

P-2149-152

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2011

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REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Jon Wellinghoff
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street Northeast
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

We write to you regarding the 50-year license application submitted by Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (Douglas County PUD) for the Wells Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2149-152).

As you know, Douglas County PUD formally began its relicensing efforts on December 1, 2006 and filed its final license application with FERC on May 27, 2010. Throughout this process, Douglas County PUD worked in close coordination with federal, state and tribal fishery resource agencies to develop and sign a 50- year Aquatic Settlement Agreement. This agreement represents many stakeholders including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Colville Tribe and the Yakama Nation for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of bull trout, salmon, and other native fish. The agreement also contains provisions for the prevention of aquatic nuisance species and ensures continued compliance with state water quality standards.

Douglas County PUD has made significant investments in developing the final license application and has completed 25 environmental relicensing studies while working closely with stakeholders on the development of 12 resource management plans and 6 relicensing settlement agreements. We appreciate Douglas County PUD's work to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan, and its efforts to protect and enhance fish spawning and rearing habitat.

We appreciate your consideration and request that you thoughtfully evaluate the final license application, including proposed new environmental measures, and the wide range of stakeholder support that Douglas County PUD has garnered throughout this process as you make your decision.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

cc: FERC Commissioners

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Document Content(s)

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