis S. Bolz, Ann Congdon, Norm Gutzwiler, Randy Smith GENERAL MANAGER: Richard Riazzi

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Mr. Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- Comment period for time extension ends September 9
- Environmental consultation complete by September 30
- Finalization of draft feasibility study by October 28
- Consultation on draft feasibility study sent to forum members November 1
- Comment period ends December 1
- Finalization of feasibility study December 9
- Internal consultation December 12
- Internal consultation complete December 20
- Final feasibility study submitted to FERC December 29, 2011.

For the foregoing reason, the Chelan PUD respectfully requests that the Commission grant an extension of the deadline to complete the proposed Entiatqua Trail Feasibility Study and file the study results to December 31, 2011.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this filing or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

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Michelle Smith Licensing and Compliance Manager michelle.smith@chelanpud.org (888)663-8121, Ext. 4180

Attachment – Chelan PUD Email dated August 29, 2011 and Responses

## **CONSULTATION:** Time Extension Entiatqua Trail

On August 29, 2011, the following e-mail was sent to the Rocky Reach Recreation Forum, C & C Railway and Washington State Department of Transportation:

Good afternoon, everyone -

As many of you are aware, an important part of the recreation plan to be implemented on the Rocky Reach Reservoir is the construction of the Entiatqua Trail that will extend from the south end of Entiat Park under both the highway and railroad bridges to the Entiatqua Learning Center that is just down from the mouth of the Entiat River.

In the license order from FERC dated October 12, 2010, Chelan PUD was asked within 1 year to complete a feasibility study on whether or not this trail could be built. During the initial planning of the trail, concerns were raised regarding the need for extensive environmental permitting, site conditions, accessibility constraints, and the trail's proximity to a major transportation corridor, including the highway and railroad bridges. Chelan PUD with the concurrence of stakeholders, proposed to further study the matter in consultation with the City of Entiat, Washington State Department of transportation, C & C Railway, and appropriate agencies. If the study and consultation show that the trail can be built, the PUD would file conceptual drawings, cost estimates, and an implementation schedule with the Commission.

We are well on our way to the completion of the feasibility study that has been conducted over the past several months, however it has been determined that additional time is needed to complete the environmental evaluation and consultation with the agencies.

We would like to send a letter to FERC indicating our need for additional time to complete this study. We will be asking for an extension of time to December 31, 2011. Below is the revised time schedule for completion. Please use the voting buttons above to indicate your acceptance of this revised time schedule and respond back to me by September 9. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

Time extension request sent to forum members - August 29 Comment period for time extension ends - September 9 Environmental consultation complete by September 30 Finalization of draft feasibility study by October 28 Consultation on draft feasibility study sent to forum members - November 1 Comment period ends - December 1 Finalization of feasibility study - December 9 Internal consultation - December 12 Internal consultation complete - December 20 Final feasibility study submitted to FERC - December 29, 2011

Kris Pomianek Recreation Resource Advisor Chelan County PUD P.O. Box 1231 Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231 509-661-4186 work 509-679-0813 cellular kris.pomianek@chelanpud.org Rocky Reach Recreation Forum Members:

Bill Fraser	Washington State Parks
Bob Huber	Alcoa
Bob Whitehall	City of Entiat
Diane Priebe	Bureau of Land Management
Jim Harris	Washington State Parks
Karen Kelleher	Bureau of Land Management
Keith Vradenburg	City of Entiat
Ken Finicle	Puget Sound Energy
Mike Wyant	Entiat School District
Pat Irle	Department of Ecology
Patrick Verhey	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Steve Lewis	US Fish and Wildlife
Susan Rosebrough	National Parks Service
Dan Lewis	<i>Washington Department of Transportation</i>
Buck Workman	C & C Railway

## **Comments received:**

Date	Agency	Comment
Sept. 6, 2011	Karen Kelleher Bureau of Land Management	We are OK with the new schedule
Sept. 6, 2011	Pat Irle Department of Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology has no opposition, so we also vote "yes"
Sept. 6, 2011	Patrick Verhey Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	WDFW supports Chelan PUD's request to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for an extension of time to December 31, 2011 to complete the feasibility assessment of the Entiatqua Trail, including the environmental evaluation and consultation with agencies. In short, WDFW votes yes.
Sept. 1, 2011	Stephen Lewis US Fish and Wildlife Service	I see no problem with the time extension
August 30, 2011	Keith Vradenburg City of Entiat	I am in agreement of the extension
August 30, 2011	Susan Roseborough National Park Service	Nice to see that this is getting so close to being implemented! Thanks for all your work on this
August 30, 2011	Jim Harris Washington State Parks	Per telephone conversation: Jim approves the time extension
August 30, 2011	Larry Romaine, Buck Workman C & C Railroad	This request has my approval
September 12, 2011	Dan Lewis Washington Department of Transportation	Per phone conversation: Dan approves the time extension
September 9, 2011	Alcoa, Entiat School District and Puget Sound Energy	Contact was made by e-mail and phone. No comments were received.