



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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March 6, 2012

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Bose,

I am writing to express the full support of the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) for granting a license with a fifty-year term to Douglas Public Utility District No. 1 for the relicensing of its Wells Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2149, on the Columbia River, Douglas County, Washington.

On February 27, 2012, Ecology issued a 401 Water Quality Certification for the Wells project. We are well aware of the extensive measures that Douglas PUD must operate under and the agreements it has committed to carrying out. These measures were developed to protect or restore aquatic life and other beneficial uses over a long period of time. Virtually all of the agreements include robust adaptive management provisions that will insure they are effective and durable even in the face of changing conditions.

With a full fifty-year license term, Douglas PUD will be better able to compensate for the substantial costs associated with operating under the license requirements. And from Ecology's point of view, water quality and beneficial uses will receive maximum protection under an integrated, adaptable and durable approach. We respectfully encourage the granting of a fifty-year term license.

Sincerely,

Charles McKinney
Water Quality Section Manager, Central Region
Washington Department of Ecology

cc: Chairman Wellinghoff
Commissioner Moeller
Commissioner Norris
Commissioner LaFleur

