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March 24, 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**The Corps' Snake River Environmental Impact Statement**

I oppose Alternative 4, the dam breaching alternative.

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.

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.

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.

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 area are at stake.

Sincerely,

Rick Davis
Operations Director
Port of Clarkston