

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington D.C. 20426**

Office of Energy Projects

Project No. 2145-116—Washington
Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

December 19, 2013

Mr. John Janney
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
327 North Wenatchee Avenue
P.O. Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231

Subject: Final Shallow Water / Macrophyte Bed Sampling Report

Dear Mr. Janney:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your final shallow water / macrophyte bed sampling report, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) on November 15, 2013. Article 401 of the Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project license,¹ in part, requires you to monitor shallow water habitats and macrophyte beds, as described in the Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) water quality certification (WQC). The Update for Shallow Water / Macrophyte Bed Sampling Study Plan, filed with the Commission on July 26, 2012, identified April 15, 2013 as the target deadline for filing the final report with the Commission, depending on weather, equipment, and other unforeseen circumstances that could affect the sampling schedule. By letter dated April 30, 2013, you requested to revise your implementation schedule as your analyses were incomplete. The Commission extended your final report due date to August 30, 2013. On August 29, 2013, you requested to revise your due date as a result of ongoing consultation with Ecology, which the Commission extended to November 15, 2013.

According to your report, you continuously monitored dissolved oxygen, water temperature, and pH at four significant macrophyte beds and intermittently throughout the 906 acres of shallow water habitat in the project reservoir during August and September, 2012. Your results indicate that the water quality was generally within the

¹ Order on Offer of Settlement and Issuing New License. 126 FERC ¶ 61,138 (issued February 19, 2009).

criteria established in the WQC; however, water temperature in shallow water habitat in the reservoir was frequently outside the state water quality standard of 17.5°C. Your report explains that the Columbia River typically exceeds this criterion throughout Washington State, and that temperatures in the main river channel remain at temperatures that are conducive to salmonid inhabitation. With regard to macrophyte beds, your monitoring results indicate that the beds are heavily used as rearing habitat for small fish, including native threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), redbelt shiner (*Richardsonius balteatus*), and chiselmouth (*Acrocheilus alutaceus*). You also noted that the macrophyte beds, totaling 385 acres of the shallow water habitat, provided additional benefits to waterfowl grazing that you observed independent of water quality measurements. Based on your monitoring efforts, you concluded that, despite causing increases in pH levels and decreases in dissolved oxygen concentrations, macrophyte bed habitats provide obvious benefits to the aquatic community in Rocky Reach reservoir.

You provided your report to the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Yakama Indian Nation, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, City of Entiat, Alcoa, Puget Sound Energy, Douglas County Public Utility District, Grant County Public Utility District, and Ecology on September 30, 2013 for review and comment. Ecology requested that you quantify temperature and dissolved oxygen parameters more clearly, which you did and reflected in your report. No other comments were provided.

Review of your report indicates that the content satisfies the requirements of the plan and the respective portion of Article 401. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this letter please contact me at (202) 502-8038 or alicia.burtner@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Alicia Burtner
Fish Biologist
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance