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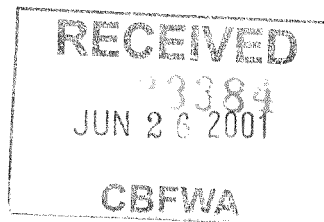
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June 25, 2001

Dr. David Geist  
Ecology Group  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
902 Battelle Boulevard  
P.O. Box 999  
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Dr. Geist:

Thank you for your letter of June 13 concerning Project 21004 "Determination of difficult passage areas, migration patterns and energetic demands of upriver migrating salmon and steelhead swimming activity with EMG and standard transmitters."

Two versions of the proposal for this project were submitted in FY 2001, under two different funding categories. The first was submitted on August 6, 2000 under number 21004 for funding within the Columbia Gorge Province. This proposal outlined a three-year study with a total budgetary request of **\$969,542** broken down as follows: \$319,542 (FY 2001), \$330,000 (FY 2002), and \$320,000 (FY 2003). The second version of the proposal was submitted on November 1, 2000 under number 22063 for funding as an Innovative Project. The budgetary request for this study was **\$319,542** in FY 2001.

Both the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (Authority) and the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) reviewed the submittals under the Gorge Province and Innovative funding categories. In general, while the recommendations by the Authority provided lukewarm endorsement for either version of the project, the ISRP provided stronger endorsement. Of particular relevance is the ISRP's support for "...the one-year examination..." (ISRP Document 2000-9, December 1, 2000 Final Review of FY 2001 project proposals for the Columbia River Gorge and Inter-Mountain Provinces) and the ISRP's stated preference "...to fund [this project] through the Gorge province..." (ISRP 2000-10, December 15, 2000 Review of FY 2001 Innovative Proposals).

Upon review of the recommendations provided by the Authority and the ISRP, the Council resolved to recommend the implementation of the shorter and less expensive version of the proposal (i.e. proposal 22063), as submitted under the innovative funding category, but funded through the Gorge Province budget. The rationale behind this decision was to stimulate a close cooperation between the sponsor and local co-managers involved in adult collection and other activities at these locations, to strengthen current activities in the Klickitat subbasin. Our support for the scaled-down project test in the Klickitat hinged on the innovative qualities of the proposal. An additional

advantage of this recommendation was to free up limited funds under the innovative project category, thus allowing the opportunity to consider funding of additional proposals.

The net effect of the Council's recommendation was to fund proposal 22063 (innovative) under the budget allocation for the Gorge Province. Therefore, the following principles and expectations that apply to innovative projects apply to the case of this project as well:

1. Innovative proposals should be funded on a one-time basis.
2. Innovative proposals recommended for funding in FY 2001 are not eligible to participate in the "innovative proposals" solicitation in future years. Rather, if additional Bonneville funds are sought, the proposals will compete with all other proposals in the province based solicitation and review process.
3. Bonneville should work with project sponsors to best implement their projects on an appropriate time-scale within the total funding amount recommended.
4. Projects funded under the innovative category will not be allowed to receive additional funding of any kind until the initial work has been completed and a final report submitted.
5. As a condition for funding, the principal investigators agree to submit a report to the Council documenting any findings, conclusions, or noteworthy observations made as a result of the study.

Your compliance with these guidelines will define your ability to request consideration for funding of additional years to the scope of your project. Such opportunities may be sought during the rolling Provincial review process implemented by the Council. This process invites project sponsors to submit their requests every three years in connection to the collective efforts proposed for subbasins within each ecological province identified throughout the Columbia River basin. Another alternative for funding request consists on an annual request for consideration of funding by the co-managers within the Basin Authority. Should you decide to explore this route for funding during FY 2002, 2003, and beyond, your request will be considered against contemporary needs and priorities within limited budgets. Again, additional funding is not available through the FY 2001 budget for innovative projects.

Your letter also carried a question regarding the species to be examined. The Council appreciates your description of the advantages of monitoring fall chinook as well as spring chinook passage at Lyle and Castile falls. However, we were surprised to learn that selection of the species for your study is still pending. In a letter of April 30 Bonneville communicated to the Council of its decision to accept the Council recommendations on the Gorge Province projects and to initiate the contracting work right away.

The reason why your project received consideration under the innovative projects category was not just its specific application in the Klickitat subbasin but, more importantly, its potential application to passage problems elsewhere in the basin. In fact, comments received from the Yakama Nation and the National Marine Fisheries Service during the review of proposals for the Gorge Province indicated that the design for passage rehabilitation at Lyle was too far along to benefit from your proposed work. What made your proposal particularly attractive to the Council was the prospect of testing this technology for use throughout the basin, not for design options at Lyle. Therefore, the choice of species is secondary to the development and testing of the technology.

We trust that your professional judgment, in consultation with local co-managers and Bonneville, will help decide which species is a better target for your study. This determination must

factor in sample availability, timing and duration of the migration, specific environmental conditions during the current low flow year, and any other permitting requirements associated with the decision to study listed species. The expansion of your originally proposed scope of work can have budgetary consequences that affect other projects within the Gorge Province or other provinces. We encourage you to work closely with local co-managers and Bonneville to initiate your study rapidly and avoid unnecessary delays.

Best wishes in your endeavors. Please feel free to contact us again if you need further clarification on this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Robert Lohn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

D. Robert Lohn  
Director  
Fish and Wildlife Division

Cc: Brian Allee, CBFWA  
Bob Austin, BPA  
David Byrnes, BPA  
Bill Sharp, YN