

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 553 – Washington
Skagit River Hydroelectric Project
City of Seattle, Washington

August 24, 2012

Ms. Colleen McShane, Manager
Natural Resources and Environmental Planning
City of Seattle
700 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124

Subject: 2012 Environmental Inspection of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project
(FERC Project No. 553)

Dear Ms. McShane:

On August 13 to 15, 2012, Blake Condo, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission contractor, conducted an environmental and public use inspection of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 553). Thank you for the cooperation and assistance you and your staff extended to Mr. Condo during his inspection.

Overall, the project powerhouses and adjacent grounds appeared well maintained. Public safety measures and required elements of the Public Safety Plan, including warning signage and fencing, appeared to be in order. Required filings related to environmental and recreational resources are up to date. Recreational facilities are attractive and well maintained, and the many measures relating to fish, wildlife, cultural, and natural resource enhancement appear to be functioning as desired.

Based on the file reviews, discussions, and field observations made during the inspection, the project was in overall compliance with the license articles related to fish and wildlife, recreation, public safety, and cultural resources. However, one follow-up item needing action was noted during the inspection:

- 1) The Part 8 signage was not posted at the project's points of public access as required by 18 CFR Chapter 1, Part 8.2(a). Due to the numerous and varied nature of your public use facilities at the project, please develop a study to assist with the

determination of the location(s) for the needed Part 8 signage. Potential locations were discussed with you during the inspection.

The study results should determine the designated location(s) for your Part 8 signage, and should include a schedule for installing the signage. The study results should also contain a detailed description and justification for the designated location(s). Additionally, please include a brief description of any areas considered but not designated, along with the reasons for not including them.

Please provide the results of your Part 8 recreational signage study, including an installation schedule, within 90 days of the date of this letter. Your response should be filed with the Commission at:

The Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Please include the project number (P-553) on the first page of your response. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 502-6680.

Sincerely,

Linda Stewart

Linda Stewart
Division of Hydropower
Administration and Compliance