



August 24, 2011

Mr. Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)  
888 First Street Northeast  
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Support for Douglas County PUD License Application – Wells Hydroelectric Project**

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

We write to you in support of the 50-year License Application of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (Douglas County PUD) for the Wells Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2149-152). Douglas County PUD formally began its relicensing effort on December 1, 2006 and filed its Final License Application with FERC on May 27, 2010. Douglas County PUD has invested over \$9.2 million into the effort to relicense the Wells Project.

A 50-year license for the Wells Project is critically important to the Port of Douglas County and the entire region. The clean, renewable hydroelectric generation from the Wells Project helps our Port District promote economic development in Douglas County, attracting both national and international businesses. These businesses appreciate Douglas County PUD's environmental stewardship, reliable service, and low electric rates. A 50-year license would provide the Douglas County PUD and Port of Douglas County with the long-term reassurance needed to continue attracting these businesses. Local ownership of the project and control of these important water resources has led to the best stewardship arrangement possible and results in the most efficient utilization of project generated power.

Douglas County PUD has completed numerous environmental relicensing studies and worked closely with stakeholders on the development of resource management plans and relicensing settlement agreements. The cities of Pateros, Brewster, and Bridgeport adjacent to the reservoir upstream of Douglas County PUD's hydroelectric project support their application. Douglas County PUD has also worked in close coordination with federal, state and tribal fishery resource agencies for its Habitat Conservation Plan and to sign an Aquatic Settlement Agreement. Douglas PUD has also been proving extensive funding for the operation of conservation hatchery programs in the Methow, Okanogan and Columbia rivers.

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Mr. Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman

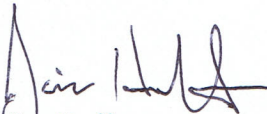
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Douglas County PUD's Final License Application and associated relicensing settlement agreements are all based on a 50-year license term. We request that you carefully evaluate the Final License Application, estimated cost of environmental measures, its broad array of stakeholder support for its settlement agreements and license application when making your decision regarding the term of the next long-term FERC license for the Wells Project. We believe that the application put forth by Douglas County PUD leads to the best adapted plan for comprehensive development and utilization of Columbia River resources.

We appreciate your consideration of the Wells Project's Final License Application.

Sincerely,



Jim Huffman  
Commissioner



Alan Loeb sack  
Commissioner



Mark Spurgeon  
Commissioner

Cc: Philip Moeller, Commissioner  
Marc Spitzer, Commissioner  
John Norris, Commissioner  
Cheryl LaFleur, Commissioner  
Kimberly D. Bose, FERC Secretary  
Representative Doc Hastings  
Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell