

MAR 27 2000



JOSEPH H. LANGJAHN
Vice President & General Counsel

March 23, 2000

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

Re: The Corps' Snake River Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

We oppose Alternative 4, the dam breaching alternative.

Foss Maritime Company began providing marine transportation services in the Pacific Northwest in 1889. During the past 111 years, Foss Maritime has developed a complete waterborne tug and barge transportation system that currently operates throughout Puget Sound, Alaska, Columbia/Snake Rivers, San Francisco, and Southern California. Foss Maritime deploys over 200 tugs and barges in order to perform a multitude of commodity movements, vessel related harbor services and international and coastwise/ocean towing. During the past decade, Foss Maritime has invested more than \$100 million in vessel conversions and new construction to rebuild and modernize its fleet of marine equipment. Foss Maritime employs about 1,300 people throughout its operating area.

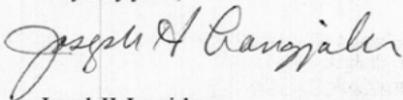
The EIS shows that there are uncertain biological benefits from breaching the lower four Snake River dams. Although we believe the negative economic impacts are seriously underestimated, the EIS shows that there is certain economic harm.

Recent studies show that survival is as high as it was in the 1960's and 1970's – before the dams were built. If survival through the reservoirs is as high now as it was before the Snake River dams were built, returning to pre-dam conditions is not the answer.

Dam breaching will create significant negative environmental impacts, with loss of habitat for resident fish and wildlife and increased air pollution from trucks and from fossil fuel burning power plants.

The region needs a recovery plan with a clear vision, goals and priorities. We need a plan that rebuilds healthy fish runs while maintaining a healthy economy. Dam removal is not the silver bullet. It is extreme and it's risky. It may not help the fish, but it will certainly hurt the economy. Our jobs and our Northwest way of life are at stake.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph H. Langjahr". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joseph H. Langjahr