



## Department of Energy

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

SECURITY AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

January 14, 2014

In reply refer to: NN-1

Susan Drumheller  
Idaho Conservation League  
P.O. Box 2308  
Sandpoint, ID 83864

### FOIA #BPA-2014-00407-F

Dear Ms. Drumheller,

Thank you for your request for records that you made to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. Your letter was received in this office on December 31, 2013, and has been assigned a control number, BPA-2014-00407-F. Please use this number in any correspondence with the Agency about your request.

#### **You have requested:**

The operations of the Albeni Falls Dam, related to the flexible winter operations of the dam after the record of decision was issued to fluctuate winter lake levels, such as decisions as to whether or not to fluctuate in the winters of 2011/2012 or 2012/2013, and any documents or communications regarding results or impacts from winter lake level operations in those winters. Additionally, documents and/or communications concerning any monitoring, assessment or study of environmental conditions (including but not limited to fish, wildlife, wetlands, water quality and erosion) related to the ongoing operations of Albeni Falls Dam since 2005.

We have reviewed your letter and have determined that it addresses all of the criteria of a proper request under the FOIA, DOE, and BPA regulation that implements the FOIA at Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1004.

Your requested waiver of fees due to public interest is granted.

The statute requires that requests be acted on "promptly," and "every effort" be made to respond within 20 working days. However, an extension is authorized for complex requests. BPA has determined that your request for information is a "complex" request, defined in the FOIA as "unusual circumstances" exist. Unusual circumstances are defined as searching inactive records; where a "voluminous" amount of data is involved; where information about other individuals has to be redacted; or where BPA has to consult with another agency which has a substantial interest in the response. In this instance, BPA will need to consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to any release.

Additionally, “exceptional circumstances” exist due to an unexpected and unusual spike in the volume of requests. As such, we will be unable to meet the 20 working day time frame set in the statute. We are processing complex requests in a “first in, first out” basis and will keep you apprised of our progress. Our projected goal date for completing your request is September 30, 2014.

As required by FOIA, we are informing you that you have the opportunity to limit the scope of your request, or arrange with BPA an alternative time frame for processing the request or a modified request. Per our conversation, we will anticipate your refined request.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you. Please contact Benjamin Yost, Government Information Specialist (FOIA/Privacy Act) at 503-230-5247 with any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

*///signed///*

Christina J. Munro

Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Officer



## Department of Energy

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT/PRIVACY PROGRAM

September 17, 2014

In reply refer to: FOIA #BPA-2014-00407-F

Susan Drumheller  
North Idaho Associate  
Idaho Conservation League  
P.O. Box 2308  
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Dear Ms. Drumheller:

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act request received in our office on December 31, 2013, which we acknowledged on January 14, 2014.

**You requested:**

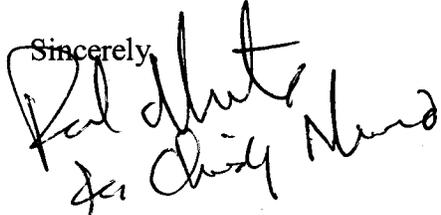
“...documents as a follow-up to previous requests regarding operations at the Albeni Falls Dam. Specifically, we would like copies of documents and/or communications related to the flexible winter operations of the dam after the record of decision was issued to fluctuate winter lake levels, such as decisions as to whether or not to fluctuate in the winters of 2011/2012 or 2012/2013. We also would like any documents and/or communications regarding any results or impacts from winter lake level operations in the winters of 2011/2012 or 2012/2013.

In addition, we request any documents and/or communications concerning any monitoring, assessment, or study of environmental conditions (including but not limited to fish, wildlife, wetlands, water quality and erosion) related to the ongoing operations of Albeni Falls Dam since 2005. [Which you revised on January 17, 2014 to request] ...any documents and/or communications produced since January 2009 concerning monitoring, assessment or study of erosion in Lake Pend d'Oreille and its tributaries, bull trout in Lake Pend d'Oreille and aquatic invasive species in Lake Pend d'Oreille related to the ongoing operations of Albeni Falls Dam. However, we are not interested in documents concerning fish passage, or bank stabilization for USACE facilities, such as recreation sites.”

We previously notified you that we expected to complete your request by September 30, 2014. Because the request involves a voluminous amount of records that must be located, compiled, and reviewed, we will be unable to complete your request by that deadline. Our new target date for response to you is Friday, November 14, 2014. We will keep you updated on our progress.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist you. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Sarah A. Westenberg, FOIA Case Officer, at (503) 230-3795.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Christy Munro  
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer