

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

January 27, 2006

In reply refer to: KEW-4

Dr. Tom Karier, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Dr. Karier:

With the recent closure of the fish and wildlife project proposal solicitation window, the region is now entering the new and important priority phase for 2007-09 project selection.

My staff and I look forward to working with you and your staff over the next several months to identify those projects that will best fulfill the objectives of the Integrated Fish and Wildlife Program for FY2007-09. An important step in this process is the provincial reviews that will begin to prioritize fish and wildlife projects in each region. We recognize that evaluating such a wide range of projects is a challenging task and would like to thank the province teams in advance for their diligent work. We will participate in provincial reviews as well as assist the province teams.

In addition, my staff will begin a series of proposal reviews over the next several months. These reviews will identify projects that:

- meet our capital requirements;
- are explicit BiOp/UPA requirements; and
- are linked to the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) responsibilities.

We also plan to compare similar types of projects (e.g., research, habitat, and hatchery projects) across provinces. In particular, we will examine RM&E projects for consistency with the Council's draft Research Plan and the draft RM&E framework that is being further reviewed and developed through the ongoing work of staff from the BPA, Council, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, States, Tribes and others in the region. We hope to pursue these proposal reviews in collaboration with your staff and other entities, as appropriate, and encourage the provinces to use this information as it becomes available.

As we work with you to agree on a final set of projects for funding, our emphasis will be on project performance based on measured progress toward stated biological and environmental objectives. To this end, it is critical that projects meet the ISRP's standards for scientific rigor and that they target biological objectives in line with Bonneville's responsibilities under the

Endangered Species Act and the Northwest Power Act. It is also important that we carefully select RM&E projects, so that we can develop the information essential for maximizing the value of on the ground investments in fish and wildlife, but without overburdening the projects with unnecessary RM&E cost requirements.

In closing, I am hopeful that you will take into account the interests we have expressed in this letter, and in our Supplemental Information (dated 12/2/2005), as we continue to work together through the proposal review process. We are off to a great start, and look forward to continuing this collaboration so that we can reach substantial agreement on the projects that the Council recommends and BPA subsequently approves. If you have any questions or seek additional information, please contact Peter Lofy directly at 503-230-4738.

Sincerely,



William C. Maslen
Director, Fish and Wildlife

cc:

Doug Marker, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Mark Fritsch, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Patty O'Toole, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Stacy Horton, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
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