

July 28, 2000

Paul Wagner
National Marine Fisheries Service
525 Northeast Oregon Street, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Paul:

You requested that the Fish Passage Advisory Committee participate in developing a prioritized list of fish mitigation measures that could be curtailed to help Bonneville Power Administration deal with a potential power emergency next week. Our understanding was that this power emergency is the result of predicted heavy power demand on the West Coast, especially Southern California. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission recommend against any efforts to reduce spill in the lower Columbia especially at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day dams. Smolt passage indices have increased in the past few days at McNary indicating large numbers of fish moving in the lower river. Curtailing spill at this time would be detrimental to survival of juveniles in which a substantial amount of flow augmentation and other mitigation has been invested.

As far as other possible fish mitigation measures are concerned, we assume that all other potential non-fish measures will be taken before moving to over-generation.

If any fish mitigation measures are compromised or curtailed entirely, we assume that NMFS will assure that these impacts are mitigated for later in this passage season through the provision of additional protection measures.

Sincerely,

James R. Nielsen
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Co-Chair Fish Passage Advisory Committee

cc: Fish Passage Advisory Committee
Technical Management Team