

June 5, 2014

Bill Bradbury, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Comments on Draft Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

Dear Chairman Bradbury,

The Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWAHA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) Draft 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (Draft Program).

NWAHA is a non-profit trade association that represents and advocates on behalf of the Northwest hydroelectric industry. NWAHA has nearly 100 members from all segments of the industry. NWAHA is dedicated to the promotion of the Northwest region's waterpower as a clean, efficient energy source while protecting the fisheries and environmental quality that characterize the region. To that end, NWAHA believes that the development of clean, renewable, low-impact hydropower can be fully consistent with the goals of fish and wildlife conservation set forth in the Council's guiding statute, the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act.

NWAHA therefore fully supports the Council's reinstatement in the Draft Program of the provisions first included in 1988 amendments to the Program that allowed for hydropower development in protected areas in appropriate circumstances. Specifically, NWAHA supports the inclusion in the Draft Program of a process for an interested party to: (1) petition the Council to change the status of a protected area to enable new hydropower development; and (2) pursue an exception to the prohibition on new hydropower development in a protected area when a proposed project would enhance fish and wildlife resources in the region.

The re-incorporation of this language into the 2014 Program would provide an essential mechanism for developers to seek Council support to develop clean, environmentally benign hydropower at appropriate sites in the Northwest. It would also encourage interested parties to pursue hydropower projects that would provide exceptional benefits to fish and wildlife resources at these sites, to the benefit of the entire region. Accordingly, NWAHA supports the inclusion of these important provisions in the Draft Program, and urges the Council to adopt these provisions into the final 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

JAN LEE
Executive Director

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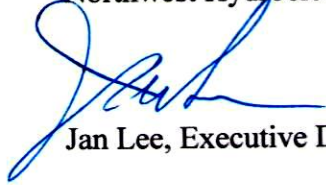
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*For a list of Directors,
please visit our
website.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Program. We appreciate your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Northwest Hydroelectric Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan Lee', is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'L'.

Jan Lee, Executive Director