



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

In reply refer to: KEC-4

March 19, 2008

To: People interested in the proposed Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project

Your review and comments are requested on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project on the Klickitat River in Klickitat County, Washington. You are also invited to attend a public meeting about the project on April 16, 2008 (please see page 2 for more information).

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund modification of the existing Lyle Falls Fishway. The project is needed to improve fish passage to the upper part of the watershed. The draft EIS describes the proposed improvements to the fish passage facility and the environmental effects expected from facility construction and operation. Public comments on the draft EIS will help project partners refine the environmental analysis and decide whether to implement the project.

Project background

The existing fishway is inefficient and prevents some upstream migrating fish from reaching the upper watershed, especially when flows are low. In addition to improving passage, the project would facilitate collection and monitoring of biological information for future fishery management. Enhancing fish passage into the Klickitat subbasin could also increase overall fish production in the Columbia River Basin.

BPA is the lead agency for preparing the draft EIS. Cooperating agencies include the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the operators of the fishway; the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the owners of the fishway; and the U.S. Forest Service, the administrator of portions of the Klickitat River and its corridor under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Documents available

The draft EIS is enclosed for your review. If you would like additional copies of the draft EIS, please call BPA's toll-free document request line at (800) 622-4520. Please leave a message naming this project, giving your complete mailing address and requesting the format of documentation (hard copy or CD) you would prefer. The draft EIS is also available online at:

http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/.

How to comment

Comments on the draft EIS will be accepted through **May 12, 2008**. All comments are encouraged. Of particular interest are specific suggestions related to the analysis of environmental impacts or any recommendations for mitigating potential impacts. Comments may be submitted online at:

www.bpa.gov/comment, via mail to: Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office – DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428,

or faxed to (503) 230-3285. You also may call us with your comments toll free at (800) 622-4519. Comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's Web site at

<http://www.bpa.gov/applications/publiccomments/OpenCommentListing.aspx>. Comments

and responses to them will be made part of the final EIS.

Government-to-Government consultation

Affected Tribes may request government-to-government consultation to address specific concerns or questions they may have related to this project. Given the inherent interest Tribes have in the fishery resources of the lower Columbia River basin, BPA will work with tribal representatives to set up additional meetings to adequately address any tribal concerns pertaining to the Lyle Falls DEIS. To initiate the government-to-government consultation process, please contact Gerald "Buzz" Cobell, Tribal Account Executive, at (503) 230-5069 at your earliest convenience.

Public Meeting

BPA and others involved in this project will present an overview of the draft EIS, discuss the project, reply to questions, and receive any written comments during a public meeting:

April 16, 2008
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Lyle Lions Club Community Center
5th Street and State Highway 14
Lyle, WA 98635

Schedule

Your comments and our responses to them will be published in the final EIS, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2008. BPA expects to issue a Record of Decision in December 2008 on whether or not to fund the proposed project.

For more information

If you have questions about the project or would like more information, please call me directly at (503) 230-7692 or toll-free at (800) 282-3713 or e-mail me at cjkeller@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Carl J. Keller *March 19, 2008*

Carl J. Keller
BPA Environmental Project Manager

Enclosures:
Draft EIS
Comment Form