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MAR 3 2000



Greg Graham
US Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
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March 2, 2000

Mr. Graham,

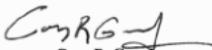
Please accept this letter from SDS Lumber Company as comments to proposals relating to the breaching of several lower Snake River dams by the US Corps of Engineers.

1 It has come to our attention that the Corps is currently conducting a series of field hearings to discuss breaching of selected dams along the lower Snake River. Mr. Graham, there are several factors that must influence the decision to breach these dams. According to a recent study by the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC) titled *The Regional Power Supply Adequacy and Reliability Study*, the existing power supply for the Pacific Northwest is at risk of being inadequate over the next few years. The study related that factors such as population growth, increasing market-driven generation, and unstable weather conditions effect the supply of hydro-electric generated power. As technology and growth increase more power will be necessary, and the existing generation plants will be required to work harder to keep up with demand. According to the study, even if more generation plants and actives were placed into action, the supply in four years would be inadequate to accommodate the growth.

Dam breaching proposals are not the absolute answer to restoring the declining salmon and steelhead returns in the Northwest. While there is valid reason to be concerned about the decline in western fish populations, there are more factors influencing the declines than dam obstructions. Commercial fishing, the influx of predator fishes, water temperatures, bad agricultural practices, and water pollution effect the population of both resident and anadromous salmonids in the Northwest.

It is vital to the Pacific Northwest that there be an adequate power supply available as well as healthy populations of anadromous fish. Dam removal is not necessarily the answer to salmonid restoration. All alternatives should be strongly considered. Please consider these statements in the decision making process with the US Corps of Engineers.

Sincerely,


Cory R. Gangle

cc.

Senator Slade Gorton
Congressman Brian Baird
Washington State Representative Barbra Lisk
Washington State Senator Jim Honeyford