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**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2011 9:42 AM

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**Cc:** McKinney, Charlie (ECY); Merz, Jonathan (ECY); Carmen Andonaegui; Mary Mayo; Mike Schiewe; Andrew Gingerich

**Subject:** RE: draft 401 certification for Wells Project - advance notice

ECOLOGY NEWS RELEASE: 401 Certification for Wells Dam under consideration

Washington Department of Ecology news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Aug. 23, 2011

#### Water quality certification for Wells Dam under consideration

YAKIMA - As part of the relicensing process for the Wells Hydroelectric Project on the Columbia River, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared a draft document describing the conditions necessary for the project to meet state water quality standards for the next 50 years.

Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County owns and operates the Wells dam project near East Wenatchee and is in the process of relicensing the project through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The federal operating license will expire in May of 2012. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires non-federal projects to obtain a certification that a project complies with the state's water quality standards or includes conditions that will ensure that dam operators take the necessary steps to come into compliance.

The public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the "Section 401" Water Quality Certification for the Wells Dam during a workshop beginning at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011, at the Douglas County PUD auditorium, 1151 Valley Mall Parkway in East Wenatchee.

The draft 401 Certification is based on an Aquatic Settlement Agreement reached in collaboration with federal, state and tribal fish management agencies and signed in late 2009. Items discussed at the workshop will include:

Aquatic life (bull trout, white sturgeon, Pacific lamprey, resident fish, aquatic nuisance species);

Numeric water quality criteria; and

Adaptive management procedures and workgroup role.

More information on the settlement and relicensing process is available online at: <http://relicensing.douglaspud.org/documents.asp>. A copy of the draft will be posted online at the Ecology website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/ferc/index.html>.

For more information, contact Pat Irle, Ecology, 509-454-7864 or Shane Bickford, Douglas County PUD, 509-881-2208. Comments may be sent either by e-mail to [pir1461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:pir1461@ecy.wa.gov) or mailed to Pat Irle, 15 W Yakima Ave, Suite 200, Yakima, WA 98902. Deadline is Sept. 29, 2011.