

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20426
May 16, 2007

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2149-131 – Washington
Wells Hydroelectric Project
Public Utility District No. 1 of
Douglas County, Washington

Subject: Addendum to Scoping Document 2 for Wells Hydroelectric Project (P-2149-131)

To the Party Addressed:

On May 15, 2007, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a revised scoping document (SD2) for the Wells Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2149). Scoping comments filed by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 9, 2007, were inadvertently omitted from SD2. This letter addresses those comments and serves as an addendum to SD2.

In comments filed on April 9, 2007, the Service recommends that the description of existing project operations indicate that Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County periodically lowers the project reservoir to flush accumulated sediments from the lower Methow River. We will describe specific project operations, such as lowering the reservoir to flush sediments, in the environmental assessment that will be issued in early 2011; however, for the purposes of scoping, a brief and general overview of existing project operations is adequate. There is no need to revise SD2.

The Service recommends that the issue discussing effects on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity include an examination of aquatic habitat temperatures in the 'fringes' of the reservoir. The water quality issue in SD2 is broadly defined to allow for analysis of water temperatures in the fringe portions of Wells Reservoir, as well as other water temperature issues that may be identified prior to issuance of the environmental assessment in early 2011. There is no need to revise this issue.

The Service recommends that we clarify that the reference to the "Habitat Conservation Plan" in the salmon and steelhead issue refers to the Wells Hydroelectric Project Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan. We so clarify.

The Service recommends that the lamprey issues be modified to include effects on juvenile lamprey habitat and downstream passage of adult lamprey. We are modifying these issues as suggested.

The Service suggests that the white sturgeon issue be further defined to include effects on upstream and downstream passage. The white sturgeon issue described in SD2 indicates that we will address effects on white sturgeon movements, which would include both upstream and downstream passage. There is no need to revise this issue.

The Service indicates that the bull trout issue in section 4.2 of SD2 excludes an accompanying protection, mitigation, and enhancement measure to address project effects on bull trout. In this section of SD2, we define the environmental issues that would be addressed in our environmental assessment. We do not define or describe potential protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures in section 4.2 of SD2.

The Service suggests that the issue discussing the frequency, timing, amplitude, and duration of reservoir fluctuations should include a discussion of the effects of the Methow River sediment flushing operations. The reservoir fluctuation issue in SD2 is broadly defined to allow for analysis of the effects of the Methow River sediment flushing operations, as well as any other fluctuation effects that may be identified prior to issuance of the environmental assessment in early 2011. There is no need to revise this issue.

The Service recommends that the threatened and endangered species issue be revised to include the pygmy rabbit. We are modifying this issue as suggested.

Please direct any questions about the scoping process to Bob Easton at (202) 502-6045 or robert.easton@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Wells Project may be obtained from our website, <http://www.ferc.gov> or Douglas PUD's website, <http://www.douglaspud.org>.

Sincerely,

Bob Easton
Hydro West Branch 1

cc: Mailing List
Public Files