

MAR 22 4:17



February 24, 2000

Mr. Greg Graham
US Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
201 Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 98367

Dear Mr. Graham:

Do not breach the dams of the lower Snake River. These dams are important for irrigation, recreation and power generation. They allow products to be barged from the Pacific Coast ports to Lewiston, ID, and provide water to irrigate thousands of acres of farmland in southeastern Washington. They also provide abundant, affordable hydroelectric power to businesses such as ours.

That power supply is in jeopardy. According to a new study by the Northwest Power Planning Council entitled *Regional Power Supply Adequacy and Reliability* there is a growing probability of a power shortage in the years ahead, even with the Snake River dams generating electricity. Over the next four years, there is a one in four chance of brownouts or even blackouts during peak demand periods in the winter months. This problem is made even worse because even if we started now, new power generation sources could not be brought on line in time to meet this need.

Many Northwest businesses and industries, including high tech manufacturers, aerospace companies, pulp and paper facilities and aluminum plants are located in the Pacific Northwest because of its abundant, affordable hydroelectric power. This may all disappear if we fail to preserve the dams.

This is not a fish vs. dam issue. Salmon runs can be restored without ripping out dams. There are effective and cost-efficient alternatives, such as harvest restrictions, predator control, hatchery reform and barging young salmon around dams. The dams should remain in place.

Sincerely,

Joel Smith
General Manager