



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000
TTY 711 or 800-833-6388 (For the Speech or Hearing Impaired)

CERTIFIED MAIL

February 27, 2004

Ms. Karen Durham-Aguilera, P.E.
Director of Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
NW Division
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Ms. Durham-Aguilera:

The Washington Department of Ecology requires the operators of each dam on the Columbia and Snake River to operate under a department-approved gas abatement plan in order to spill water over the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers during fish spills, thus potentially raising the total dissolved gas saturation level above the criteria of one hundred and ten per cent. This special fish passage exemption is described in Washington's water quality standards (WAC 173-201A-060 (4)(b), General Considerations).

This letter constitutes continued approval of the gas abatement plan that we currently have on file for your operation for all activities related to fish passage. This approval is for a period of one year. Please note that the department is in the process of determining how these plans will be incorporated into 401 certifications that are being developed and we will keep you informed as we move forward.

This approval means that the dissolved gas levels may be raised above 110 percent saturation to aid fish passage but not to exceed 125 percent saturation as a one-hour average. Gas saturation may not exceed 120 percent in the tailrace and 115 percent in the forebay of the next dam downstream as measured at the fixed monitoring stations as an average of the twelve highest readings in any one day.

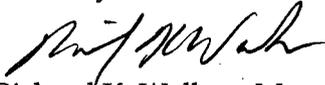
Please continue to evaluate, refine, implement, and report on gas abatement activities as needed.

This gas abatement plan approval does not limit the conditions placed in future permits, orders, and certifications issued by the department.



Please contact me at (360) 407-6405 or Chris Maynard of my staff at (360) 407-6484 if you have any questions or comments regarding this approval.

Sincerely,



Richard K. Wallace, Manager
Water Quality Program

cc: Columbia River Water Quality Team
Mid-Columbia Coordinating Council
Columbia River Fisheries Program Office
US Army Corps of Engineers
Regional Ecology Section Managers