



## Department of Energy

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



April 24, 2009

In reply refer to: KEC-4



Dr. Thomas McCulloch  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 203  
Washington, DC 20004

Certified Mail  
Return Receipt Requested  
7008-1140-0001-2234-8092

Dear Dr. McCulloch:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Bureau of Reclamation (Lead Federal Agencies) have been working with your staff to draft a Systemwide Programmatic Agreement (PA) for 14 Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) hydropower projects (Projects). We are pleased to enclose the final PA for your signature.

The PA addresses the management of historic properties affected by the multi-purpose operations of the Projects and their associated reservoirs. It provides the systemwide principles and commitments for the Lead Federal Agencies' compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The Lead Federal Agencies developed the PA in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and in consultation with state and tribal historic preservation officers (SHPOs/THPOs), tribes, and affected Federal land managing agencies within the Project areas (the consulting parties). PA drafts were sent to consulting parties for review and comment in October 2005, October 2006, and most recently on January 31, 2008. A comment/response spreadsheet is enclosed that lists written comments received on the January 2008 draft PA and responses. Responses to comments are also available on the FCRPS webpage at [http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/fcrps.aspx](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/fcrps.aspx). We greatly appreciate the time and effort your staff put into reviewing and commenting upon PA drafts. The feedback and suggestions we received from consulting parties greatly improved the PA.

Changes were made to the 2008 draft PA to address your comments. Most are organizational in nature or provide clarification. Principal changes include revising the term of the PA to 20 years; defining processes the Lead Federal Agencies will use if a Cooperating Group no longer meets; and providing clarification on the use of Attachment 6 ("Routine Activities for this FCRPS Systemwide PA that do not Require Section 106 Consultation").

When implemented, the PA will provide a consistent framework for Section 106 compliance activities across a wide region, institute regular reporting, and ensure that Project-specific agreement documents are developed to address the unique conditions at each of the Projects. By signing this PA we are documenting a long-term commitment to manage all types of historic properties.

You may sign the PA either as a signatory party or a concurring party. Signatory parties have authority or responsibility according to the terms of the PA. A concurring party is an entity with an interest in the subject matter of the PA and signs to signal concurrence with its terms, but has no authority or responsibility under the PA. If you sign, we ask that you return your signature page within 60 calendar days of receipt. If you do not sign during this time period, it does not foreclose your opportunity to sign in the future. If you decide that you do not wish to sign at this time we would appreciate receiving a letter to that effect. We will notify you once the PA has gone into effect.

If you have any questions, please contact program staff at any of the three Lead Federal Agencies: Gail Celmer, Regional Archeologist, Northwestern Division Corps of Engineers, 503-808-3850, [gail.c.celmer@usace.army.mil](mailto:gail.c.celmer@usace.army.mil); Lynne MacDonald, Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Regional Archeologist, 208-378-5316, [Imacdonald@pn.usbr.gov](mailto:Imacdonald@pn.usbr.gov); or Kimberly St.Hilaire, BPA FCRPS Cultural Resource Program Manager, 503-230-5361, [krsthilaire@bpa.gov](mailto:krsthilaire@bpa.gov). Please return signed PAs to Ms. St.Hilaire.

We thank you for your contributions during the development of the PA and especially for your ongoing interest and participation in the FCRPS program. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to implement the terms of the PA.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division

/s/ William E. Rapp April 9, 2009

William E. Rapp, P.E.  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Division Commander

Bonneville Power Administration

/s/ Stephen J. Wright April 3, 2009

Stephen J. Wright  
Administrator and Chief Executive Officer

Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region

/s/ Timothy Personius April 15, 2009

Timothy Personius  
Acting Regional Director

Enclosures:

Final Systemwide Programmatic Agreement for the Management of Historic Properties Affected by the Multipurpose Operations of Fourteen Projects of the Federal Columbia River Power System for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, February 2009

Comment/Response Spreadsheet on the Draft Systemwide FCRPS Programmatic Agreement dated January 31, 2008

cc:

Ms. Lynne McDonald, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region

Ms. Kimberly St.Hilaire, Bonneville Power Administration

Ms. Gail Celmer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division