

January 9, 2012

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington D.C. 20426

This letter responds to the correspondence issued by Jon Knechtel of the Pacific Northwest Trails Association regarding the Enloe Dam project. As a Board we support the Enloe Dam project and disagree with many of the assertions offered by Mr. Knechtel.

First, we feel we must clear the record as to why we believe the Similkameen trail is a valuable addition to our recreational infrastructure. We have never considered the trail a modest pathway for man into a pristine wilderness area. Rather, we see the trail serving as a window to a fascinating time in the history of Okanogan County and demonstrate the ability of industrial man to live side by side with nature. The trail itself is on an abandoned railway bed. Many of the fascinating sites along the trail are the trestle bridge, old powerhouse, and other historic and prehistoric features. Add the tremendous natural beauty that still exists in this area and you have a fascinating place for people to enjoy.

The trail would not exist without the cooperation of the Okanogan PUD. They have been a tremendous supporter of the trail and through this support have demonstrated their recognition of the responsibility they have not only to the citizens of Okanogan County but to our visitors as well. We are confident that the proposed mitigation plan endorsed by FERC in its EA is fully adequate. We are aware that the PUD plans to provide flows over the falls. This has been published in the FERC EA and assertions to the contrary are disingenuous.

The PUD has already donated elements that are integral to the trail. The trestle bridge was donated to the county by the PUD who also supported funding for the re-decking of the bridge. The PUD has provided right of way for the trail. The PUD has cooperated with other adjacent landowners by providing funding for right of way agreements that facilitate completion of the trail. The PUD has been an active

partner with Okanogan County in an effort that has made the first phase of the trail possible.

Aside from the trail, the Enloe Dam project will contribute green power to the energy grid and expand the economic base of Okanogan County in a manner that causes few if any adverse impacts. The preliminary figures would indicate power sales of approximately \$3,000,000 annually. The economic activity generated provides additional revenue to local businesses and in turn local government which supports critical public services. Additional jobs will be created for the local economy. Because it is an existing dam the power can be generated by retrofitting the existing structure mostly within the current footprint. Few if any projects can be retrofitted to provide this level of benefit with so little adverse impact.

We have reviewed the list of recreation enhancements called for by other agencies and find them to be disproportionate to any impacts caused by the project. We believe the mitigations required of the project should bear a proportionate nexus to the impacts the project creates.

We are concerned that the desire of some agencies to finance their capital facility improvement list on the back of the Enloe Dam project could easily make the project financially untenable. The concerns expressed by a few people who would desire to reverse the hands of time and erase man's footprint from the landscape would seem to us misguided. We believe the Enloe Project should be allowed to move forward as quickly as possible now that the EA is complete. We further request the Enloe project receive the longest license term possible, preferably 50 years, due to the extraordinary measures built into the Enloe project proposal.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON

Jim DeTro, Chairman

Andrew Lampe, Member

Don (Bud) Hover, Member

NOTE: Original letter being sent via USPS.

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