

CONFERENCE AGENDA AS OF DECEMBER 28, 2006

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Pre-Conference Workshop

Salmon hatcheries have a long history in the Northwest. But over the last decade, there has been increasing concern that hatchery operations can have adverse effects on the naturally spawned salmon in our river systems. This concern has increased as many of the region's salmon populations have been listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. There is significant ongoing research into what it will take to reform hatchery operations to minimize the impacts on non-hatchery salmonids. For utility managers, agencies, tribes, and NGOs negotiating the mitigation measures that will be in place for 30-50 years in new FERC licenses, this timely discussion can provide insight into the role salmon hatcheries will play in the future.

This workshop will address the general question of whether salmon hatcheries should still be a preferred form of mitigation for hydropower impacts. Three panels with different perspectives will provide opinions on the future of mitigation hatcheries that will be of interest to utilities with FERC licensed projects, natural resource agencies, and salmon harvesters.

Introduction to the Workshop - John Esler, Portland General Electric

Panel 1: How has Hatchery Mitigation Been Treated in Recent FERC Licenses?

Using their experiences gained from recently relicensed hydroelectric projects and projects currently in relicensing, a panel of utility representatives will address approaches to funding and operating mitigation hatcheries.

Moderator: Cary Feldman, Puget Sound Energy

Speakers: Paul Abbott, Idaho Power Co.
Sean Seaman, Chelan PUD
Dave Pflug, Seattle City Light
Doug Cramer, Portland General Electric

Panel 2: What's Happening in Hatchery Reform?

Tribes, regional and state interest groups will address research and policy questions on how hatcheries can be reformed to be compatible with salmon recovery efforts in the Northwest. Panelists will discuss current initiatives that are underway to change the way salmon hatcheries operate in the Northwest.

Moderator: Larry Cassidy, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Speakers: Joe Peone, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Jim Waldo, Columbia River Hatchery Reform Project
David Noakes, Oregon Hatchery Research Center
Dave Fast, Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation

Panel 3: Are Hatcheries Appropriate Mitigation for Hydro Impacts?

Federal agency and NGO representatives will share their perspectives on the future of salmon hatcheries as appropriate tools to mitigate for some of the effects of hydropower operations. The organizations represented by these panelists are actively involved with discussions regarding mitigation hatcheries, either as regulating agency or resource advocates.

Moderator: Ed Bowles, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Speakers: Brett Swift, American Rivers
Jim Hastreiter, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Rob Jones, National Marine Fisheries Service
Jim Martin, Berkley Conservation Institute

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:30 a.m.

Northwest Hydroelectric Association Annual Membership Meeting

Continental Breakfast for Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWhA) Members and Board of Directors meeting

GENERAL SESSION

9:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m.

Welcome

NWhA President Suzanne C. Grassell, Chelan County Public Utility District

9:15 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Keynote Address

FERC Commissioner Philip D. Moeller

10:00 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

An Inside Look at Settlement Agreement Rehearings

Moderator: Gregg Carrington, Chelan County Public Utility District

So you've gotten your license and it's not exactly what you expected? In September 2006 FERC issued its Policy Statement on Hydropower Licensing Settlements. Since then, several licensees have seen it affect the outcome of their licensing proceedings. During this panel, you'll hear from a mix of licensees and stakeholders whose settlements were modified by FERC in accordance with the policy statement. They'll discuss how they evaluated their options, worked with other signing parties, and responded to FERC.

Panelists:

William C. Frymire, Washington Office of Attorney General

Julie A. Keil, Portland General Electric

Rebecca Sherman, Hydro Reform Coalition

Cary Feldman, Puget Sound Energy

Steve Fransen, National Marine Fisheries Service

11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Luncheon

Michael Bogert, Counselor to U. S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Compliance

Moderator: Diane Barr, PacifiCorp

Part 1: Preparing Your Compliance Staff

Meeting evolving compliance standards raises a broad range of issues...internal as well as external. How do you prepare your organization to manage stakeholder expectations...adapt to new measures...absorb new costs. Learn from panelists who have successfully addressed these issues in their own operations.

Panelists:

Deborah Schallert, Portland General Electric
Gail Thompson, PhD, Historical Research Associates, Inc.
Scott Lechert, PacifiCorp

Part 2: Recreation Implementation and Compliance

Recreation is quickly growing to be a significant cost, liability, and interest among influential stakeholders. What are some of the expectations for new licenses in the realm of recreation? How are licensees equipped to manage new licenses with such requirements?

Panelists:

Bill Cochran, P.E., California Department of Water Resources
Dave Moore, PacifiCorp
Fred Noland, Idaho Power Company

3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

On the Ground and in the Water: Technical Challenges and Solutions Associated with Implementation

Moderators: Lisa Larson, Northwest Hydraulics Inc.
Heidi Wahto, Hatch Acres

As newly relicensed projects in the Northwest transition into the implementation stage, new technical challenges demand creative—and effective—solutions. Panelists present technical solutions to current fish passage, habitat, and wildlife project challenges.

Panelists:

Tom Dresser, Grant County Public Utility District–Priest Rapids Project, Washington
Cary Feldmann, Puget Sound Energy–Baker Project, Washington
Ginger G. Gillin, GEI Consultants, Inc.–Thompson Falls Project, Montana
Gary Holmstead, Idaho Power Co.–C.J. Strike Project, Idaho
Colleen McShane, EDAW–North Umpqua Project, Oregon

5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Social/Exhibits

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

GENERAL SESSION

8:15 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

Opening Remarks

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Trial-Type Hearings under EPAct 2005: How did the first flurry of cases turn out?

Moderator: Craig Gannett, Davis, Wright & Tremaine LLP

The goal of trial-type hearings is to eliminate unnecessary mitigation measures and create an incentive for reasonable settlements. Is it working? Panelists assess the outcomes of the first trial-type hearings under the new law. If there's any chance that you'll be requesting a trial-type hearing for your project, you'll want to hear from these battle-scarred veterans.

Panelists:

Bruce Howard, Avista Corporation, Multiple Projects

Michael A. Swiger, Van Ness Feldman, P.C., Klamath PacifiCorp Projects

James B. Vasile, Davis, Wright & Tremaine LLP, Idaho Power Projects

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break

10:30 a.m.–Noon

A Look Ahead for Hydro in the Northwest

Moderator: Wayne M. Dyok, P.E., MWH Americas, Inc.

What does the future hold for Northwestern hydro? A panel representing a broad range of hydro interests forecasts the role of hydro in integrated resource plans (IRPs), the advantages of production tax credits, and state and federal incentives. Projects that hold the most promise for future development will be explored.

Panelists:

Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District – New Hydropower

Jeffrey A. Leahey, National Hydropower Association – Energy Act Incentives

And additional panelists

Noon–1:30 p.m.

Luncheon Address

Featured Speakers: Linda Church Ciocci, National Hydropower Association

Roger Ballentine, Green Strategies, Inc.

Discussion of NHA efforts to position the hydropower industry for the future, the status of energy policy development, the growing interest in clean energy markets, and solicit feedback from the northwest community on areas of interest for NHA focus.

1:40 p.m.–3:10 p.m.

Harnessing New Technologies

Moderator: Bruce Meaker, Snohomish County Public Utility District

New hydro technologies create the potential to harness kinetic power in tidal currents and ocean wave motion. Panelists reveal how these new technologies work and discuss the challenges involved with their development and implementation in today's market.

Panelists:

Peter Hogan, Oregon State University – Wave Technology

Peter D. Mostow, Stoel Rives LLP - Permitting and Development of New Projects

Craig Collar, Snohomish County PUD - Puget Sound Tidal Permits

Trey Taylor, Verdant Power LLC - East River Project

3:10 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Four Views of Compliance: Evolving Water Quality Issues in California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

Moderator: Jerry Fish, Stoel Rives LLP

Representatives from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California share “hot” water quality issues for their respective state’s hydro operators. Panel examines different approaches to specific hydro challenges, including obtaining water quality certification.

Panelists:

Bruce Howard, Avista Corporation (Washington)

Ralph Myers, Idaho Power Co. (Idaho)

Representative, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Oregon)

Craig Wilson, Stoel Rives LLP (California)