

memorandum

DATE: February 15, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Yakima Fisheries Project, Early-Run Fall Chinook Program
(DOE/EIS-0169-SA-17)

TO: Patricia Smith
Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Installation of new well at Marion Drain Hatchery

Project No.: 1997-013-25

Location: Marion Drain Fall Chinook Hatchery, Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation

Introduction: The Yakima Fisheries Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (YFP EIS) (DOE/EIS-0169, January 1996) analyzed impacts of undertaking fish research and mitigation activities in the Yakima River Basin. The YFP EIS focused on the impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of anadromous fish production facilities established to conduct supplementation research for spring Chinook, and the initial coho reintroduction feasibility studies. Subsequent supplement analyses (SAs) addressed the fall Chinook program (SA-1, SA-4, SA-10 and SA-15). The purpose of this SA is to determine if a supplemental EIS is needed to install a new well at the Marion Drain fall Chinook hatchery.

Description of the Proposed Action: The Marion Drain Hatchery is a part of the Yakima/ Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP). The YKFP is a joint project of the Yakama Nation (lead entity) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and is sponsored in large part by the BPA. The Marion Drain Hatchery operates under the Lower Yakima River Supplementation and Research Project. One of the goals of this project is to increase the number of Marion Drain fall Chinook through supplementation. In order to provide an adequate and reliable water supply, a new well is needed at the Marion Drain Hatchery. The well would provide supplemental water needed for rearing the fall/summer Chinook in the proper low densities. The existing well provides about 450 gallons per minute (gpm), which is not enough to sustain current hatchery production. The new well would be located on the hatchery grounds, which have been previously disturbed. All required permits would be obtained prior to any ground disturbing activity.

The project proposal is to ensure an adequate water supply by supplementing the existing well with an additional new well and pump. The well would provide the targeted water yield of 500 gpm, needed to meet production goals. There would be no in-water work associated with this project. The well would be constructed on already disturbed ground on the north side of Marion Drain by a licensed well driller using a water well drilling rig under the supervision of the Yakama Nation Water Code and/or Yakama Nation Water Resources technical personnel. The staging area would be the immediate vicinity of the well--also a previously disturbed area. The well would be a 10 inch diameter steel pipe with a wire wrap stainless steel screen with a total depth of approximately 180 feet. The material removed from the bore hole would be spread on site as gravel base for the road or in the vicinity of the well.

The only potential for erosion and sedimentation would be from construction during wet conditions and use of heavy equipment. These effects would be minimized by using best management practices, such as sediment fences or straw bales. The equipment would mobilize to the location and be set up in only one location. There would be some mobile support equipment moving on and off site.

Analysis:

The proposed action would not adversely affect any of the resources addressed in the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS for the following reasons:

- **Water resources:** According to Mark Koffler, the director of the Yakama Nation Water Code Administration, and documented in the December 1, 2010 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Memorandum of No Effect for the Marion Drain Hatchery well installation, the groundwater on the north side of Marion Drain discharges to Marion Drain. Toppenish Creek is not hydraulically connected to the site. Therefore there would be no impact to water flow in Toppenish Creek. Additionally, the project is not located in either a floodplain or a wetland.
- **Biological resources:** The well would be located in an already disturbed site. The only fish species present in Marion Drain are the fall Chinook that are being produced by the program. No wildlife species would be affected, as described in the ESA No Effect Memo”
- **Cultural resources:** An archeological and cultural resources assessment was conducted on the site and in the surrounding area in both 1994 and 1996. The assessments concluded that: “no historic, prehistoric or traditional use site of NRHP [National Register of Historic Places] significance was found during the four days of survey undertaken at the locale.” Based on the negative results from the previous survey it is the opinion of the BPA archaeologist that the project will result in *no historic properties affected*. This determination was sent to the Yakama Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and they agreed with our determination.
- **Air quality:** The effect from construction of the well on air quality will be little to none. The additions to current conditions on air quality would be limited to emissions from the drilling rig and dust from driving the rig over the sight and digging the well. During operation of the well minimal emissions would be put into the air and Best Management Practices would be implemented.
- **Socioeconomic resources:** The effects to socioeconomic resources are very low. This is a small project that would most likely only provide employment for one person or a few people, including the well rig operator, for a few days.
- **Recreational resources including the visual environment:** The well would be dug on existing hatchery ground, therefore there are no current or future recreational opportunities. No structures would be built that would be visible from offsite.

The site location is an already disturbed area, therefore analysis only considers potential effects to endangered species, water quality/hydrology, and cultural resources.

Findings: As documented in this Supplement Analysis, the potential impacts from the installation of a new well at the Marion Drain Hatchery are not substantially different from those discussed in the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0169), ROD, Supplemental Analyses (SA-01 through SA-16), and related biological assessments and biological opinions. No additional impacts would occur in connection with these activities. There are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, a supplement to the Yakima Fisheries Project EIS is not needed.

/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 15, 2011

Attachment:
References

cc:
Mr. Mel Sampson, Yakama Nation
Bill Fiander, Yakama Nation

References

Documentation on file:

Bonneville Power Administration, Yakama Indian Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (BPA, YIN, WDFW). 1999a. Biological Assessment on Bull Trout for the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project 1999-2004. March 1999.

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