

## For Immediate Release

### Chelan County PUD

March 26, 1999

RE: Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project Relicensing

Contact: Michelle Smith, 663-8121, ext. 4485

#### *Thursday, March 25 - Rocky Reach Hydro Project Relicensing Kick-Off Meeting*

Over one hundred preliminary issues related to the relicensing of the Rocky Reach Hydro Project were identified at a meeting held in the PUD auditorium in Wenatchee on Thursday, March 25. Approximately 37 agency officials and community members attended the meeting. Issues identified pertained to land management, water quality, fisheries, recreation, wildlife, historical and cultural resources, shoreline vegetation and socioeconomic resource areas. **A second meeting is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, April 27, in the Chelan County PUD auditorium in Wenatchee, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend the meeting.** Development of a preliminary list of issues will continue through May 1999.

During the meeting, Relicensing Project Manager Gregg Carrington provided an overview of the relicensing process and proposed schedule. Fisheries Biologist Jeff Osborn summarized the benefits of the Habitat Conservation Plan in support of the relicensing efforts for the Rocky Reach Project. Corporate Communications Specialist Michelle Smith discussed a draft communication protocol to be used during the relicensing process. Smith stated that the protocol serves to provide a framework for how the PUD plans to communicate with the many stakeholders involved in the process, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes and the public. The PUD will accept comments on the document until April 26, 1999.

The PUD encourages community participation throughout the relicensing process. Issues or concerns should be brought to the attention of Gregg Carrington, Chelan County PUD, 327 N. Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801. Anyone interested in obtaining more information regarding relicensing or upcoming meetings can do so by contacting Michelle Smith at Chelan County PUD, 663-8121, toll free in Washington at 888-663-8121. All documents and meeting schedules are available by visiting our Web site at [www.chelanpud.org](http://www.chelanpud.org).

The existing federal license to operate the Rocky Reach Hydro Project expires in 2006. The PUD is required to submit its final license application in 2004.

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