

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426
May 31, 2006

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2149 – Washington
Wells Hydroelectric Project
Public Utility District No. 1 of
Douglas County

Harvey Moses, Chairman
Tribal Business Council
PO Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

Reference: Consultation with the Colville Confederated Tribes

Dear Mr. Moses:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) invites your participation in the relicensing process for the Wells Hydroelectric Project located on the Columbia River in Douglas, Chelan, and Okanogan Counties, Washington. Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County (Douglas PUD) owns and operates the project under a license issued by the Commission and is using the Commission's new Integrated Licensing Process to relicense the project. Douglas PUD's current license for the Wells Project expires May 31, 2012, and an application for a new license must be filed by May 31, 2010.

The Wells Project consists of: (1) a 1,130-foot-long and 168-foot-wide concrete structure called a hydrocombine with integrated generating units, spillways, switchyard and fish passage facilities; (2) a 2,300-foot-long and 40-foot-high earth and rockfill west embankment; (3) a 1,030-foot-long and 160-foot-high earth and rockfill east embankment; (4) eleven 46-foot-wide and 65-foot-high ogee-designed spillway bays with 2 vertical lift gates (upper leaf is 46-feet by 30-feet and lower leaf is 46-feet by 35-feet); (5) five spillways modified to accommodate the Juvenile Fish Bypass System; (6) ten generating units each housed in a 95-foot-wide and 172-foot-long concrete structure with an installed capacity of 774.3 megawatt (MW) and maximum capacity of 840 MW; (7) five 14.4-kilovolts (kV) power transformers each connected to 2 generating units converting the power to 230 kV; (8) two 41-miles-long 230-kV single-circuit transmission lines running parallel to each other; and (9) appurtenant facilities.

The Commission staff is interested in meeting with you to discuss the Commission's relicensing process, how the tribe can participate to the fullest extent possible, your interests and concerns in the affected area, and how to establish procedures to ensure appropriate communication between Commission and tribal staffs. The meeting can be limited to Commission and your tribal staff or can be open to other tribes, Douglas PUD, or any other relicensing participants you wish. Please note that any sensitive tribal information discussed at the meeting, and likewise discussed throughout the entire relicensing process, can be kept strictly confidential.

Please tell us by June 30, 2006, whether or not you would like to participate in relicensing the Wells Project and whether you would like to meet with Commission staff to discuss the project. Please address the response (an original and eight copies) to:

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

The first page of the response should clearly show the project number, P-2149. Your response may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-Filing" link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. You may also register online at: <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov; call toll-free at (866) 208-3676; or, for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dr. Frank Winchell, the Commission's cultural resource specialist assigned to the Wells Project, at (202) 502-6104 or Frank.winchell@ferc.gov.

As you are aware, we have scheduled a meeting to discuss two other Commission projects with you in early June. Dr. Winchell will contact your office shortly to see if a meeting addressing the Wells Project can be coordinated with the meeting already scheduled to address the Enloe (P-12569) and Boundary (P-2144) Projects.

Sincerely,

Ann F. Miles, Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing

cc: Camille Pleasants
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155

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