



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

Aug. 16, 2005

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Subject: BPA's Proposed Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a comprehensive management program for summer/fall chinook salmon in the Okanogan subbasin and the Columbia River between the confluence of the Okanogan River and Chief Joseph Dam. This program will include construction, operation, and maintenance of a hatchery (at the base of the Chief Joseph Dam) and acclimation ponds (throughout the Okanogan River subbasin), broodstock collection, egg incubation, rearing and release. While the focus of the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program (CJDHP) is on the propagation of summer/fall chinook salmon, BPA will also consider the use of the proposed facilities to reintroduce extirpated spring chinook salmon to their historical habitats in the Okanogan subbasin. To ensure programmatic flexibility and cost effectiveness, the CJDHP proposes to make use of a combination of new and existing fish production facilities.

Environmental Analysis

As a Federal agency, BPA must study both adverse and beneficial environmental impacts of a proposed project before it can proceed. BPA is the lead agency in preparing and issuing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is a primary proponent and cooperating entity for the EIS and would be operating and maintaining the program and facilities if implemented. Additional cooperating agencies on the EIS may include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, and Public Utility Districts. The draft EIS is scheduled to be available for public review in spring 2006.

Tribal Meetings

While a public meeting is planned (see the next page), BPA would be pleased to set up a formal government-to-government consultation with your tribe concerning this project. Or, if you would prefer, we would be glad to provide an informal and/or technical discussion with your tribe, technical staff or other representatives. As always, we encourage you to also attend the public meetings so that you can hear the public comments and network with other groups. Please contact Buzz Cobell, Tribal Liaison, at 503-230-5069 or email him at glcobell@bpa.gov as soon as possible if you would like to set up a consultation or meeting.

Public Scoping Meetings

A previous letter was sent to you indicating that BPA is holding two public scoping meetings. A third meeting in Bridgeport on Aug. 23, 2005, has been added, and you are invited to attend this meeting as well. BPA and Colville Tribe representatives will be available to answer questions and receive any comments that you may have on the proposed CJDHP. The meetings will be open house format and will be held on:

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2005

5–8 p.m.

Commons Building

Conference Room

Foster Creek Road

Bridgeport, WA 98813

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005

5–8 p.m.

Okanogan PUD

Auditorium

1331 2nd Ave.

Okanogan, WA 98840

Thursday, Aug. 25, 2005

2–6 p.m.

Wenatchee Convention Center

Golden Delicious Room

201 N. Wenatchee Ave.

Wenatchee, WA 98801

How to Comment

The scoping comment period starts on Aug. 2 and ends Sept. 19, 2005. You can submit comments on the web at: http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/public_affairs/ or mail them to: Bonneville Power Administration, Communications Office - DM-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, Oregon, 97293-4428. Please reference the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery Program with your comments. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft EIS, please return the enclosed postcard and specify if you prefer a CD or hardcopy of the document.

For More Information

If you have questions about this program, please call our toll-free line at 1-800-622-4519, or contact me at 503-230-7631, or send me an email at smtetnowski@bpa.gov. Additional information is available at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/
Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sonya Tetnowski Aug. 16, 2005

Sonya Tetnowski
Tribal Affairs Manager