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## NORTHWEST POWER PLANNING COUNCIL

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July 8, 2003

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Bruce Suzumoto and John Fazio

**SUBJECT:** Summer spill analysis

Reductions in summer by-pass spill for outmigrating juvenile salmon is currently being discussed in various forums and workgroups. Staff will present an analysis on the potential effects of summer spill reductions to fish and the hydropower system. Attached is a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the results of the staff analysis.

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July 9, 2003

Judi Danielson, Chair  
Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
450 West State / PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0062

Dear Judi Danielson:

The Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council's (Council) recently adopted mainstem amendment requires the evaluation of spill for fish passage. In response to this requirement, the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) is initiating a process to develop a joint agencies and tribes technical recommendation to the Council for the evaluation of spill for fish passage.

The goal of this effort is to propose protocols for credible, scientifically robust evaluations of spill that we believe will resolve significant management questions regarding the efficacy of spill for fish passage. An agreement on study design and analysis will avoid conflict and controversy over the resulting data, analysis, and application of results to management decisions and should provide a valuable tool for the Council in implementing the mainstem spill evaluation measures.

The product of this effort is not a proposal to conduct studies but a rigorous examination of the management questions to be answered and scientific and statistical design of experiments to answer those uncertainties. When complete, we encourage the Council to seek regional review and comment on the draft technical product, particularly from the Corps of Engineers.

Spill is an important fish survival and economic aspect of hydro operations. As such, it is imperative that evaluations conducted under the Council's new amendment be done in a manner that will minimize dispute over methodology and results. We look forward to discussing our ideas with you as we develop the study design.

Sincerely,

[signed]

John Palensky, Chair  
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

cc: Members and F&W Managers, CBFWA  
Michele DeHart, FPC  
Fish Passage Advisory Committee  
Doug Marker and Staff, Council  
Jim Athearn, USACE

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