



PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 of CHELAN COUNTY

P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807-1231 • 327 N. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee, WA 98801
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July 27, 2011

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

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Re: Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project No. 637
Notice of Revised Schedule for the 2011 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 2011 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 9 and 10, is cancelled due to high volume runoff forecasts into Lake Chelan and potential consequential large spill volumes down the Chelan River. It has been a cooler than average spring, resulting in the later than average runoff. Over 600% of average snow pack is remaining. Temperatures are forecast to warm into the 80's over the next few weeks. With these temperatures, snowpack will melt quickly and inflows will likely exceed turbine capacity, requiring high spill volumes through the Chelan River (up to 6,000 cfs) to maintain lake level and to prevent flooding. In comparison, spills required for whitewater boating are 375 cfs to 400 cfs. Chelan PUD met its target lake level elevation of 1098 feet on July 1. Maximum license lake level elevation is 1100 feet.

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 white water

¹ 123 FERC ¶ 62,047

boating days. Limiting spill for 4-5 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 2011 whitewater boating study, scheduled for July 23, 24 and Sept 10, 11, 24, 25, will 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
509-661-4180

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 27, 2011

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 July 1st regarding the decision to cancel the whitewater releases on the Chelan Hydroelectric for the weekend of July 9th. As was the case last year when we faced a similar situation, I wish to thank you and your staff for providing our organization with an opportunity to discuss the issues and operational constraints you are under prior to a decision on your end.

We understand that several factors similar to what we experienced in 2010 including current elevation of Lake Chelan, higher than average snowpack in the watershed that has persisted later than normal, and moderate air temperatures resulted in operational constraints that would made it difficult to balance lake level, spill, and whitewater recreation.

In light of the fact that we are in the third year of a three-year whitewater boating monitoring study (monitoring study) we concur with the decision to cancel the release. It is our understanding that the reasons for this decision will be clearly documented and alternatives to provide appropriate opportunities for whitewater boating that meet demand will be formally evaluated as part of the final report to be submitted to FERC upon completion of the monitoring study.

As stated in our previous discussions and correspondence, 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. July releases have proven to be less popular especially in years of high snowpack due to other opportunities that are available throughout the region.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. O'Keefe', written over a white background.

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director

Lake Chelan Recreation Forum Members

Willard, Paul	USDA-FS		
Baker, Duane and Dixie	Interested Residents		
Freund, Roni	LC Tourism & Promotion Group		
O'Keefe, Thomas	American Whitewater		
Uhlhorn, Richard	LC Recreation Association		
Baker, Ryan	Chelan PUD		
Heit, Ray	Chelan PUD		
Goedde, Robert	City of Chelan		
McKellar, Scott and Connie	Interested Residents		
Smith, Michelle	Chelan PUD		
Fraser, Bill	WA-Parks		
Sablan, Charles	City of Chelan		
Eychaner, Jim	Recreation and Conservation Office		
Harris, Jim	Washington State Parks		
Oules, Karyl	Interested Residents		
Lesmeister, Annelise	National Parks Service		
Petersen, Wai	Manson Park/Recreation		
Urness, Jim	LC Recreation Association		
Steele, Mike	LC Chamber of Commerce		
Pomianek, Kris	Chelan PUD		
Reinold, Jim	City of Chelan		

From: Pomianek, Kris
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2011 10:39 AM
To: (jamesurness@hotmail.com); (jreinbold@cityofchelan.us);
(okeefe@amwhitewater.org); (pwillard@fs.fed.us); Annelise Lesmeister;
Baker, Ryan; Bill Fraser (bill.fraser@parks.wa.gov); Bob Goedde; Charles
Sablan; Duane and Dixie Baker; Harris, Jim; Heit, Ray; Jim Eychaner
(jim.eychaner@rco.wa.gov); karyl oules; Mike Steele; Patrick Verhey
(patrick.verhey@dfw.wa.gov); Pomianek, Kris; Richard Uhlhorn; Roni
Freund; Scott and Connie McKellar; Smith, Michelle; Wai Peterson
Subject: July 9 and 10, 2011 Whitewater Boating cancelled

Good afternoon everyone.

Hope all is well with all of you and that you are enjoying our summer weather. It has been beautiful, hasn't it? I am contacting you to let you know that we will be cancelling the first weekend of Whitewater Boating on the Chelan River.

As you are all aware, under the New License for the Chelan Dam, we have agreed to conduct a three year monitoring study of whitewater releases for kayaks in the Chelan River on the second and fourth weekends of July and September. This is the third year of that study and the first July release is scheduled for July 9 and 10.

As was the case last year, it is once again a balancing act between inflows, lake level, spill, recreation and protection of the Reach 4 fish habitat restoration area. After significant discussion, it is estimated that inflows will be too high to be able to ramp down to accommodate the 375 cfs (Saturday) and 400 cfs (Sunday) releases necessary for kayaking to occur. We have met the July 1, 1098 lake level, however with over 600% of average snow pack remaining and an obligation to keep inflows into the Chelan River below 6,000 cfs, Scott Buehn, Chelan PUD's Power Resource Engineer, is recommending that the first weekend of whitewater boating be cancelled.

Tom O'Keefe from American Whitewater concurs with our decision and we will be notifying FERC of our schedule change.

The next scheduled release is July 23 and 24. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Kris

Kris Pomianek
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