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Pisco

## IMPACTS OF REMOVAL OF THE FOUR LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS

### Loss of 1500 to 3000 Megawatts of Electric Power Generation

This loss in local, Washington State, and Northwest power capacity will necessitate buying higher priced deregulated power from outside the region. **Our electric bills will increase.** The Corps of Engineers has not correctly estimated this cost.

The Washington State distribution system for electric power must be redesigned and rebuilt to accommodate power coming from other sources. This cost has not been included in the Corps of Engineers cost impacts. **The new capital cost will increase our electric bills.**

Replacement power will be from fossil fuel adding CO2 and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and **exacerbating the global warming** when our national policy is to reduce greenhouse gases. The Corps of Engineers has not included this impact in their report.

### Loss of barge transportation from Idaho and Eastern Washington

Replacement transportation must be by truck or rail. **The existing rail and highway system will not support this new load.** The Corps of Engineers has not included the rail and highway upgrades in their cost impacts. These upgrades will be paid for from local and regional tax revenue and transportation rate increases.

The increased cost of grain transportation will make much of the Palouise dry land farming uneconomical. **The added cost will put these dry land farmers out of business.** This economic impact has not been included in the Corps of Engineer's cost impacts.

Potential growth of Idaho and Eastern Washington farm production will be constrained.

### Impact on Salmon

Removal of the dams will leave a **mud residue** in the river upstream of each dam. This residue will take 20 years to clear. During this time salmon migration and smolt survival will be negatively impacted. **The salmon survival may be less than it is now with the dams in place.**

Fishing in the residual muddy streams will **not attract thousands of new sportsmen** as the Corps of Engineers claims in its report. Any economic boost from this source is very doubtful.

### Irrigation

The loss of availability and location of pools for irrigation water supply will severely impact the thousands of acres of recently developed fruit and tree farms. Pumps and pipelines will need to be removed and reinstalled. **New dams and pools may need to be created to supply these pumps.** Some land may not be able to access water supply and the **production and investment will be lost.** These costs have not been thoroughly developed or estimated.

Removal of the dam pools will **impact the local water table** and may drop the pool below many of the wells in the region. This cost impact has not been estimated.

### Recreation

The parks and campsites along the Snake River are heavily used now. This use will be minimal or non-existent without the lakes. A correct estimate of local **economic loss** from this source has not been included in the Corps of Engineers estimates. The sale of boats and boating equipment will be significantly impacted.

### Flooding

Although the dams along the Snake River were not intended as a primary flood prevention system, they do provide the opportunity for draw down and flood management in the case of a 100 year flood event. In 1996, a fairly minor flood event caused significant loss in the Portland area. The removal of the Snake River dams will make any future **major flood event more serious.**

Neil A. Norman, Professional Engineer  
Past President, National Society of Professional Engineers

70 EDGEWOOD DR  
RICHLAND, WA 99852  
509-627-1232