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## NORTHWEST POWER PLANNING COUNCIL

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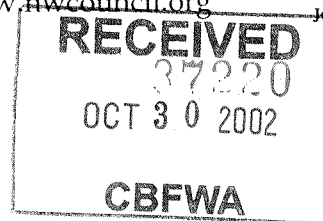
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October 29, 2002



Ms. Sarah McNary  
Manager, Fish and Wildlife  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621; KEW  
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Ms. McNary:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the Council recommendation regarding a project proposed for Bonneville funding under the Action Plan solicitation in Fiscal Year 2001. This recommendation was made by the Council at its meeting via teleconference on October 28, 2002.

In addition, a purpose of this letter is to inform the project sponsor and other interested parties of the status of the Council action. The following is a summary of the action taken by the Council at the meeting.

### 1. Project #23044 (Action Plan), Naches River Water Treatment Plant Intake Screen

The Naches River Water Treatment Plant Intake Screen (Project #23044) is a screen replacement and modification designed to eliminate mortality of ESA listed and non-listed salmonids at the intake of City of Yakima's Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The Naches River provides habitat for listed species such as steelhead and bull trout, as well as species funded by the Council's program, such as coho and spring chinook introduced as part of the YKFP.

Currently, the WTP receives its' water from the tailrace of the Pacific Corp Wapatox hydroelectric plant, which is screened. When Wapatox is taken out of service (approximately 60 days per year), water is diverted directly from the Naches River into an auxiliary intake to the WTP, which is unscreened. Juvenile fish that enter the WTP intake experience 100% mortality. Presently, the Bureau of Reclamation is in the process of purchasing the Wapatox water right and dedicating those flows into the Naches River. Unless the intake screen is fixed, it will interfere with the supply of water to the City's water treatment plant, and continue to impact important populations of fish.

The Council recommended the Naches River Water Treatment Plant Intake Screen for funding as part of the Action Plan solicitation. Bonneville obligated \$800,000 from the Action Plan allocation for the implementation of this project. In the development of the Biological Assessment for this project, NOAA Fisheries identified and required project modifications. Those modifications total \$324,000.

At the Northwest Power Planning Council's September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council recommended that the Bonneville Power Administration fund the Naches River Water Treatment Plant Intake Screen (project number 23044) an additional \$324,000 to cover the project modifications identified and required by NOAA Fisheries in the development of the Biological Assessment for this project. The Council recommended BPA fund the modifications as required by NOAA Fisheries from the Action Plan fund. The Council has not received a formal response from Bonneville.

The Council recommends the Bonneville Power Administration fund the \$324,000 for the Naches River Water Treatment Plant Intake Screen project to address modifications identified and required by NOAA Fisheries. Because Bonneville has not formally responded to the Council's recommendation to fund this project from the Action Plan funds, but has stipulated a December 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for project completion, the Council at this time recommends the \$324,000 be secured from the unallocated placeholder. As noted during the deliberation regarding this action the Council stressed that these funds should fairly be taken from the Action Plan allocation, but due to the need to get this vital element addressed is recommending that the funds be secured from the unallocated placeholder to ensure that this action is completed.

Sincerely,



Doug Marker  
Director  
Fish and Wildlife Division

cc: Bob Austin, BPA  
John Rowan, BPA  
Mark Shaw, BPA  
David Byrnes, BPA  
Rodney Sando, CBFWA  
Tom Iverson, CBFWA  
Dueane Calvin, City of Yakima