



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

July 7, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, and
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Attention: OEP/DHAC
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project No. 637
Notice of Revised Schedule for the 2010 Whitewater Boating Monitoring Study

Dear Secretary Bose and Deputy Secretary Davis:

The Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington (Chelan PUD) hereby notifies the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) of a change in the schedule for the 2010 Whitewater Boating Study in the Chelan River. The Whitewater Boating Monitoring Study (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 under Article 407.¹

In coordination and discussion with American Whitewater and the Lake Chelan Recreation Forum, spill for the first weekend of whitewater boating, July 10 and 11, is 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 wetter than average spring, resulting in the later than average runoff. Almost 50 percent of the high elevation snowpack remains and is 280 percent of average for this time of year. Temperatures are forecast to warm into the high 90s over the next week. With these temperatures, snowpack will 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, spills required for whitewater boating are 350 cfs to 450 cfs. Chelan PUD met its target lake level elevation of 1,098 feet on July 1. Maximum license lake level elevation is 1,100 feet.

¹ 123 FERC ¶ 62,047

Additionally, to meet license-required ramping rates and to prevent fish stranding in Reach 4 of the Chelan River, decreasing spill would need to occur slowly during daylight hours to allow fish to move from potential stranding areas in Reaches 1-4 of the Chelan River. This would require spill to be reduced two to three days earlier than the scheduled Saturday and Sunday whitewater boating days. Limiting spill for four to five days restricts the ability to manage lake elevations and provide adequate flood control.

The high runoff volumes are expected to diminish through the month of July 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, are expected to occur as planned.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kris Pomianek at 509-661-4186.

Sincerely,



Michelle Smith
Licensing and Compliance Manager

Enclosure: Communication Record with Lake Chelan Recreation Forum

cc: Erich Gaedeke (FERC)



Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
3537 NE 87th St.
Seattle, WA 98115
okeefe@americanwhitewater.org

July 6, 2010

Kris Pomianek
Recreation Resource Advisor
Chelan County PUD
PO Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98801

RE: Whitewater Recreation at Chelan Hydroelectric Project (P-637)

Dear Kris,

I am writing to document our discussion on June 30th regarding the decision to cancel the whitewater releases on the Chelan Hydroelectric for the weekend of July 10th. I wish to thank you and your staff for providing our organization with an opportunity to discuss the situation prior to a decision on your end.

We understand that several factors including current elevation of Lake Chelan, higher than average snowpack in the watershed that has persisted later than normal, and moderate air temperatures that are now increasing have resulted in operational constraints that would make it difficult to balance lake level, spill, and whitewater recreation.

In light of the fact that we are in the second year of a three-year whitewater boating monitoring study (monitoring study) we find it acceptable to cancel this coming weekend's release as long as the reasons are clearly documented and alternatives to provide this opportunity are formally evaluated as part of the final report to be submitted to FERC upon completion of the monitoring study.

We are relatively flexible on dates for future summer releases and look forward to working with you and your staff to find alternatives that can provide whitewater recreation within the operational constraints of the project. The possibility that the schedule would need to be changed was explicitly considered in our settlement agreement.

While we are understandably disappointed with the loss of the anticipated opportunity this weekend, we believe the decision is appropriate in light of the issues you have outlined for us. Thank you for maintaining the open dialogue on this project and we look forward to continued discussions on how to best schedule whitewater recreation within the operational and hydrologic constraints of the project.

All The Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. O'Keefe'.

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director

Sokolowski, Rosana

From: Pomianek, Kris
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 3:25 PM
To: Sokolowski, Rosana
Subject: FW: Whitewater Boating - Chelan Gorge

Rosana - this is the e-mail that I sent to the Lake Chelan Recreation Forum. I have not received any comments back. Kris

-----Original Message-----

From: Pomianek, Kris
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 3:35 PM
To: (okeefe@amwhitewater.org); Annelise Lesmeister; Baker, Ryan; Bill Fraser (bill.fraser@parks.wa.gov); Bob Goedde; Charles Sablan; Dennis Baker (dbakdds@nwi.net); Heit, Ray; Jim Eychaner (jim.eychaner@rco.wa.gov); Jim Harris (jim.harris@parks.wa.gov); Jim Urness (jamesurness@hotmail.com); Joe Kastenholz (jkastenholz@fs.fed.us); Karyl Oules; Lanny Armbruster (mansonparks@flymail.net); Mike Steele; Pomianek, Kris; Richard Uhlhorn; Roni Freund; Scott and Connie McKellar; Smith, Michelle; Tim Hollingsworth
Cc: Sokolowski, Rosana
Subject: Whitewater Boating - Chelan Gorge

Good afternoon everyone. I hope all is well and that you are enjoying your summer -

I wanted to let you know that we are cancelling the whitewater boating runs on the Chelan River that were scheduled for July 10 and 11. As you know, it is a balancing act between lake level, spill and whitewater boating and unfortunately, at this time we are not able to accommodate all three. After a great deal of discussion, we have found it important to cancel the July 10 and 11 weekend runs for the following reasons:

- The elevation of Lake Chelan is currently 1098.4 feet, approximately 5 inches above the July 1 target elevation of 1098 feet. Maximum license elevation is 1100 feet.
- It has been a cooler and wetter than average spring, likely resulting in a later than average runoff.
- Almost 50% of the high elevation snowpack remains (26 inches Snow Water Equivalent at Lyman Lake), and is currently 280% of average for this time of year.
- Temperatures are forecast to warm into the mid 90's 7-10 days out.
- If snowpack melts quickly, inflows will likely exceed turbine capacity and desired spill rates.
- Spill needs to be decreased slowly during daylight hours to allow fish to move from potential stranding areas in Reaches 1-4 of the Chelan River. This requires spill to be reduced two to three days earlier than scheduled Saturday and Sunday white water boating days. Limiting spill for 4-5 days restricts the ability to manage lake elevations and provide flood control.
- This year, Lake Chelan would need to be held to a lower elevation across the fourth of July weekend if White Water Boating occurred July 10-11.

At this time, the second July weekend, July 24 and 25 is still on schedule as planned. I have been in touch with Tom O'Keefe at American Whitewater and he is in agreement with our decision. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks everyone! Continue to enjoy your summer!

Kris

Kris Pomianek
Recreation Resource Advisor
Chelan County PUD
PO Box 1231
Wenatchee, WA 98801
509-661-4186 work
509-679-0813 cellular
kris.pomianek@chelanpud.org