



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 10, 2016

Mr. David L. Combs
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Northwestern Division
PO Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Dear Mr. Combs:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) requested an adjustment of the total dissolve gas (TDG) criteria to aid fish passage through the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) projects on the Columbia River, and Snake River, located within Washington State. The requested criteria adjustment is provided under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-201A-200-(1)(f)(ii). The criteria adjustment is contingent on the approval of the total dissolved gas abatement plan (TDG GAP) for the Corps dams that utilize this adjusted criteria.

Ecology has reviewed and commented on the *draft U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Update to the Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan – Lower Columbia River and Snake River Projects*. We appreciate the Corps response to the requested clarification and modifications to this document. Ecology approves the draft TDG GAP and the request to apply the adjusted TDG criteria. We support the finalization of this document and request that the Corps provide a final hard copy to the Department of Ecology (Ecology), and post the final plan on the Corps' Northwestern Division water quality website at:

<http://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/Missions/Water/Columbia/WaterQuality.aspx>

This approval allows the application of the adjusted TDG criteria at the following FCRPS hydropower dams within Washington State: Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, McNary, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite. This approval is in effect through December 31, 2018.

This approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. The Corps must continue to pursue operational and structural actions that will reduce TDG saturation levels throughout the FCRPS system.
2. Continue to develop and maintain the Corps' spill priority list in a manner that will most effectively reduce the effects of TDG on aquatic life in the Columbia and Snake rivers.
3. Plan maintenance schedule and activities as much as possible to minimize increased TDG saturation in the Columbia and Snake rivers.



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4. Notify Ecology within 48 hours of initiation of spring and summer spill operations required for juvenile fish migration.
5. Continue to provide Ecology with Annual Water Quality Monitoring Reports, Fish Operations Plans, Fish Operations Implementation Reports, and TDG Exceedance Tracking Reports.

Please contact me at (360) 407-6461, or Chad Brown, Natural Resource Scientist, of my staff at: chad.brown@ecy.wa.gov , or (360) 407-6128 if you have questions about this extension.

Sincerely,



Melissa Gildersleeve
Watershed Management Section Manager