



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

October 6, 2017

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: Parties Interested in the Klickitat Hatchery Upgrades Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of the Yakama Nation's proposed Klickitat Hatchery Upgrades Project. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our environmental review process, invites you to a public meeting, and requests your comments on the proposal. It also provides notice of cancellation of another EIS process that was being conducted on different actions at the hatchery.

Proposal - BPA is proposing to fund the Yakama Nation's proposed upgrades to facilities at the existing Klickitat Fish Hatchery in Klickitat County, east of Glenwood, Washington. The hatchery produces spring and fall Chinook salmon and coho salmon and is funded by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Mitchell Act. It is operated jointly by the Yakama Nation (YN) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The hatchery was built in 1954 and most of the facilities have not been renovated since then. The upgrades would help BPA meet its commitments under the Northwest Power Act as well as make good faith efforts towards evaluating proposed projects in the 2008 Fish Accord Memorandum of Agreement with the Yakama Nation.

The proposed hatchery facility upgrades would include improving surface and groundwater intakes, discharge piping, and pumps; rebuilding the pollution abatement system; updating sections of the hatchery building; and adding circular rearing tanks, a storage building, and possibly staff residences. BPA is not proposing to fund fish production or to take over any Mitchell Act funding for the hatchery.

The proposed upgrades are designed to improve rearing conditions for spring Chinook, would provide the capacity to increase production from 600,000 spring Chinook smolts to 800,000 smolts, and would help the spring Chinook program transition from using only hatchery-raised fish for broodstock (a "segregated" or "isolated" program) to a program that incorporates natural-origin fish in the broodstock (an "integrated" program). Currently, natural-origin spring Chinook from the Klickitat basin have higher survival rates than hatchery fish. Incorporating natural-origin fish into the broodstock is expected to increase the fitness, productivity, survival, and harvest of this species.

The proposed upgrades to the water system would add river water to the water supply, which would allow operators to release smolts later in the spring when conditions in the Columbia River are more favorable to smolts migrating to the ocean. The water system upgrades also would improve the quality of the hatchery effluent.

Environmental Review - BPA will prepare an EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action and identify ways to reduce those impacts. The EIS will analyze the proposed action, the no action alternative, and additional alternatives that may be identified during the scoping process.

With the announcement of this EIS process on the hatchery upgrades, BPA is also providing notice of cancellation of DOE/EIS-0424 Klickitat Hatchery Complex Program. Based on public comments on the 2011 draft DOE/EIS-0424, as well as changes in agencies' funding of various activities described in the EIS, BPA is canceling that environmental review process and will focus on the proposed Klickitat Hatchery Upgrades EIS.

Public Meeting - We have scheduled an informal, open-house scoping meeting to provide more information about the proposal, to answer questions, and to accept comments about the scope of the EIS:

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Lyle Lions Community Center

Highway 14 and Third Street

Lyle, Washington, 98365

How to Comment - Please send your comments by **November 27, 2017** so they may be considered as we draft the EIS. All comments will be posted on the BPA comment website. There are several ways to comment:

Project website:	www.bpa.gov/goto/KlickitatHatcheryUpgrades
Mail: Bonneville Power Administration Public Affairs – DKE-7 P.O. Box 14428 Portland, OR 97291-4428	Toll-free: 800-622-4519 Online: www.bpa.gov/comment FAX: 503-230-4019

Schedule - The proposed schedule for the EIS process is as follows:

Scoping comment period	October 6 through November 27, 2017
Public scoping meeting	October 25, 2017 in Lyle, Washington
Draft EIS available for public comment	Summer 2018
Final EIS	Winter 2019
Record of Decision	Spring 2019
If decision to fund, construction start	Summer 2019

For More Information: You may visit the project webpage at www.bpa.gov/goto/KlickitatHatcheryUpgrades.

If you have any questions regarding the environmental review process, please contact me at 503-230-3769 or email at dkkennedy@bpa.gov; or contact Judy Woodward, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, MBO Partners, at jlwoodward@bpa.gov, or 503-325-8333. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-282-3713.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ David K. Kennedy

David K. Kennedy

Executive Manager, Environmental Planning and Analysis

Enclosures:

Project Map

Comment Form

Return Envelope

Reply Card