



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

October 5, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: Parties interested in the Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps) are proposing to implement a programmatic environmental review for a suite of estuary restoration projects. The Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program (CEERP) was collaboratively developed by BPA and the Corps to undertake the activities necessary to evaluate, protect, monitor, and restore fish and wildlife habitat in the Columbia River estuary.

The Columbia River estuary includes all of the tidally influenced portions of the Columbia River and its tributaries and extends from the mouth of the Pacific Ocean upstream to Bonneville Dam. It encompasses all low lying areas that are currently or were historically tidally influenced along the Columbia River and its tributaries in portions of Clatsop, Columbia, and Multnomah counties in Oregon, and Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, and Clark counties in Washington.

The CEERP was developed to satisfy restoration obligations and commitments under the Northwest Power Act, Water Resources Development Act, and Biological Opinions for the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. Typical CEERP projects may include the conservation and restoration of riparian areas, off-channel habitats, estuarine wetlands and floodplains through levee modification and breaching; tidal channel creation; tidegate and culvert removal or modification; and invasive species control.

To understand the potential environmental impacts of the restoration actions identified in the CEERP, BPA and the Corps will prepare a programmatic environmental assessment (EA). The EA is being prepared to fulfill the agencies responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Currently projects implemented under the CEERP are reviewed under NEPA on an individual basis. Through the development of this EA, BPA and the Corps will work to understand the impacts of the program as a whole and plan to tier future proposals for individual projects to this EA. At this time, BPA and the Corps are seeking public input to help inform and direct the analysis that will be conducted for this EA.

How to Comment - Please submit your comments by **November 4, 2015** and reference the Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program. All comments we receive will be available on the project website below. Choose the way you would like to comment:

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

Process and Schedule – BPA’s proposed schedule for the EA process is as follows:

Draft EA available for public comment	Winter 2015
Final EA	Summer 2016
Finding of No Significant Impact (if warranted)	Summer 2016

For More Information - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me toll-free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-3796, or by e-mail at dlrose@bpa.gov or Jesse Wilson, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, David Evans and Associates, toll-free at 800-282-3713, directly at 503-230-4506, or by e-mail at jcwilson@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose
 Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures:
 Vicinity Map
 Comment form
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