APR 11 2000

A. Dean & Company

400 W 11th Avenue, Kennewick, Washington 99337
Fax: 509 585 9296 E/mail: dean@owt.com Telephone: 509 582 7215

Friday, April 07, 2000

Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Attn: Lower Snake River Study
201 N. Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

Gentlepersons;

I apologize for not being able to attend public meetings that have been heard, but it is my sincere desire to present to the study my observations. I have been a life time participate in conservation, and my General Contractor experience of fifty years supports my background.
Briefly, what is suggested is to make available the use of a new to the market Dupont material that is woven like a spiders web. Dupont original investigators took years of spider study to develop this application. This application can be shown with simple drawings that will be furnished on your request, but in the meantime, to explain the application for the smolt is as follows.

To visualize the system is to think of the smolt swimming downstream. Salmon travel in schools, and at a reasonable certainty of a given depth. Beginning with the lower snake dam, we could extend netting with openings to small for the smolt to swim through and vented to collect the water in a downstream fashion for the smolt to swim inside. This netting would be fashioned in tube form and anchored away from the shipping channel, and below normal depth of recreational boat draft. As the tunneled net approaches the dam, there would be a lateral funnel shape netting to collect the smolt upstream of the turbine inlets, and laterally connected to the mainstream net. It would then enter at that swim depth the beginning of a siphoning pipe that would be configured in a circular design at a slope to maintain the same river speed over the top of the dam circling down to the determined swim depth downstream. This would divert the smolt from the treacherous bird predators. The venting of net would allow the sonar sensory of the smolt to establish their pattern where they are at all times, with out the camouflage of traveling by barge, or subjected to the turbine trauma.
This tube application could extend the entire length of the Snake River, as smolt collection would be desired. The buoyancy, and anchors would be applied to the tube to establish the determined position, with changes as water levels, and shipping commerce would need.
Thank you.

Respectively,

A. Dean Merrick