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Via Electronic File

April 9, 2007  
PKWD-07-022

Ms. Philis Posey  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Ms. Posey:

Subject: **PACKWOOD LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
P-2244-WA, NATDAM-WA00150  
CONSTRUCTION OF TAILRACE FISH BARRIER**

References: 1) Letter dated September 29, 2005 from George H. Taylor to J.W. Baker, "Interim Tailrace Barrier Feasibility Study"  
2) Letter dated October 28, 2005, J.W. Baker to Magalie R. Salas, "Interim Tailrace Barrier Feasibility Study"  
3) Letter dated April 20, 2006, J.W. Baker to Magalie R. Salas, "Status Report for Fish Rescue Plan and Tailrace Barrier"

Article 27 of our license requires Energy Northwest to construct, maintain, and operate protective devices and comply with reasonable modifications of the project structures and operations that further the interest of fish, wildlife, recreation, and forestry resources.

Flood flows in the Cowlitz River that occurred in December 1977 resulted in washout of the original barrier to fish passage located at the end of the tailrace canal. Because anadromous fish were not likely to be present, Energy Northwest was not required to reinstall the barrier at that time; however, the agencies reserved the right to require installation of a barrier in the future.

Now that anadromous fish have been reintroduced into the Cowlitz River, the agencies have requested Energy Northwest to reinstall fish screens in the project tailrace. In Reference 1, FERC required Energy Northwest to provide information on the feasibility of installing a temporary barrier. In Reference 2, Energy Northwest provided the Commission with the feasibility study and committed to the installation of a permanent barrier in October 2007, providing all the required approvals could be received. A progress report was submitted to the Commission in April 2006 (Reference 3).

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After consulting with the agencies, tribes, and interested stakeholders on design options, a preliminary design has been prepared (see Enclosure 1). The design is based on two 14-foot long by 4-foot diameter drum screens that will be fabricated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Screen Shop in Yakima, WA. Once the concrete weir structure is constructed within the tailrace, the drum screens will be lowered into guide slots using a rail/hoist system and connected to the mechanical system that will turn the drums.

Reference 1 noted that construction of the barrier may require prior Commission approval; therefore Energy Northwest is seeking your approval to proceed. Because the Commission may need to conduct consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to granting approval, Energy Northwest has prepared a biological assessment (Enclosure 2) for your use. Energy Northwest will also submit construction drawings, specifications, and quality control plans to the Regional Engineer for review at least 60 days prior to starting this modification. The 30-day construction period is scheduled to coincide with the next project maintenance outage that will begin on October 1, 2007. Your prompt attention to this matter would be appreciated.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Laura Schinnell at (360) 673-3350.

Respectfully,



J.W. Baker, Vice President  
Energy/Business Services

- Enclosures: 1) Fish Screen Preliminary Drawings, S-1 (Foundation Plan and Sections), S-2 (Foundation Sections and Details), S-3 (Foundation Details), G-1 (Existing Site Plan and Drawing Index), G-2 (General Notes and Details), and C-1 (Site Plan and Sections)  
2) Biological Assessment, April 2007