



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
Lower Columbia Area Office
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 750
Portland, Oregon 97232



LCA-6000
ENV-6.00

APR 21 2006

Subject: Scoping Notice, Makah Community Water Source Project Feasibility Study, Makah Indian Reservation, Washington, Environmental Assessment
(Action by May 26, 2006)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Bureau of Reclamation is identifying ways to meet the current and future domestic and commercial water supply needs of the Makah Indian Reservation (see location map). A feasibility study is being conducted to determine the most effective method of developing a safe and adequate community water supply to meet the collective water supply needs of all residents within the Reservation boundary through the year 2050.

The feasibility study, authorized by Public Law 107-142, February 12, 2002, is a detailed investigation to be used as a basis for the Tribe to seek congressional authorization for constructing the project. As described in the attached project description, through the feasibility study process, proposed solutions, referred to as alternatives or options, are being developed to meet the recognized water supply needs, problems, and opportunities.

Meeting the water supply needs of the Reservation may have adverse impacts to environment and/or cultural resources. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental impacts of its proposals and actions. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to determine whether adverse impacts would result from implementation of the proposed solutions. The results of the EA will be considered by Reclamation in deciding whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or to require additional environmental analysis.

PUBLIC SCOPING

Scoping, as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations of 1978, is "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action." The scoping process helps to:

- Identify issues, concerns, and possible impacts
- Identify existing information sources
- Develop alternatives

This scoping period is meant to provide the interested public, Native American tribes, governments, and organizations an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed options for inclusion in the EA and will extend until May 26, 2006. We would appreciate your assistance in identifying issues, concerns, or potential impacts to be addressed in the EA.

The EA will present an analysis of the physical, biological, social, and economic effects of the project. Any mitigation needed to reduce impacts will be identified. As part of the process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the EA and for identifying the important issues related to the proposed action, we invite your comments on the above issues and any other issues you identify as important. We intend to use your comments to:

- Identify the range of alternatives and impacts and the important issues to be addressed in the EA
- Identify and eliminate from study the issues that are not important or have been covered by prior environmental review
- Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements

We request your comments by May 26, 2006. If you do not reply by that date, we will assume that you have no comments at this stage of project development.

Following the scoping period, Reclamation will prepare a Draft EA. Public notice of its availability will be issued and copies of the document will be provided to those who have requested a copy of the Draft EA. A review period will be initiated at that time to provide the public with an opportunity to review the document and to offer appropriate comments.

If you would like a copy of the Draft EA mailed to you when it becomes available, provide us your name and mailing address via one of the options below; please indicate whether you would like a paper copy or a CD. The Draft EA will also be available for viewing on Reclamation's website, www.usbr.gov/pn.


Written comments and/or requests for the Draft EA should be received by Reclamation no later than May 26, 2006. Enclosed for your convenience is a comment sheet/Draft EA request form and postage paid reply envelope. Or, if you prefer, you may mail your comments to Dave Nelson, Lower Columbia Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, 1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 750, Portland, OR 97232. Comments may also be sent by fax to (720) 544-0612 or by email to makah@do.usbr.gov. Scoping information is also available on Reclamation's website, www.usbr.gov/pn.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may also be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make

all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

If you have questions or need additional information about scoping or the EA, contact Dave Nelson, Study Manager, by telephone at (503) 872-2801. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Eggers", written in a cursive style.

Ronald J. Eggers
Area Manager

Enclosures

Location Map
Project Description
Comment Sheet
Postage paid reply envelope