UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

October 3, 2011

Andrew M. Montaño
Environmental Project Manager
Bonneville Power Administration - KEC-4
905 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

Re: Comments on the Final EIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project
EPA Project number 09-018-BPA.

Dear Mr. Montaño:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project (CEQ# 20110286) in Skamania County, Washington.

In our comments on the draft EIS in July 2010, the EPA requested information on further coordination with Washington State Department of Ecology and affected Tribes during implementation of the project to assure state and tribal water quality standards would be met. We also recommended that the final EIS include updated data on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit required for the project and conditions to protect water quality.

The FEIS was responsive to our comments. In particular, we appreciate additional clarifying information on measures to protect and preserve water quality and biological resources within the project area. We are also pleased with the BPA's commitments to work with Tribes, and other Federal and State agencies to protect resources in the analysis area, and other changes made to the EIS between draft and final based on public comments. Your responses address our comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Final EIS. If you have any question concerning this review, please contact me at (206) 553-1601, or by electronic mail at reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322, or by electronic mail at mbabaliye.theo@epa.gov .

Sincerely,

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

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