



PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 of CHELAN COUNTY

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December 20, 2019

Ms. Heather Bartlett
Water Quality Program Manager
Washington Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98504-7600

Re: Request for modification of the aquatic life designated use and the associated temperature and dissolved oxygen criteria for the Chelan River

Dear Ms. Bartlett:

This letter transmits the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's (Chelan PUD) request to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to modify the aquatic life designated use through the use attainability analysis (UAA) process provided by WAC 173-201A-440. Additionally, we have presented recommended temperature and dissolved oxygen criteria for the Chelan River that correspond with the UAA results. The attached document "Chelan River Use Attainability Analysis and Site-specific Criteria Development" (UAA Report) provides the technical foundation for this request.

Ecology's Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Order No. 1233 (401 Certification) for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project License No. 637) established an adaptive management process for evaluating and achieving the highest attainable aquatic life uses in the Chelan River (Sections II.C-II.F, IV.H.). The UAA Report includes the results of this process and proposes changes to the existing water quality standards for the Chelan River to reflect the highest attainable aquatic life uses, as contemplated by the 401 Certification, Section IV.H.

The UAA Report includes biological and physical data compiled by Chelan PUD through the implementation of the Chelan River Biological Evaluation and Implementation Plan (CRBEIP), per Section IV of the 401 Certification. The CRBEIP was developed collaboratively and was implemented and completed in coordination with the Chelan River Fishery Forum and Ecology. Each milestone within the CRBEIP was approved through the process outlined by Ecology within the 401 Certification.

*Ms. Heather Bartlet, Water Quality Program Manager
Washington Department of Ecology*

Chelan PUD coordinated with Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over the past ten years, working toward the development of the UAA Report. Based on the data derived from the CRBEIP and the final UAA Report, Chelan PUD proposes a modification to the designated aquatic life use in the Chelan River to the highest attainable use and corresponding protective numeric criteria for temperature and dissolved oxygen.

Chelan PUD is committed to continuing to meet our requirements under the 401 Certification and the FERC License for the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project. Chelan PUD appreciates Ecology's guidance during the ten year adaptive management program, and during the development of the enclosed UAA Report.

If there are any questions on this request or in the enclosed submittal, please contact Marcie Clement at (509) 661-4186 or by email at Marcie.clement@chelanpud.org.

Sincerely,



Steve Wright
General Manager
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

cc: David Bowen, Mark Peterschmidt and Breean Zimmerman, Washington Department of Ecology, Central Region
Chad Brown, Washington Department of Ecology, Headquarters

Attachment: Chelan River Use Attainability Analysis and Site-Specific Criteria Development