

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 943-083—Washington
Rock Island Project
PUD No. 1 of Chelan County

Project No. 2145-057—Washington
Rocky Reach Project
PUD No. 1 of Chelan County

Project No. 2149-106—Washington
Wells Project
PUD No. 1 of Douglas County

DEC 09 2003

Mr. Brian J. Brown
Assistant Regional Administrator, Hydropower Division
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
525 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232-2737

RE: Endangered Species Act Consultation

Dear Mr. Brown:

We are requesting formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) regarding license amendment applications filed with the Commission on November 24, 2003, by Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington, and Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, related to the anadromous fish agreements and habitat conservation plans (HCP Agreements) for the Rock Island Project (FERC No. 943), Rocky Reach Project (FERC No. 2145), and the Wells Project (FERC No. 2149). Incorporating these HCP Agreements as license amendments for the three projects may affect the endangered Upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and endangered Upper Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

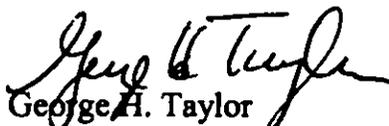
As indicated in your November 10, 2003, letter to the Commission, an expedited consultation is possible as a result of National Marine Fisheries Services' (NOAA

Fisheries) analysis of issues in connection with the issuance of separate incidental take permits for the operation of the three projects pursuant to the HCP Agreements. In performing this analysis, NOAA Fisheries issued an Environmental Impact Statement, three separate Biological Opinions, and a Record of Decision. In addition, NOAA Fisheries prepared Environmental Assessments/Findings of No Significant Impacts, and Biological Opinions for each of the separate Incidental Take Permits for the operation of hatcheries pursuant to the HCP Agreements.

We request that NOAA Fisheries consider the Incidental Take Permits, National Environmental Policy Act documents, Biological Opinions, and Records of Decisions as a biological assessment related to the effects of these license amendments incorporating the HCP Agreements on ESA-listed spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead.

Please review the biological assessment and give us your biological opinion on the findings no later than 135 days from receipt of this request. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Bob Fletcher at (202) 502-8901.

Sincerely,



George H. Taylor
Chief, Biological Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

cc: Service List