Outline of Study Plan for Transboundary Gas Group

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As promised at the November 20th Systemwide Dissolved Gas Abatement Steering Committee meeting, attached is a draft outline for the Systemwide Dissolved Gas Abatement Study Plan. Each of the work groups should use this outline as a guide to see how the entire study plan fits together. Let me know if you think we have left anything out. In addition, at the steering committee meeting we decided the major elements of the study plan would be prepared by each of the work groups and submitted to me by January 29th at the latest (there is no penalty for completing your sections earlier than that). This deadline is important because it will give the steering committee only about 8 working days to compile all the elements into a draft study plan that can be sent out to everyone for review one week prior to the next Transboundary Gas Group meeting on February 18th in Seattle, Washington.

Major Elements of the Systemwide Dissolved Gas Abatement Study Plan

The study plan, when completed, should answer the basic questions of what work needs to be done, how long it is expected to take to accomplish the task, and an estimate of the cost for each element. Work on the major elements of the study plan is proceeding in each work group. Each work group should try to address these basic questions for each of their elements in the study plan. As indicated above, the draft study plan will be presented and discussed by the Transboundary Gas Group at its next meeting on February 18, 1999, in Seattle. When completed, the study plan will be presented to decision-makers in both countries with a recommended budget. Decision-makers will then need to allocate funding and/or resources to implement the study plan. The major elements of the study plan are shown and described below.

A. Background: The steering committee will be responsible for producing this section. Most of this section is completed.

B. Transboundary Gas Work Groups: The steering committee will be responsible for producing this section. This section will include each of the technical work groups and identification of co-chairs.

C. Goal of Transboundary Gas Group: The following statement was adopted by the Transboundary Gas Group as its overall goal: *"Reduce systemwide total dissolved gas to levels not harmful to all aquatic life in the most cost-effective manner possible."*

D. Geographic Scope: The geographic scope of this effort is the entire Columbia River Basin, emphasizing a systemwide approach to understanding total dissolved gas levels

throughout the basin and then developing implementation actions to address areas of concern.

E. Monitoring and Information Sharing:

1. Inventory existing total dissolved gas data from ongoing or past monitoring efforts and special studies.

2. Coordinate and work with the Modeling Work Group to determine their data needs and assess gaps in data; identify priority data sets for modeling purposes.

3. Determine how good the existing data are for modeling purposes, i.e., scope level of effort for data quality control and quality assurance needs.

4. Identify additional gas monitoring needs.

5. Identify total dissolved gas "hot spots."

F. Biological Effects and Research:

1. Complete the briefing paper on "Biological Effects of Total Gas Pressure on Fish and Aquatic Biota and Outstanding Research Needs."

2. Prepare an outline and a budget or resources needed to develop a biological research plan.

3. Continue development of bibliography of briefing paper; separate into sections because there may be overlap with other topics, e.g., monitoring.

G. Modeling:

1. Complete the modeling briefing paper, including level of effort, different model options, and estimated cost and time frame to develop models.

2. Coordinate efforts and interact with Monitoring and Information Sharing and Operational/Structural Abatement work groups.

H. Operational/Structural Abatement:

1. Prepare briefing paper identifying various operational and structural gas abatement alternatives.

2. Identify both short-term (less than 5 years) and longer term alternatives.

I. Recommendations for future action: The steering committee will be responsible for producing this section, with assistance from the work groups. This section will integrate

the various study plan elements into recommendations to decision-makers with estimated budget requirements needed to implement the study plan. Decision-makers will then need to allocate funding and/or resources to proceed with study plan implementation.