

COMMISSIONERS

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PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY
Owned By Those We Serve

MAR 31 2000

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March 27, 2000

Brigadier General Carl Strock
Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corp of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Attention: Lower Snake River Study

Dear General Strock:

The Public Utility District No.1 of Asotin County is a municipal entity serving the City of Clarkston and portions of Asotin County. The District is governed by a three-member elected Board of Commissioners.

As an elected board we represent over 15,000 citizens in our district. These citizens have a broad and diverse socio-economic background including agriculture, tourism, and logging interest, amongst others. We, as a Public Utility District supplying drinking water, have the interest of declining fish runs high on our priority list, especially with the Snake River as a county boundary.

The concept of breaching the four lower Snake River dams is not a tailor made panacea for restoration of these fish. This is very apparent when one sees the sad and sorry lack of study on such ocean factors as climate, predators and the over-fishing in our territorial waters by our Pacific Rim neighbors and others.

To eliminate the decided advantages of a renewable energy source for new plants using fossilized fuel is not in this regions best interest. Furthermore, this could increase the burden on our highways even more to transport such fuel to plants or cause a large environmental uproar to cross state and public lands with pipelines.



The lack of being able to barge products both upriver and downriver, of course, adds to increased costs of products. When railroads are in the process of closing down lines and tearing up track in this region, it further challenges the transportation aspect related to dam breaching.

Thank you for considering our thoughts relative to dam breaching. We feel that breaching the four lower Snake River dams would make our county more economically distressed and our PUD owners deserve better than that.

Sincerely,

PUD No.1 of Asotin County, Board of Commissioners

**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

RESOLUTION NO. 00-220

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE BREACHING OF THE FOUR
LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS**

WHEREAS, breaching of the lower Snake River Dams is being considered as a way to help rebuild endangered fish populations; and

WHEREAS, there is no credible biological evidence that breaching of these dams would help endangered fish populations; and

WHEREAS, breaching would likely cause serious impacts to resident fish and shellfish, public and private property along the river, navigation, recreation, irrigation and power production; and

WHEREAS, hydropower is a clean renewable resource and is central to the sustainable economy and the culture of the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, more viable alternatives to dam breaching exist, such as, harvest control and habitat conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County calls on regional and national leaders to acknowledge that breaching the four lower Snake River dams and operating these dams under a natural river system, would not be more effective than other options for enhancing endangered fish populations, and that the options can be implemented constructively to enhance and protect endangered fish while continuing to realize the benefits of hydropower, which provides a sustainable economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County opposes the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County at a regular open public meeting held on the 14th day of March, 2000.

Marvin E. Enje
Commissioner, President

Judy L. Siegel
Commissioner, Vice President

mta
Commissioner, Secretary