



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 2, 2005

In reply refer to: KE-4

Ms. Melinda S. Eden, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Dear Ms. Eden:

As discussed with you at the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) November meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has received numerous questions of clarification since the start of the solicitation process. As a result, we have developed the enclosed Supplemental Information which we believe may be useful to you in helping to respond to further inquiries from potential project proponents. In addition, this information reflects some of the interests BPA would like to see addressed by the Council during the project review process. Finally, this information reflects factors BPA will take into account when developing its comments to the Council as part of the project review process. Given all of this, we believe this Supplemental Information may be useful now, to project proponents, for consideration in developing proposals.

Our emphasis in implementation of projects is ultimately project performance, based on measured progress toward stated biological and environmental objectives. We had initially hoped to see the Council adopt interim biological objectives and performance measures – through a roll up of objectives developed at the provincial level - prior to this new project solicitation process. We understand that provincial objectives may be developed soon, following the culmination and review of the AHA modeling effort. However, in the absence of these now, we see three attributes of a successful solicitation outcome as follows:

- We must closely mesh Council recommendations with BPA's subsequent approval of projects. Our goal is to agree on at least 95 percent of the Council funding recommendations and to provide consistent direction by quickly resolving differences of opinion, if and when they occur.
- We must continue to refine the development of measurable biological objectives and progress-reporting based on common metrics. These objectives are needed to evaluate and document how program efforts contribute to the achievement of biological (e.g., population) or environmental (e.g., streamflows, temperature) performance.

- We must ultimately be able to measure project accomplishments and Program results that clearly demonstrate effectiveness in the use of ratepayer funds. Critical to this outcome is our suggestion to urge project sponsors to follow the draft RM&E framework for developing proposals in this area.

Finally, although a provincial allocation of dollars based on past spending is a starting point in budgeting an overall level of investment, our goal is an outcome from the current solicitation that furthers a performance-basis in Program implementation through spending addressed to prioritized biological objectives derived from subbasin management plans and assessments.

In closing, I am hopeful that you will take into account the interests of BPA that are reflected in this Supplemental Information during both the solicitation review process and in developing Council recommendations to BPA regarding project funding. My staff and I will continue to work with you and your staff to maximize the value of the investments in fish and wildlife that we together develop and deliver to the region.

Sincerely,



Gregory K. Delwiche
Vice President, Environment, Fish and Wildlife

Enclosures