



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98115-6349

To: Parties Interested in the Burley Creek Hatchery Earthen Drainage Channel Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proposal for upgrades at its Burley Creek Hatchery in Port Orchard, Washington. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines the environmental review process, and invites you to comment on a revised Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).

Proposal - NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center is proposing to increase groundwater withdrawal, increase effluent discharge capacity, and upgrade the existing effluent drainage with an earthen drainage channel at its Burley Creek Hatchery. These upgrades are needed so that the hatchery can produce additional eyed eggs and adults of Endangered Species Act-listed Snake River sockeye salmon. The proposed earthen drainage channel would accommodate increased effluent volume and accommodate recovery of fish that currently get trapped in the existing effluent pipe. All project upgrade-related activities would take place at the existing Burley Creek Hatchery.

In November 2012, NOAA notified the public about the availability of a Draft EA analyzing the effects of the proposed upgrades. While preparing the EA, BPA agreed to become a cooperating agency on the effort, and determined that further analysis was necessary in order for both agencies to simultaneously fulfill their obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A revised Draft EA is now available for comment.

Comment Opportunity - The revised Draft EA is available on the following website <http://www.ahtnaes.com/our-projects/NOAA> for your review. If you would like a copy of the EA, please call: 206-299-0601. Leave a message naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

Please send any comments you may have on the EA by 5 pm PDT, **Friday July 12, 2013** and reference the Burley Creek Hatchery Earthen Drainage Channel Project.

Comments may also be sent by email to Silvia Espino at sespino@ahnta.net, fax to 206-249-8111.

For More Information - If you have any further questions or need more project information, please contact Silvia Espino at 206-299-0601, x803 or by email at sepino@ahnta.net. You may also contact me at 503-230-3018 or jepeterson@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work!

/s/Jenna Peterson

Jenna Peterson

BPA Environmental Protection Specialist