



# Northwest Alloys, Inc.

29 March 2000

Department of the Army  
 Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers  
 201 North Third Avenue  
 Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

RE: Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Reviewer:

I am president at Northwest Alloys, one of about 350 people who work to produce magnesium and alloys at our Addy plant about 50 miles north of Spokane. We are a major part of the local economy, and I have been working hard for several years to control our costs so we can keep our plant open. While we have made a lot of progress inside our plant fence, I am very concerned that the dam-breaching alternatives in your report will lead to considerably higher electricity costs for our plant, and affect our ability to economically produce our products.

I recognize that salmon are important, and that companies like mine need to do our part to help weak stocks. At the same time I believe that my co-workers and our community are important, and we cannot afford a large increase in power rates to pay for actions that may, or may not help the fish.

Your report says that we cannot predict with great certainty what will happen to a number of salmon runs no matter what actions we take. There are still too many variables, and too many unknowns. Because of the uncertainties, I believe it makes no sense to advocate the breaching of the lower Snake River dams. We need to make good long-term decisions about the Columbia and Snake Rivers, and should not make knee-jerk decisions based on non-conclusive data.

Please, for the sake of my co-workers, our community, and me, do not breach the dams.

Sincerely,

GERALD A. TURNBOW  
 President, Northwest Alloys, Inc.