



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 23, 2006

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Mr. Michael Tehan
Chief, Oregon State Branch
Habitat Conservation Division
NOAA Fisheries Service
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested
7004-2510-0005-1722-7960

Re: Project Proposal Amendment Affecting Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for the Grande Ronde - Innaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Project, Oregon

Dear Mr. Tehan:

The subject project, also known as the Northeast Oregon Hatchery Project or NEOH, has entered value engineering and final design stage, and several modifications to the proposed action have resulted. The modifications are essentially a reconfiguration, consolidation and downsizing of proposed facilities and functions. A supplement to the Biological Assessment (BA) which summarizes these modifications and analyzes their potential effects to ESA-listed species and critical habitat is enclosed. This project was consulted upon in 2004, and your La Grande Office (Eric Murray) and Sustainable Fisheries Office in Boise, ID (Herb Pollard) were integral to issuing the Biological Opinion (BO) (NOAA Fisheries No. 2004/00615) and the Magnuson-Stevens Act consultation in effective fish habitat (MSA EFH) regarding effects to anadromous fish.

The supplement to the BA concludes that individual and cumulative effects of the modifications to the proposed action do not constitute a substantial revision, should not result in changes to the effect determinations for any listed species and no anticipated change to the amount or extent of take previously authorized in the BO. BPA also concludes that modifications to the proposed action would not change the manner or extent of effects on any listed species or critical habitat that is not already considered in the project BA and BO. Also, there have been no new species listings or critical habitat designations that have not been previously considered and addressed.

So, BPA requests your consideration and concurrence that reinitiating of consultation under either ESA or MSA EFH is not warranted.

Herb Pollard and Eric Murray have been sent copies of this letter and supplement to the BA to assist in your review.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me at (503) 230-5885 or macarter@bpa.gov. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mickey Carter 3-23-06

Mickey A. Carter – KEC-4

Environmental Protection Specialist

cc: (w/enclosure)

Mr. Herb Pollard, NOAA Sustainable Fisheries Division 10215 W. Emerald, Suite 180 Boise, ID 83704

Mr. Eric Murray, NOAA Fisheries, La Grande Field Office, 3502 Highway 30, La Grande, OR 97850

Mr. Joe Krakker, USFWS, LSRCP Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 343, Boise, ID 83709

Mr. Robert Rock, Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, P.O. Box 907 / 1550 Dewey Avenue
Baker City, Oregon 97814

Mr. Greg Haller, Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries, P.O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540