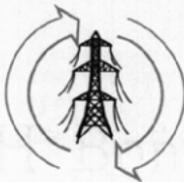


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Progress with Power  
P.O. Box 1039

MAR 28 2000

ROBERTA B. WELLER, Manager

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

PHONE (509) 775-3325 / FAX (509) 775-3326

NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY

REPUBLIC, WASHINGTON 99166

Department of the Army  
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers  
Attention: Lower Snake River Study  
201 North Third Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

March 27, 2000

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to take this opportunity to share my comments and concerns on the recent studies regarding the salmon recovery. This issue is extremely important to me because my life and the lives of others that live in the Pacific Northwest are built around our remarkable rivers. The decisions that will be made over the next few months and years will directly affect me, my family and the lives of future generations as well.

This process is, or should be, about finding common sense solutions to our complex natural resource problems, which do include salmon. It is not about finding the rationale to do risky, drastic and unproven experiments like breaching dams or requiring massive flow augmentation. And, it is not about how many people are present at a public hearing. **For these reasons, I oppose breaching the four (4) hydroelectric dams on the lower Snake River. Breaching dams and requiring other unproven measures such as massive flow augmentation do not have the science to back them up and will not solve the problems.** For far too long, this debate about salmon recovery has focused on our hydropower system, ignoring the benefits it brings to the region and also ignoring the fact that salmon mortality is a result of many factors throughout their lifecycle. The region must have a comprehensive recovery plan with a clear vision, goals and priorities that address all aspects of the fisheries, including harvest, habitat, hatcheries and hydropower while considering other factors such as climate and ocean conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on such a critical issue.

Regards,

ROBERTA B. WELLER  
Manager