



Department of Energy

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

November 13, 2009

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program located just below Chief Joseph Dam on the Columbia River in Okanogan County, Washington. This Final EIS consists of changes to the Draft EIS, copies of all comments received and written responses to those comments.

The Final EIS is enclosed if you previously requested it. If you need additional copies of the Final EIS, please call our toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a message naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address. Information about this project is also available on our website at

http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Chief_Joseph/.

Proposal: BPA proposes to fund the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program to help mitigate for anadromous fish affected by the Federal Columbia River Power System dams. The hatchery complex would be located on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) land, so the USACE is a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act. The USACE, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Parks and Recreation, the Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District, and others cooperated on project design and siting. The project has two components: 1) to increase the abundance, distribution and diversity of naturally spawning summer/fall Chinook within their historical Okanogan Subbasin habitat; 2) reintroduce extirpated spring Chinook back into the Okanogan River. The proposed project has been designed to produce enough summer/fall and spring Chinook to sustain a tribal ceremonial and subsistence fishery for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation as well as sport fisheries.

Comments Received: We received about 10 comments on the Draft EIS. They are categorized and responded to in this Final EIS. Based on the analysis in the Final EIS, BPA will issue a Record of Decision on any action we may take on this project.

Schedule: Based on the public comments and the analysis in the Final EIS, BPA expects to make a decision in March 2010 on any action we may take on the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program. This Record of Decision will be made available to the public and sent to those on the mailing list. If BPA decides to proceed with the project, activities could begin in spring 2010.

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions, please call me toll free at 1-800-622-4519, or e-mail me at macarter@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in our work.

/s/James M. Kehoe for
Mickey Carter
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure:
Summary of Final EIS w/CD
or
Final EIS (if requested)