



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 16, 2004

To: People Interested in the Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Fish Screen Replacement Proposal (Project No. 1996-034-01)

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has prepared the enclosed Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed MVID fish screen replacement project, which includes a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Background: In 1997, BPA completed the Methow Valley Irrigation District Project EA, which analyzed a range of alternatives for the MVID's irrigation system. BPA's 1997 EA addressed the replacement of MVID instream diversions and open canals with groundwater wells and pressurized pipe as the preferred alternative. The EA at that time also considered a partial upgrade alternative, dissolution of the MVID, and a no-action alternative. A FONSI was issued for the preferred alternative at that time. Some of the alternatives in the 1997 EA overlap with the currently proposed MVID fish screen replacements. However, since the 1997 EA and FONSI were completed, a number of circumstances relative to the project have changed. We have addressed these changes and the new proposal in this Final EA and FONSI.

Action: The current scope of the action consists of replacing deteriorated, outdated, and ineffective fish screens along the MVID east and west diversions. The new screens will comply with current biological protection criteria to prevent mortality and injury to both anadromous and resident fish, protect juvenile and adult fish, support the restoration of fish populations in the Twisp and Methow Rivers, comply with appropriate Federal and State standards and criteria for fish protection, and meet the terms of the National Marine Fisheries Service/MVID consent decree. The fish screen replacement is designed to accommodate a range of diversion flows in accordance with the Washington Department of Ecology's revised Administrative Order on MVID diversion flow rates.

Additional Copies: If you would like more copies of the enclosed EA/FONSI, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520. Leave a request naming this project and giving your complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you need more information or have any questions, please call me at 503-230-7692 or e-mail me at cjkeller@bpa.gov. You may also contact the Project Manager, Linda Hermeston, at 503-230-4764 or e-mail her at llhermeston@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Carl J. Keller

Carl J. Keller
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure:
EA/FONSI