The Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code: DHAC, PJ-12.3
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: PACKWOOD LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FERC DOCKET NO. P-2244
CONCURRENCE OF REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION FILED BY NMFS
RELATED TO A REVISED INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT
FOR THE PACKWOOD LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

References: 1) Letter dated March 21, 2018; NOAA NMFS to FERC; Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for the Relicensing of the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project
2) Letter dated October 11, 2018; FERC to Energy Northwest; Order Issuing New License
3) Letter dated November 8, 2018; NOAA NMFS to FERC; Revised Incidental Take Statement for NMFS’ March 21, 2018, Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for the Relicensing of the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project

On October 11, 2018 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a 40-year operating license to Energy Northwest (EN) for the continued operation of the Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project). Incorporated into the license was the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) and associated Incidental Take Statement (ITS) which included a series of measures intended protect existing runs of anadromous species (Chinook, Coho and Steelhead) documented to utilize areas near the Project. The BiOp was completed by NMFS (NMFS No. NWR-2009-389) and filed with FERC on March 21, 2018.

Upon EN review of the BiOp and a series of collaborative discussions with NMFS, it was determined that three of the measures incorporated into the ITS could be modified to increase
November 12, 2018

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the efficiency and effectiveness of the respective measures while still maintaining the intent of protecting the priority anadromous species. These discussions were conducted between July 2018 and October 2018. Ultimately, and per the NMFS development and approval process, these revisions were filed with FERC on November 8, 2018.

EN understands that the revised ITS filed by NMFS is mandatory and is supportive of the license being amended to incorporate the modified measures outlined in the filing. Further, EN appreciates NMFS’s willingness to collaborate on these items and looks forward to a continued positive working relationship as we implement our new license.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter, please contact me at 509.378.9755 or kvwilliams@energy-northwest.com.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Ken Williams
Supervisor, Hydro & Wind Projects

cc: Scott Hecht, NMFS
    Michelle Day, NMFS
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