

KAISER ALUMINUM
NORTHWEST REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

APR 10 2000

March 30, 2000

Brigadier General Carl Strock
Department of the Army
c/o Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

Re: Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Study

Dear General Strock:

I am writing on behalf of my company to offer brief comments on the feasibility study on juvenile salmon migration that the Corps of Engineers is currently conducting. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue and applaud the Corps for its extensive comment period and public hearings that have just concluded.

Kaiser Aluminum had its beginnings in the Pacific Northwest and we have been a part of the region for over 55 years. We have primary aluminum and fabricating facilities in Spokane, Tacoma, and the Tri-Cities, we employ 2,269 people, and our annual economic impact is \$1.6 billion. Kaiser has been a customer of the Bonneville Power Administration since our inception. Our annual electrical power bill to run our facilities approaches \$150 million per year. We estimate that approximately \$15 million per year goes toward paying for salmon recovery efforts initiated by Bonneville and the region. So what happens on the Columbia/Snake river system is critical to our company and to our future role in the Northwest.

We have been an active and concerned participant in the regional efforts to improve salmon recovery on the Columbia/Snake river system for the last ten years. We continue to remain as concerned and committed in working with the entire region to fashion a program that is scientifically credible and that does not jeopardize the many other values that the Federal Columbia River System brings to the region in the form of the production of electrical energy, navigation, irrigation, flood control, and recreation. We should not forget that the Columbia/Snake river system, in many ways, is the economic backbone of our region.

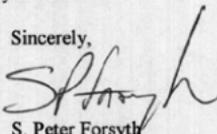
A number of comments and published reports in the media about the outcome of your recent public hearings would infer that the "the region is in favor of breaching the four Lower

Snake River dams." I do not think that is an accurate portrayal of the region's will, and for Kaiser Aluminum, we do not support dam breaching. We do not support the breaching of dams because it is a narrow-focused solution to a very complex ecological problem. Dam breaching would have a significant – some suggest devastating -- economic impact on our region, and it certainly would have a significant impact on our company and employees.

However, the purpose of the study that the Corps is conducting is to provide scientific data about juvenile salmon migration that can help guide the region in decisions it will need to make. In that vein, I would urge you and the Corps to remain true to the purpose of the study, and to focus your attention on those comments and input that help you meet the charge of your study. The scientific analysis that the study will bring to the region will be very helpful. But it is Congress and the region that will eventually decide what should be done and what actions should be taken. The impact of the dams is only one of many aspects of improving salmon recovery. The Corps study, as one element of that decision-making that we feel must take place, can best serve the region by maintaining its impartiality, both in assessing the comments you have received, and in how the final study report provides scientific guidelines for the region to follow.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



S. Peter Forsyth
Vice President, NW External Relations

cc: Sen. Slade Gorton
Sen. Patty Murray
Rep. George Nethercutt
Spokane Area Chamber of Commerce
Association of Washington Business
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association