

MAY 22, 2017 - EMAIL TO COLUMBIA-SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS

Subject: Columbia Snake River System - Post-Closure Questionnaire

To our Columbia and Snake River Stakeholders:

At our May 15 meeting, we began a discussion with stakeholders about the impacts of the recently completed closure on your business or interests.

We are asking all impacted stakeholders to fill out a questionnaire to help us understand what you experienced and what the costs were for this event.

A copy of the questionnaire has been posted to the Walla Walla website at the 2016-2017 Outage link, along with a copy of the presentations from the Boardman meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE fill out and return the questionnaire by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We'll use this information in several ways.

First, it informs the Lessons Learned part of this event. How could we improve? In addition to your after action information, we are also documenting all of our internal lessons (everything from engineering designs to contracting to project management), so that we can improve our processes.

Second, without specific input from you, we do not have more than an estimate of the first order economic costs, which we derive from historic tonnage and a nationally averaged price of commodities. The actual local costs, extended to the second and third order impacts - that is those associated with your businesses, are not known. Having a better idea of these costs helps us understand the true use and value of the system. That information helps when we are working through economic risk assessments and budget justifications for all maintenance on the system.

Third, on a regional level, we are engaged with the other Federal agencies to evaluate all Federal Columbia River System Operations under the National Environmental Policy Act. This is a five year effort. Many of you attended Scoping Meetings last fall as a part of this effort. As the evaluation proceeds, understanding the regional economic value of navigation will help us to assess all the potential system operation alternatives.

Finally, from a national perspective, the Columbia Snake River system is a bit unique in having completed a system wide outage twice in 10 years. Other Corps planners and other river system users may benefit from your insights.

Please note that we are only asking for as much information as you are willing to share about your business impacts. We will not share proprietary information, but we may share summarized data.

Thank you for your support and attention during this most recent closure.

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