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December 22, 2009

Christy Brannon
FOIA Officer
Mail Stop DK-7
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208

RECEIVED BY BPA
DATE: 12-28-09
DUE DATE: 1-27-10
LOG # BPA-2010-00006-F

FOIA REQUEST

Fee benefit requested

Fee waiver requested

Expedited processing requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of any and all documents, records, and communications, including but not limited to letters, notes, memos, e-mails – including e-mail attachments – and notes of meetings or telephone conversations, that relate to the following:

- Any and all communications between the Bonneville Power Administration, its lobbyists, government relations personnel whether employees or contractors, and Northwest River Partners, any and all private industry groups, any and all government agencies including NOAA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Congressional staff regarding efforts to place news stories, editorials, op-eds, letters to the editor and any other sort of public relations document since January 1, 2009 through the date of this request related to the Columbia-Snake salmon restoration and recovery issue, including but not limited to the 2008 Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS), the September 15, 2009 Adaptive Management Implementation Plan (AMIP), or the federal court case pending in the U.S. District Court in Oregon about these agency decisions, *National Wildlife Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service*.
- Any and all records including invoices, per diem payments, travel expenses of any kind including meals, mileage, airfare, lodging, and any other expense related to Bonneville Power Administration's public relations efforts (as described above) beginning on January 1, 2009 through the date of this request with regard to the Columbia-Snake salmon restoration and recovery issue, including but not limited to the 2008 FCRPS

Biological Opinion, the AMIP, and the case *National Wildlife Federation v. NMFS* pending before U.S. District Judge James Redden.

- Any and all documents and records that tally or that could assist in tallying all of the hours Bonneville Power Administration, its government and media relations personnel, contractors, and/or lobbyists and its partners put forth as part of said public relations effort related to the Columbia-Snake salmon recovery effort and the *National Wildlife Federation v. NMFS* court case.
- Any and all documents and records that tally or that could assist in tallying all of the expenses related to this public relations effort, including wages and salaries for any and all personnel involved.

I would like to receive the information in electronic format. (CD ROM.)

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Through this request, I am gathering information on the long-running Columbia/Snake salmon recovery effort and the pending biological opinion that is of current interest to the public because of its impact on Native American tribes, fishing families, river communities, irrigators, electric ratepayers, shippers, sport fishermen, conservation groups, wildlife, and because of an ongoing high profile case in U.S. District Court.

This information is being sought for dissemination to the general public. I am a freelance journalist who regularly covers this issue for *High Country News*, *National Wildlife* and other publications. I currently am assigned to cover this story for *High Country News*. Links to previous stories on this topic include: http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=16776 and <http://www.hcn.org/issues/41.8/salmon-salvation>. Other clips and story links are available upon request. I have been a journalist for more than 20 years and I am a 2003 Alicia Patterson Journalism Fellow. I regularly publish stories in a variety of magazines and on news Web sites.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

Please provide expedited processing of this request, as provided by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(v)(II), because there is a compelling and urgent need for this information. As a journalist, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need for information about communications surrounding the federal government's latest salmon plan, both to understand that plan and because of pending legislation in Congress, including the Salmon Planning Act, a pending federal court decision, and the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer funds on fish recovery in a watershed that includes six states and a Canadian

province. Moreover, there have been and continue to be hundreds of news stories – including print, radio, and television stories – editorials, and op-eds published about the September 15 Adaptive Management Implementation Plan, including at least one op-ed co-authored by Commerce Secretary Locke and NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco about the plan. In addition, to this widespread and exceptional level of public and media interest, there are questions about the role of political pressure in determining the Sept. 15 Adaptive Management Implementation Plan. In addition to the high profile and continued interest in this issue, this material is of a time sensitive nature and it is imperative that the information reach the public before Congress acts, the U.S. District Court issues a decision, or before funds are committed to implement the Sept. 15 Adaptive Management Implementation Plan.

As I am making this request as a journalist and disseminating this information on a timely basis is crucial, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone or e-mail, rather than by U.S. Mail, if you have questions regarding this request. My telephone number is 503-231-5285. My e-mail address is krolsen@mindspring.com

I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Olsen", written over a horizontal line.

Ken Olsen