Dear Rocky Reach Forum Members,

Chelan PUD is going to be holding a public meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 regarding the development of updated shoreline and land management documents for the Rocky Reach and Rock Island reservoirs. The goal is to produce a comprehensive and public framework for how the District manages, reviews and coordinates shoreline and land-use requests within the boundaries of the hydro projects. I am attaching a letter and information sheet that will further explain the purpose of the meeting. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Regards,

Michelle

Michelle Smith
License and Compliance Manager
Chelan County Public Utility District
Wenatchee, WA
509-661-4180
Nov. 30, 2012

Chelan County PUD would like to invite you to an informational kickoff meeting regarding development of our shoreline and land management planning documents and procedures for the Rocky Reach and Rock Island reservoirs.

6 p.m., Tuesday evening, Dec. 11, 2012
Chelan PUD Auditorium
327 North Wenatchee Ave
Wenatchee, WA
www.chelanpud.org/10960.html

Chelan PUD owns and operates both the Rocky Reach and Rock Island hydroelectric projects under licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). These licenses require Chelan PUD to manage the multiple resources and uses of lands within the defined FERC Project boundary located along the Rocky Reach and Rock Island reservoir shorelines and including some upland lands. Although Chelan PUD already implements oversight and management of land uses as required by the FERC Licenses, these new plans will provide a publicly available comprehensive framework of the objectives and procedures to which Chelan manages reviews and coordinates shoreline and land-use requests internally and with other permitting agencies.

At this meeting we will provide information about the land management plans being developed, explain how Chelan PUD works collaboratively with other agencies within federal, state, and local permitting processes, show classification maps of both reservoirs used by Chelan PUD to manage the many land uses and resources, and answer any questions you may have about how this might affect your agency or organization.

We have created a website to help provide timely information and keep people informed as the plans are developed. We expect additional public meetings will follow this kickoff session and encourage public participation as the plans are developed.

If you have any questions, visit our website or contact Kris Pomianek at 509-661-4186. We look forward to seeing you on Dec. 11.

Sincerely,

Michelle Smith, License and Compliance Manager
The Rock Island and Rocky Reach hydroelectric projects (FERC No. 943 and No. 2145, respectively) are owned and operated by Public Utility No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD), Wenatchee, Washington, under existing licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Under its licenses, Chelan PUD is responsible for managing the multiple resources and uses of lands located within each hydroelectric project reservoir, specifically License-defined areas referred to as the Project Boundary. The Project Boundary includes lands along both Chelan and Douglas county shorelines and some upland lands owned by Chelan PUD for fish and wildlife enhancement.

Project Land Management Plans (PLMP) are being developed to better define and document Chelan PUD’s role in the permitting process, including how federal license requirements provide the basis for Chelan PUD’s review and management of the many resources and uses of the Rock Island and Rocky Reach hydroelectric projects’ shorelines and lands. Many shoreline and land uses within the Rocky Reach or Rock Island project boundaries require Chelan PUD and/or FERC approval prior to construction.

The Rocky Reach and Rock Island hydroelectric project land management plans will:

1. Document Chelan PUD shoreline management practices already in place and update land management procedures as necessary.
2. Identify Project lands and shorelines that are reserved for present and future wildlife and other natural resources, public recreation, residential, and other uses.
3. Ensure Chelan PUD land management decisions are consistent with license requirements, resource management plans, and project purposes while balancing local economic interests and protecting environmental resources.
4. Ensure Chelan PUD shoreline allocations and permitting are consistent with local, state and federal permitting and shoreline requirements.
5. Provide the public with a comprehensive document that can be used in making development, purchase, and/or construction decisions.

Public meetings and a Web site will provide private landowners and agencies opportunities for input into the plans as they are developed. Emphasis will be placed on balancing private and public uses with license-mandated environmental resource protection. Existing and future uses of the reservoir will be discussed and evaluated. The plans will provide long-term guidance to Chelan PUD, the public, permitting agencies, and FERC for review of land-use applications.