



City of Clarkston

City Hall: (509) 758-5541 • Police: (509) 758-1684 • Fire: (509) 758-8681 • Fax: (509) 758-1670

830 Fifth Street • Clarkston, WA 99403

PEAR 2 2 2000

February 14, 2000

Federal Caucus Comment Record
c/o BPA-PL
707 W. Main Street, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

RE: Federal Caucus "All-H Paper"

To whom it may concern;

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed "all-H paper" regarding the conservation of Columbia Basin fish. Option 1 and 2 of the hydropower options seem to be appropriate, cost effective and make sense. However, Option 3, breaching or the removal of the lower Snake River dams is not appropriate, is not cost effective and does not make good sense. The risk of dam removal does not begin to compare to the perceived reward of saving fish.

Starting several decades ago, both the public and private sector invested heavily in our region's river and navigational system. The regional community also invested their careers, lives and families, using the river system as a basis of their culture. Breaching or removal of the dams would dramatically change their way of life and literally devastate our community and the Inland Northwest, as we know it.

As I view it, Option 3 can be narrowed to one question. Are fish more important than the millions of lives that will be significantly altered by removal of the dams?

By narrowing the question, the answer is very clear. Anadromous fish are important, but people are more important. The dams are in place; the decision was made several years ago. It's extremely difficult to "undo" a portion of civilization. It would be devastatingly disruptive to change a human culture. The choice seems disproportionate to the issue. It's my opinion that we (as a society) should do everything we possibly can (to protect the fish) without destroying a generation and a way of life. In my twenty-five years of public service, I'm proud of my record in protecting the environment and I am usually supportive, however, option 3 under the proposed hydropower options (removal of the dams) is radical for the perceived benefit.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Very truly yours,

Mark A. Kammers
Mayor



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