



Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County

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June 18, 2006

CJH-009
Rec'd
6/21/07

Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs Office – DKC-7
Post Office Box 14428
Portland, OR 97293-4428

RE: Comments on the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program DEIS of May 2007

To whom it may concern:

Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement DOE/EIS – 0384 of May 2007. We have an interest in this project because of the proximity of the Wells Hydroelectric Project to the proposed project. We are also interested because our neighbors, the Colville Confederated Tribes, are the sponsor.

The document emphasizes the recovery of spring and summer/fall populations of Chinook salmon in the Okanogan drainage. Douglas PUD is encouraged by BPA's steps to work with the Colville Confederated Tribes on this project. Chinook in the mainstem Columbia above Wells Dam and in the Okanogan Basin have been impacted from the lower Columbia River dams. This action by BPA shows your willingness to address these impacts and to mitigate for the populations that are affected.

Specific comments to the DEIS are attached. Should you require further clarification, please contact Mr. Rick Klinge of our staff at (509) 881-2244.

Sincerely yours,

Robert W. Clubb, Ph.D.
Chief of Environmental and Regulatory Services

c: Joe Peone, Director, Colville Confederated Tribe's Fish and Wildlife

Attachment
Pcd 99016

Review of DEIS Chief Joseph Hatchery Program
DOE/EIS- 0384 of May 2007

Specific Comments from
Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

June 18, 2006

Page 1-4, Bottom of the second paragraph. The statement that distribution of summer/fall Chinook in the Okanogan are not distributed throughout the Okanogan River as you have pointed out is likely due to the homing back to the ponds in the Similkameen River. But one should not assume that fish are returning to this area only to spawn next to the pond they were released from. Distribution of spawning adults in the Okanogan is likely more a function of suitable spawning habitat rather than homing to a release pond.

Page 1-7, 8, Mid-Columbia Habitat Conservation Plans. As pointed out, the HCP for the mid-Columbia PUDs, and especially for Douglas County PUD, owner and operator of the Wells Project, will not be impacted from the proposed operations of CJHP. For the Wells Project, the juvenile bypass operations provides a route of safe passage from April 12 through August 26, a time when over 95 percent of the spring and summer migrants have been shown to move downstream through the upper Columbia. Adult passage through the two ladders at Wells Dam moves adults above the dam.

Page 2-3, Under Summer/Fall Chinook, second bullet. We see no reason why you would open up summer/fall Chinook brood collection a month earlier than currently is occurring under the East Bank Program. Collection of adults occurs at the east ladder fish trap at Wells Dam. Trapping generally starts the second week in July and ends the third week in August. Prior to that, some summer Chinook are seen mixed in with spring Chinook adults. A major aspect of the CJHP is to develop the late summer/fall Chinook population as this has been emphasized for some time. Trapping broodstock a month later than is presently occurring would help develop the late portion of the population.

Page 2-8, Fourth paragraph, discussion on fish ladder depth. The ladder to the CHFH needs to be at a depth that allows Douglas County PUD to exercise the full swing of operations for the Wells Reservoir, which is between 781.0 and 711.0 as recorded at the Wells Project.

Page 2-14, Paragraph on Similkameen Pond. The Similkameen pond is owned by Chelan PUD and operated by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Page 3-3, Top paragraph, second line. Adult summer/fall Chinook salmon that migrate past Wells Dam will spawn in the Columbia and Methow rivers as well as those shown, the Okanogan and Similkameen rivers.

Page 3-3, Third paragraph, second line. Zosel Dam at RM 78.9 on the Okanogan River is not a fish passage barrier. The dam is a low head dam owned by the Washington Department of Ecology. This dam is equipped with two fish ladders that operate the entire year. The fact that tens of thousands of sockeye salmon migrate past Zosel Dam and across the International Border to spawn in British Columbia attests to the fact this dam is not a fish barrier. Recently, the staff from the Okanogan Nation Alliance, while performing sockeye spawning ground surveys, has seen summer/fall Chinook on spawning grounds above Zosel Dam.