

## Alcoa Primary Metals

Wenatchee Works  
6200 Malaga/Alcoa Highway  
Malaga, WA 98828-9784 USA



March 29, 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 Corps of Engineers Reviewer:

Salmon are important in the Northwest because they are a part of who we are. They have been a part of Northwest culture since before written history. But salmon are not the only definition of our Northwest culture. We value our independence. We work hard and play hard. The economies of small communities throughout the Northwest that depend on low-cost, clean electricity capture those values – factories and recreation exist side-by-side.

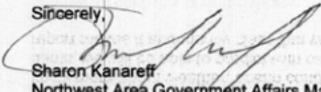
We need to understand why the region's salmon runs are suffering and develop recovery strategies for weak, threatened and endangered runs without sacrificing the other parts of our region that are important. That is why your Report is an important planning resource. But even your report acknowledges that using the best science available today we cannot predict what will happen to a number of salmon runs no matter what actions we take. Maybe someday when we know more about weather, ocean conditions, habitat, hatcheries and the impacts of hydroelectric dams, we will be able to predict with certainty the impacts of our human decisions. But your report makes it abundantly clear that we can't do that today.

In the light of all this uncertainty about salmon, calls for breaching the four lower Snake River dams are premature. While breaching these dams may be politically popular in some parts of the region, there is no guarantee the action will recover a single salmon. That is an unacceptable risk to my thinking.

What I do know is that breaching these dams will hurt other parts of our society. If the dams are breached, we will lose clean power supplies that will have to be replaced by more expensive and environmentally costly supplies. Aluminum and magnesium smelters like three I represent in Ferndale, Wenatchee and Addy, Washington will be seriously affected by dam breaching. Since power costs are a major factor in the ability of our smelters to compete in the world market, it is disingenuous for this report to say that natural river drawdown will have little social and economic effect. This is especially true in locations like Whatcom, Stevens and Chelan counties that depend on Alcoa facilities for a large part of their economic base.

On behalf of the 2,000 people that are directly employed by Alcoa in Washington state, and the people in our communities that are impacted by the jobs we provide, I urge you to reject lower Snake River dam breaching and drawdown alternatives.

Sincerely,



Sharon Kanareff  
Northwest Area Government Affairs Manager