

DEC 18 2013

Commissioners:
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FILE 173

Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County

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Mr. Douglas L. Johnson, P.E.
Regional Engineer
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
805 SW Broadway, Suite #550
Portland, Oregon 97205

December 13, 2013

Subject: Wells Hydroelectric Project No. 2149
Notice of Proposed Modernization of Wells Fish Hatchery

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Pursuant to section 12.11 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 12.11 (2013), Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington (District) hereby provides notice of its intention to implement repairs and replacements of the Wells Fish Hatchery pursuant to a modernization master plan. Implementation of the plan is necessary to allow the District to continue to reliably meet its fish mitigation requirements and agreement obligations in a dependable and cost effective manner.

The Wells Hydroelectric Project includes the Wells Hatchery, which is located on the downstream side of the west abutment of Wells Dam. The existing facilities of the Wells Hatchery are described in Douglas PUD's Final License Application, Exhibit A, pages A-16 through A-17 for the Wells Project. The facilities include a decommissioned spawning channel that is currently used only for water conveyance, a surface and ground water supply system, 14 concrete raceways, four rearing ponds that are segmented portions of the decommissioned spawning channel, four large earthen ponds, two adult collection areas, a pollution abatement pond, a hatchery building, two outbuildings, and an adult collection/juvenile release channel.

In 2012 the District's consulting design engineers prepared a facility assessment report for the Wells Hatchery. The facility assessment reviewed 31 major component items and found that 77 percent of the existing infrastructure has an average useful life of five years or less, while only six major components have a useful life of at least 15 years. In the facility assessment report, the engineers concluded that the existing facilities are, for the most part, near the end of their service lives and will require renovation to continue to reliably operate.

Based upon this assessment, the District has concluded that modernization of the Wells Hatchery is necessary to reliably meet and maintain the District's fish rearing program obligations. The modernization will repair, refurbish, or replace several components of the hatchery. The

groundwater and surface water conveyance system will be refurbished to optimize capacity and improve reliability. The existing concrete raceway ponds will be resurfaced and new water supply lines installed to extend life of these structures. The adult holding ponds, volunteer channel trap and spawning stations will be replaced with an integrated adult collection, holding and spawning structure. The salmon and steelhead programs will be moved out of the existing administration building and placed into a dedicated and biosecure incubation and early rearing building and new modular, circular raceways will be installed to provide segregated rearing vessels for each of the separate steelhead stocks being raised at the facility. The existing administration building will be rededicated to rearing resident fish. The remaining hatchery infrastructure including electrical, alarms, drains, pollution abatement pond, and parking areas will be refurbished or upgraded to meet contemporary building codes and to reliably meet the District's hatchery obligations.

The number of fish produced and the type of fish handled at the facility will remain the same prior to and after the completion of the hatchery modernization plan. The facility is intended to remain operational throughout the modernization process. The proposed changes will not result in a decrease in efficiency, material increase in cost, or impairment of the general scheme of development.

The District and its consulting design engineers developed the modernization plan in close coordination with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, who is the District's on-site operator of the hatchery. In May 2013 the District provided the parties to the Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan (Wells HCP Hatchery Committee) with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft master plan. The parties to the Wells HCP include the National Marine Fisheries Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

No comments were received following a 60-day comment period. Following the close of the comment period, Douglas PUD sponsored a Wells Hatchery Modernization Workshop for the HCP Hatchery Committee. Members of the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee were invited to attend the workshop whereby the District's consulting design engineers presented the major features of the modernization program and responded to agency and tribal questions regarding the proposed schedule and the major features being proposed to be included into the modernization program.

The District plans to provide the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee with an additional opportunity to review and comment on this project once the design engineers have finalized the 30% design drawings for the hatchery plan. This milestone is expected to be complete by late December 2013. Following their review and prior to initiating construction activities, the District will provide the FERC with final design drawings for review. Following completion of the project, the District will file revised pages to Exhibit A [and other revised exhibits] identifying the changes to the hatchery.

A copy of the Wells Hatchery Modernization Master Plan is enclosed in Exhibit A to facilitate the FERC's review of this matter. Exhibit B contains the District's pre-filing consultation record documenting the District's efforts to collect and review comments from the HCP parties, and the HCP-approved meeting minutes from the Wells Hatchery Modernization Workshop.

If you have any questions regarding the Wells Hatchery Modernization Program, please feel free to contact me at (509) 881-2208 or via e-mail at sbickford@dcpud.org.

Sincerely,



Shane Bickford
Natural Resources Supervisor

Enclosure:

Exhibit A – Wells Hatchery Modernization Master Plan.
Exhibit B – Pre-filing consultation record supporting the Wells Hatchery Modernization Master Plan.

Copy: Wells HCP Hatchery Committee – Members List
Ken Pflueger, Douglas PUD
Greg Mackey, Douglas PUD
Brad Hawkins, Douglas PUD

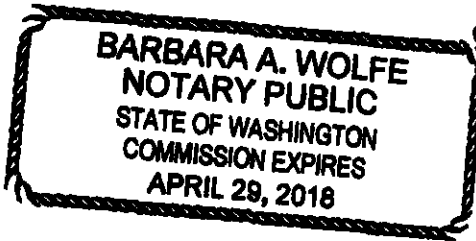
Verification Statement

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) SS.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

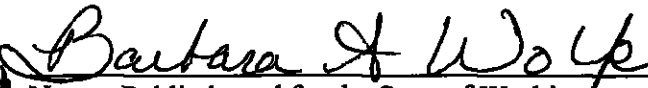
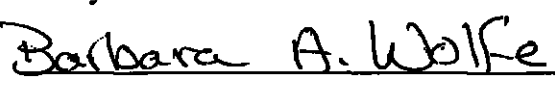
Mr. Shane Bickford, being first duly sworn, states that I have read the above document and know the contents of it, and that all statements contained in this document are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Shane Bickford

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of December 2013.



[seal]


Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at

my Commission Expires
4-29-2018

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