



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

April 25, 2007

In reply refer to: BPA-KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program

Your review and comments are requested on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program in north-central Washington. The draft EIS describes the proposed hatchery facilities and the fish production program, and provides the environmental effects expected from facility construction and program operations. Public comments on the draft EIS will help project partners refine the environmental analysis and decide whether to implement the program.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) produced the draft EIS and would fund the construction and operation of the facilities, if approved. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation proposed this project and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Parks and Recreation Commission, Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District and others assisted with project design and siting.

Project background

The proposed action is to build a hatchery just below Chief Joseph Dam on the Columbia River for incubation, rearing and release of summer/fall and spring Chinook salmon. Juvenile fish acclimation and release ponds would be located strategically throughout the Okanogan River valley, consisting of a combination of modified, existing irrigation ponds as well as newly-constructed ponds. The project would help mitigate for Chinook salmon in the Okanogan River basin affected by the dams of the Federal Columbia River Power System. The project also aims to increase anadromous fish populations to enhance the potential for tribal ceremonial and subsistence harvests and a recreational fishery for the general public.

How to comment

BPA and others involved in this project will be available to discuss the project and the draft EIS, and receive any written comments during either of the two open house meetings below.

Wednesday, June 6, 2007
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Okanogan PUD Auditorium
1331 2nd Ave.
Okanogan, Wash. 98840

Thursday, June 7, 2007
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Chief Joseph Dam
Commons Building Conference Room
Foster Creek Road
Bridgeport, Wash. 98813

Comments will be accepted through June 18, 2007

All comments are encouraged. Of particular interest are specific suggestions related to the quality of the environmental analysis in the draft EIS, or any recommendations for making the project more environmentally friendly while still fulfilling its intended purposes. A final EIS is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2007. BPA expects to issue a record of decision in the fall of 2007 on whether to implement the project.

Comments may be submitted online at: <http://www.bpa.gov/comment>, via e-mail to comment@bpa.gov, via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKC-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, or faxed to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comment toll free at (800) 622-4519. All comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's Web site at http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/Comment_Listings/. Comments and responses to them will be made part of the final EIS.

Copies available

If you previously requested the draft EIS, a copy is enclosed for your review. Otherwise, a summary has been provided which may include a copy of the draft EIS on compact disk. If you would like additional copies of the draft EIS, please call BPA's toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete mailing address and requesting the format of documentation you would prefer.

The draft EIS can also be viewed at the project Web site:

http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/.

For more information

If you need more information or have questions, please call me directly at (503) 230-5885 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or e-mail me at macarter@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

/s/ Mickey Carter

Mickey Carter
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure:

Chief Joseph Hatchery Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS),
or Summary with or without Draft EIS on compact disk