



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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October 4, 2018

Elliot E. Mainzer
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97232

Brigadier General D. Peter Helmlinger
Division Commander, Northwestern Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1201 N.E. Lloyd Blvd., Suite 400
Portland, OR 97232

Lorri J. Gray
Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 North Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Administrator Mainzer, Brigadier General Helmlinger, Regional Director Gray:

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) operates at the direction of four member tribes: the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission require that, "All decisions by the Commission shall be by unanimous vote."

The Yakama, Warm Springs, and Umatilla Tribes have agreed to the 2018 Extension of the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords MOA (2018 Accord Extension MOA). The Nez Perce Tribe is not a party to the 2018 Accord Extension MOA, and certain positions described in the MOA do not reflect the position of the Nez Perce Tribe.

In order to maintain its responsibility to all of its member tribes, and thereby to allow for CRITFC's execution of the 2018 Accord Extension MOA, this letter states CRITFC's understanding of the following:

A. CRITFC does not understand Attachment C as being a Proposed Action or draft Proposed Action for purposes of a Biological Opinion on the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. This understanding does not affect Section III.B.1 and maintains CRITFC's commitment to the ongoing collaboration to develop regionally agreed-upon fish operations and "make best efforts to collaboratively seek alignment on such actions building on the Parties' analyses."

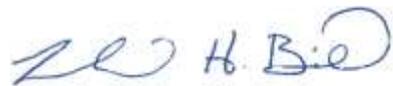
B. CRITFC understands the last sentence of Section III.B.3 to require CRITFC to coordinate with the Action Agencies on data analysis requests that have been made by the Tribes to the Fish Passage Center (FPC). In addition to ensuring that draft and final FPC analyses, including underlying data and assumptions, are available to the Action Agencies upon request, CRITFC also understands Section III.B.3 to facilitate CRITFC's assistance to the Action Agencies for review and understanding of FPC's usage of the CSS Model.

C. CRITFC understands Section III.E.1 as consistent with the Action Agencies' intent to provide stability for hatchery operations and maintenance and monitoring required to fulfill federal mitigation and ESA compliance responsibilities. CRITFC also appreciates Bonneville's recent communication with the Nez Perce Tribe reaffirming its commitment to work with fisheries managers, including the Nez Perce Tribe, to address hatchery infrastructure problems and emergency repairs.

Sincerely,



Ryan Smith Sr.
Commission Chair



Leland H. Bill
Commission Secretary