



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 26, 2006

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### **To: People Interested in the proposed Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on proposed improvements to the Lyle Falls Fishway located in Klickitat County, Washington. The proposed project is on the Klickitat River, about two miles upriver from its confluence with the Columbia River near Lyle, Washington. The enclosed map provides the location of the project. We will follow the procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act. After completing a Draft and Final EIS, BPA will prepare a Record of Decision regarding the action, if any, to be taken on this project.

**Proposal:** BPA and the Yakama Nation propose to improve the existing Lyle Falls Fishway. The project would be designed to meet current state and federal fish passage standards and criteria. Proposed improvements include expanding the fish ladder and improving attraction flows as well as adding a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag detector and video monitor. The adult trapping facility would also be upgraded to facilitate the collection of fish for monitoring and broodstock purposes. The enclosed Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS provides additional information regarding this proposed project.

**Background:** Currently the Lyle Falls Fishway does not meet federal and state fish passage criteria for migrating adult salmon. The existing structure results in poor attraction flows throughout the year, and significantly reduced attraction flows during the period of low river discharge (August – September). During this low flow period, the natural falls become an even greater obstruction to salmon and steelhead. A properly functioning fishway would ease passage of returning adult salmon and steelhead to high quality upstream habitat that is underutilized by anadromous fish.

**Comment Opportunities:** To support our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to help ensure that all pertinent issues are addressed and potentially significant impacts are identified. We invite your participation in the scoping process and request your comments and suggestions on the proposed project. This comment period extends from June 26 to July 26, 2006. Your comments on this project can be submitted in a variety of ways: on-line at <http://www.bpa.gov/comment>, via e-mail to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov), via regular mail to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKC-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, faxed to (503) 230-3285, or by calling us toll free at (800) 622-4519. Please reference the **Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project** with your comments. A comment form is enclosed and can be mailed or faxed to BPA or submitted at the public meeting.

The enclosed Notice of Intent (NOI) on the project also provides information about a site visit and public scoping meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2006. You are invited to attend both events.

**Site Visit:** 3:00 p.m.

Meet at Lyle Falls Fishway

See NOI for directions

**Public Meeting:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Lyle Lions Community Center

5<sup>th</sup> Street and State Highway 14

Lyle, Washington

Contact Nita Burbank at (503) 230-3935 if you wish to be included on the mailing list for this project.

**For More Information:** Additional information is also available on the BPA Web site at [http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Lyle\\_Falls/](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Lyle_Falls/). If you need more information or have any questions, please call me at (503) 230-7692 or e-mail me at [cjkeller@bpa.gov](mailto:cjkeller@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Carl J. Keller*

Carl J. Keller

BPA Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure:

Map of Project

Comment Form

Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS