

BPA Public Involvement

From: bill@nvec.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 16:30
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Bill Miller
General Manager, Nespelem Valley Electric
bill@nvec.org
509-634-4571
1009 F Street
Nespelem WA 99155

Nespelem Valley Electric supports reducing summer spill and investing resources in other programs that would benefit salmon more, like increasing the harvest of pikeminnows. The three year proposal to reduce summer spill will save \$40 million per year. The savings from 2004 and 2005 alone could be enough to help reduce power rates for the region by five percent with no substantial impact to endangered salmon. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, BILL MILLER

BPA Public Involvement

From: tollefson@northcascades.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 1:23 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Bob & Ronna Tollefson
Tollefson Construction, Inc.
tollefson@northcascades.net
509 826-6000
PO Box 4200
Omak wa 98841

Re: Summer Spill Proposal The high price of electricity makes a huge impact on all of us. Although we do like fish we don't believe that the cost of the proposal is justified. Let us do something that makes sense and is not so costly to consumers.

BPA Public Involvement

From: titusr@ci.ellensburg.wa.us
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 10:22 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Bob Titus
City of Ellensburg
titusr@ci.ellensburg.wa.us
509-962-7226
420 North Pearl St.
Ellensburg WA 98926

The City of Ellensburg strongly supports the modest reduction in summer spill and offsets set forth in the Preliminary Proposal for Federal Columbia River Power System Summer Juvenile Bypass Spill Operations prepared by the Bonneville Power Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers. It is time for everyone to recognize that spending millions of dollars to save a few fish is a needless waste of ratepayer funds at a time when the savings could be better used to support our struggling local economies. More cost effective means exist to save ESA listed stocks and should be considered instead of spill. These initial reductions in spill should be implemented as soon as possible. Respectfully submitted, Bob Titus, Energy Services Director

BPA Public Involvement

From: treat@eotnet.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 3:46 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Darryla
UEC Member
treat@eotnet.net
(541)667-2112
1381 E. Sandstone Ave.
Hermiston OR 97838

Dear Sirs: As a Umatilla Electric Cooperative member, I strongly encourage the BPA, US Army Corps. of Engineers, and NOAA Fisheries to take an intelligible stance against Summer Spill. The Summer Spill program has not proven to be beneficial for power consumers or recovery of listed salmon. The modified proposal submitted jointly by BPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers in providing offsets and reducing spill is a great starting point for achieving cost-effective salmon recovery and reducing lost revenue due to loss of power generation. The initial offsets proposed stay the course in meeting the biological criteria, however, any additional offsets should be chosen strictly on a cost-effective basis with biological benefits. How can we successfully save listed salmon when predator control programs are not adequately in place? Why do we even spend any money recovering salmon when fishing boats are lying in wait for them up and down the river snatching up as many as they can catch? Shouldn't there be salmon tags and strict limitations on when and how many salmon can be hunted? Many of Alaska's rivers have a catch and release only policy during certain times of the year... why not implement something like this here? When schools are closing weeks in advance and announcing extreme budget cuts on an annual basis, when senior citizens are unable to buy their prescription medications because their electric bills are too high and they need to have electricity for heat and air conditioning, when people cannot afford the simple necessities of life, then we certainly should not be wasting billions of dollars each year on summer spill to help a handful of salmon that probably get snatched up by the fishing boats once they pass the dams. I've never seen any fish worth a million dollars. Have you? Summer Spill is simply the most illogical practice and waste of money I've ever witnessed. I strongly agree with reduced or eliminated Summer Spill measures. Thank you for allowing the submission of my comments. Respectfully submitted, Darryla Treat

BPA Public Involvement

From: dbjcgreen@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 17:03
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on BPA's Strategic Direction

Comment on **BPA's Strategic Direction**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

David Green

dbjcgreen@yahoo.com
360 384-6386
5797 Northwest rd
Ferndale WA 9824

Dear BPA and the Corps of Engineers, I work in an industry that depends on economical power from federal hydroelectric projects in the Northwest. Recent BPA power rate increases have had tremendous impacts, and have put the future of my job in doubt. It is vital that we reverse the upward trend on power costs. I support your common-sense proposal for a more efficient summer spill program. Protecting people as well as salmon is important, and I urge you to proceed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

BPA Public Involvement

From: david.hawk@simplot.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 4:07 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

David H. Hawk
Director, Energy Natural Resources - J.R. Simplot Company
david.hawk@simplot.com
(208) 389-7306
999 Main Street
Boise Idaho 83702

The J.R. Simplot Company is in favor of REDUCING the Summer Spill.

BPA Public Involvement

From: debi.watson@ueinet.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 14:36
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Debra Watson
Customer
debi.watson@ueinet.com
541-481-2434
300 Columbia Ave NW
Boardman OR 97818

I support the proposal to reduce summer spill. I believe the two initial offsets are a good start and go far in meeting the biological criteria. Any other offsets must be based on cost effectiveness and scientific or biological benefits. I suggest further enhancement to the predator control programs and reduction of commercial harvest. We simply cannot continue to support such efforts where the cost and benefits are so unbalanced and do not achieve biological benefits. Thank you for allowing me to submit comments.

BPA Public Involvement

From: jypsy1951@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 11:23
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Derek
Machinists Union Member
jypsy1951@hotmail.com
360-752-3210
1150 Puget Street
Bellingham wa 98229

I believe that the modified summer spill is a step in the right direction. For too long now the rate payers and bussiness of the northwest have been penalized and have suffered extensively by the throwing away of \$77 million dollars a year in lost revenue by the spill. From what I have read the return of salmon is meager at best from the spilling as it is now done, and more salmon die because of the increased nitrogen levels in the water. I would support a very minimal spill or better yet generate more power and sell it on the open market to increase the river levels and BPA's bank account. Along with the new way to raise the river levels what ever salmon enhancements that can be done should be for the long term. This is a good common sense approach keep it up-Thank you Derek Stevens.

BPA Public Involvement

From: dbagues@earthlink.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 3:57 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Diane Bagues

dbagues@earthlink.net
503.794.0997
2013 S.E. Waldron Road
Milwaukie OR 97222

I find it unconscionable for the BPA to halt spills over the Columbia and Snake River dams for three years. The BPA plans are focused on making money at the expense of the fish, and consequently other species and the entire ecosystem as well. In turning the river into an even warmer series of lakes, the plan is detrimental to water quality and species dependent on the river. It is particularly reprehensible that birds will be harassed and killed to compensate for the fish killed by the dams. This plan should never have reached even this stage. I do not believe that your scientists' conclusions are generally supported by other scientists not obligated to an administration uniformly indifferent to the environment. I do not believe that your panel is unbiased: The current administration in Washington has a pattern 1) of loading "scientific" panels with "experts" who support its ideological positions and who sometimes are not even experts, and 2) of ignoring findings that are not in accord with its ideology. (Witness what happened to references to global warming in the last EPA report.) The BPA must go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan that does not harm fish, birds, the entire ecosystem, and all of us as a result. This plan must not be allowed to go forward. Sincerely, Diane Bagues 2013 S.E. Waldron Road Milwaukie, Oregon 97222 503.794.0997 dbagues@earthlink.net

BPA Public Involvement

From: judieg@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 15:54
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

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Doug Fricke, President
Washington Trollers Association
judieg@comcast.net; fricked@techline.com

BPA Public Involvement

From: dougm@pacificpud.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 16:49
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Douglas L. Miller
Public Utility District No. 2 of Pacific County
dougm@pacificpud.org
(360) 942-2411
405 Duryea Street
Raymond WA 98577

P.U.D. No. 2 of Pacific County is supportive of the Preliminary Proposal for Federal Columbia River Power System Summer Juvenile Bypass Spill Operations as developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and BPA in consultation with NOAA Fisheries. The reduction of spill as outlined in the proposal is a good start and should be expanded to include all of July and August. The Northern Pikeminnow Management Program augmentation and Hanford Reach anti-stranding operation are both good offsets to the reduced spill and help with meeting the biological criteria. Together, the reduced spill and proposed offsets move the region closer to achieving cost-effective salmon recovery. Therefore, it is important that this proposal be adopted and move ahead as quickly as possible, hopefully in time for summer of 2004. Respectfully submitted, Doug Miller General Manager

BPA Public Involvement

From: hoffmantreefarm@msn.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 14:00
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Frank Hoffman
Ohop Mutual Light Co.
hoffmantreefarm@msn.com
253-847-2569
9410 352nd Street E.
Eatonville WA 98328

The Northwest economy is dependent on reasonably priced electricity and a stable electric market. It is clear to me that one lesson we should have learned from the California electricity crisis is the uncertainty about power pricing is disruptive to the Northwest economy. Making plans to reduce summer spill is a good start in managing costs in a way that will support a stable Northwest electricity market. The proposal of reducing spill and providing offsets is going in the right direction for biological criteria. If a decision to proceed can be supported I am confident additional cost effective and biologically workable offsets can be identified and implemented. Ultimately support for salmon will only be possible if the economy is the right direction. * The proposal for reducing spill and providing offsets is going in the right direction for achieving cost-effective salmon recovery. * The two initial offsets are a good start and go far in meeting the biological criteria.*Any additional offsets must be chosen based on cost-effectiveness and biological benefits. Some offsets worth considering and that we may want to recommend include: *further enhancing predator control programs, *adding avian predation control,*consider reducing non-tribal commercial harvest if necessary, and*increasing hatchery production at specific hatcheries that are in the geographic areas of concern.

April 5, 2004

Mr. Stephen J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

RE: Summer Spill Proposal

Dear Mr. Wright,

I write today to comment on BPA's summer spill proposal on behalf of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF). IFBF is Idaho's largest general farm organization with 61,000 member families. Many of our members have been, and are directly affected by the listing of the fall Chinook through increased regulation, pressure on irrigation water, power rates, businesses in areas associated with Dworshak Reservoir and the recreational uses thereof, and a general uncertainty of what the future may hold for their families, livelihoods, and private property.

IFBF supports the summer spill reduction proposal. It makes no sense to us to forego \$55 million dollars in power to possibly save 2 to 20 adult fall Chinook when other methods could be used which may produce better returns for the listed fish.

IFBF recommends the spill reduction mitigation actions focus on the enhanced northern pikeminnow management program, as described in your proposal. This appears to have the best benefit for fall Chinook and is a well-established program with excellent results.

Other mitigation actions IFBF would be interested in seeing implemented include:

- 1) Council Fish and Wildlife Program funding increase
- 2) hatchery supplementation
- 3) avian predation research

These programs would show measurable benefits to the fall Chinook and are common sense methods.

Mitigation actions we are concerned with, and ask that you **not** consider include:

- 1) additional flows from Dworshak
- 2) additional water acquisitions

These actions would cause further problems for our members. The summer draining of Dworshak Reservoir has created grave problems in the Orofino area and there are serious scientific questions with the practice of dumping 1.2 million acre feet of cold water during the summer. Additional water acquisitions are harmful to Idaho and IFBF members. The Idaho economy revolves around water, whether for domestic, irrigation, municipal, industry, or recreational use. Any additional requests for Idaho water should first be accompanied by studies for additional storage facilities in Idaho.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on BPA's proposal to modify summer spill and provide other mitigation efforts to increase the number of fall Chinook.

Sincerely,

Frank Priestley, President
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

BPA Public Involvement

From: galer@odessaoffice.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 21:48
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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GALE RETTKOWSKI

galer@odessaoffice.com
509-647-5661
24990 BERGAU RD N
WILBUR WA 99185

To BPA the Corps and NOAA Fisheries, RE: Modification to the Summer Spill Program The three year proposal will save about \$40 million per year, and the savings from 2004 and 2005 should be sufficient to reduce power rates in FY 2005 by close to 5% from what they would be without the proposal. For ESA listed Snake River Fall Chinook, the spill adjustment only impacts a range of 2 to 20 returning adults. Increases in the Pikeminnow predator reduction program will mitigate for half of the ESA listed fish anticipated to be lost from spill reductions, for a net impact of 1- 10 ESA fish. This is in the context of a run of Wild Snake River Fall Chinook returning adults that is reported as 2,420. For non ESA listed Fall Chinook the impact for spill adjustments is 12,600, but the mitigation measures will produce 88,662 returning adults. These runs exceed 384,000 fish and they are harvested in river at over 32%, about 123,000 fish. The proposal is step in the right direction!

BPA Public Involvement

From: glenn.vanselow@pnwa.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 14:55
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Glenn Vanselow
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
glenn.vanselow@pnwa.net
503-234-8551
1500 NE Irving St., Suit 540
Portland OR 97232

Eliminate summer spill. Replace with more effective, less costly measures. The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association supports eliminating summer spill at the four lower Snake River dams and replacing it with more cost-effective measures. Spill is employed in the current salmon Biological Opinion as a form of mitigation to help juvenile salmon migrate to the ocean. Summer spill occurs during July and August at Ice Harbor dam on the Snake River; and John Day, The Dalles and Bonneville dams on the Columbia River. Water spilled for fish does not pass through the turbines and is not available to produce electricity. Summer spill is costly. The summer spill regime costs the region about \$77 million per year in lost hydropower production. Summer spill provides little benefit to listed stocks, only somewhat more benefit for nonlisted stocks. Models from NOAA Fisheries, BPA and the Corps of Engineers estimate that the summer spill benefit to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Snake River fall chinook salmon is only 24 adult fish. The abundant non-ESA listed fall chinook salmon receive a benefit of about 19,000 fish, only 5% of the adult population of 384,000 returning in 2003. These abundant salmon stocks are then harvested at a rate of 50% when they return as adults. These estimates equate to over \$3 million per adult ESA listed fish returning and over \$4,000 per nonlisted returning fish, half of which will be harvested. Other measures can provide greater benefits at far lower cost. Alternate mitigation strategies, such as slightly increasing the harvest of northern pike minnow (a predator to the salmon) and implementation of a Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program (a water management program), will produce a mitigation benefit of 50,000 to 60,000 adult fall chinook salmon returning to the Columbia River each year at a cost of \$600,000 to \$1.1 million per year. PNWA supports implementation of alternate mitigation programs that provide a greater number of adult fall chinook salmon returning to the Columbia River each year with a potential annual savings of over \$75 million to the region.

BPA Public Involvement

From: ohopisabella@rainierconnect.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 3:15 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Isabella Deditch
Ohop Mutual Light Company
ohopisabella@rainierconnect.com
253-847-4363
34014 Mountain Highway East
Eatonville WA 98328

The Northwest economy is dependent on reasonably priced electricity and a stable electric market. It is clear to me that one lesson we should have learned from the California electricity crisis is that uncertainty about power pricing is disruptive to the Northwest economy. Making plans to reduce summer spill is a good start in managing costs in a way that will support a stable Northwest electricity market. The proposal of reducing spill and providing offsets is going in the right direction for achieving cost-effective salmon recovery. The two initial offsets proposed are a good start and go far in meeting the biological criteria. If a decision to proceed can be supported I am confident additional cost effective and biologically workable offsets can be identified and implemented. Ultimately support for salmon will only be possible if the economy is functioning. It is possible to have both. Deciding to reduce summer spill, a questionable benefit according to some scientists, is the right direction. * The proposal of reducing spill and providing offsets is going in the right direction for achieving cost-effective salmon recovery. * The two initial offsets are a good start and go far in meeting the biological criteria. * Any additional offsets must be chosen based on cost-effectiveness and biological benefits. Some offsets worth considering and that we may want to recommend include: * further enhancing predator control programs, * adding avian predation control, * consider reducing non-tribal commercial harvest if necessary, and * increasing hatchery production at specific hatcheries that are in the geographic areas of concern.

BPA Public Involvement

From: jackh@meccoop.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 15:52
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Jack R. Hunt
Missoula Electric Cooperative
jackh@meccoop.com
406-541-6340
1700 W. Broadway
Missoula MT 59808

I fully support the proposed Summer Spill. I believe it is going in the direction that will enhance cost-effective salmon recovery. As a sports fisherman on the Columbia River I think the offsets appear to be a positive way to begin to meet the biological criteria. The offset(s) that make the most sense to me are increasing hatchery production at specific hatcheries that are in the geographic areas of concern and further enhancing predator control programs. Thank You

BPA Public Involvement

From: jeimers@iclp.coop
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 14:24
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Jake Eimers, Mgr.
Idaho County Light & Power Co-op
jeimers@iclp.coop
208-983-1610
Hwy 13
Grangeville ID 83530

To: Mr. Stephen J. Wright, Admin., Bonneville Power Administration Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mr. Bob Lohn, Regional Director, NOAA Fisheries On behalf of the members of Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative, the cooperative's board of directors and management supports the reduction in summer spill and offsets set forth in the Preliminary Proposal for Federal Columbia River Power System Summer Juvenile Bypass Spill Operations prepared by the Bonneville Power Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We urge NOAA-Fisheries to adopt the proposals for the 2004-2006 Operational Plan because they are based upon sound science and responsible economics. Because, we support both saving salmon and responsible management of our consumers energy dollars, we urge the Federal agencies to expedite these proposed summer spill operation and mitigation actions in 2004. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Jake Eimers, Mgr. Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative Association, Inc.

BPA Public Involvement

From: mgr@bbec.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 11:08 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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James Johnson
Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc.
mgr@bbec.org
(509) 659-1700
PO Box 348
Ritzville WA 99169-0348

Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc. supports the reduction in summer spill and offsets set forth in the Preliminary Proposal for Federal Columbia River Power System Summer Juvenile Bypass Spill Operations prepared by the Bonneville Power Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We urge NOAA-Fisheries to support the efforts in this Proposal and we urge all 3 Federal agencies to put the proposed summer spill operation and mitigation actions into place in 2004. Respectfully submitted, James Johnson, Manager

BPA Public Involvement

From: petegegenhuber@att.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 1:13 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on BPA's Strategic Direction

Comment on **BPA's Strategic Direction**

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Joseph Peter Gegenhuber
Alcoa Intalco Works
petegegenhuber@att.net
360-384-1924
3306 Mt. View Rd.
Ferndale WA 98248

We need to reduce the amount of summer spill, and instead do other, more cost-effective, things that have the same biological benefit to the fish. Namely, reduce the number of northern pikeminnow that feed on juvenile salmon, and adjust other dam operations to help the fish. This in turn, is a better way to save money, and provide a little relief to the power consumers.

BPA Public Involvement

From: kweisenbur@msn.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 3:34 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Ken Weisenburger

kweisenbur@msn.com
360-384-5797
5253 Graveline Rd.
Bellingham WA 98226

Dear BPA and the Corps of Engineers, I work in an industry that depends on economical power from federal hydroelectric projects in the Northwest. Recent BPA power rate increases have had tremendous impacts, and have put the future of my job in doubt. It is vital that we reverse the upward trend on power costs. I support your common-sense proposal for a more efficient summer spill program. Protecting people as well as salmon is important, and I urge you to proceed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

BPA Public Involvement

From: lforman@madras.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 10:18 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Ll. Forman

Chair, Trout Creek Watershed Coun.

lforman@madras.net

5414893395

P.O>Box 129

Antelope OR 97001

The plan for limited spill has my support. I feel moneys produced at generation can partly be put to use in fish recovery in the Deschutes & other basins to good effect.

BPA Public Involvement

From: tbrnch@in-tch.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 10:51 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on BPA's Strategic Direction

Comment on **BPA's Strategic Direction**

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Norman Tebay
Western MT G&T
tbrnch@in-tch.com
406 287 3390
64 Tebay Lane
Whitehall MT 59759

Please accept these comments in favor of the proposed Summer Spill. This is a step in the right direction by BPA and the Corp. Not only will the proposal save some \$40 million each year for the next three years, it appears there will be little impact on the listed Snake River Fall Chinook. It is time to take a different approach for the operations of the rivers, and I believe this is a sound alternative to past practices. Sincerely, Norman Tebay

BPA Public Involvement

From: pauljudy@ctnis.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 9:31 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Paul Neff
Director, Wells Rural Electric Co.
pauljudy@ctnis.com
775-7792213
34 State Rt. 229
Ruby Valley Nv. 89833

Attention; Bonneville Power Administration Corps of Engineers NOAA Fisheries Subject: Support for proposal regarding modifications to the Summer Spill Program It is my position, as a director of Wells Rural Electric Company that the proposal is positive. It will save about \$40 million per year. The savings from 2004 and 2005 will be enough to reduce power rates in 2005 by close to 5% from what they would be without the proposal. For ESA listed Snake River Fall Chinook the spill adjustment impacts less than 20 returning adults. Increases in the Pikeminnow predator reduction program will mitigate for half of the ESA listed fish that could be lost from spill reductions. The net impact is less than 10 ESA fish. The runs for non-ESA listed Fall Chinook currently exceed 384,000 fish. Approximately 123,000 of these are harvested in the river. The impact for proposed spill adjustments is 12,600 but the mitigation measures will produce 88,662 returning adults. For these reasons, and more, the proposal is a good one.

BPA Public Involvement

From: randywhitaker.harneyelectric.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 2:58 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Randy Whitaker
Harney Electric Coop
randywhitaker.harneyelectric.org

1326 Hines Blvd
Burns Or 97720

Unfortunately this is only a good start but in the right direction! The three year proposal will save about \$40 million per year, and the savings from 2004 and 2005 should be sufficient to reduce power rates in FY 2005 by close to 5% from what they would be without the proposal. For ESA listed Snake River Fall Chinook, the spill adjustment only impacts a range of 2 to 20 returning adults. Increases in the Pikeminnow predator reduction program will mitigate for half of the ESA listed fish anticipated to be lost from spill reductions, for a net impact of 1- 10 ESA fish. This is in the context of a run of Wild Snake River Fall Chinook returning adults that is reported as 2,420. For non ESA listed Fall Chinook the impact for spill adjustments is 12,600, but the mitigation measures will produce 88,662 returning adults. These runs exceed 384,000 fish and they are harvested in river at over 32%, about 123,000 fish.

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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Richard Lovely
Grays Harbor PUD
rlovely@ghpud.org
360-532-4220
2720 Sumner Ave
Aberdeen WA 98520

This comment includes an attachment!

To Whom It May Concern:

April 6, 2004

My name is Richard Lovely; I am the General Manager of Grays Harbor Public Utility District #1, Grays Harbor County, Washington. This county has struggled economically due to the recent declines in the fishing and logging industries. Fortunately, the past few years have seen somewhat of a turn around in the fishing industry with the recent large returns of Salmon.

This area has also been adversely impacted by the increases in power costs that have occurred the past three years in the NW. Grays Harbor has found it necessary to raise its electric rates by over 55% in response to these increases. These rate increases along with the decline of the industries that have sustained our economies for generations has dramatically impacted our communities resulting in business closures and high unemployment rates.

I realize there are a number of interests who believe that recovery of fisheries in the Columbia and Snake River systems should be the preeminent goal of BPA, the Corp and NOAA almost to the exclusion of anything else. But the system was originally established for the generation of electricity to improve the economy of the Northwest.

This economy is built around a low cost energy resource that is now no longer the driver of our economy and may become the wrecker of that economy. Reduction or elimination of summer spill provides an opportunity to test a myriad of assumptions that have been made about how many fish are lost during July and August. It is my understanding that improvements to fish passage and dam operation have made travel through the turbines no more dangerous than going over the dams.

If this is the case and other mitigation programs such as the enhanced control of the Pike Minnow populations and avian predation control provide for saving more fish than doing summer spill has ever done then why aren't we doing that? The problem is how do we know? Until the hypothesis is tested by actually reducing summer spill, no one will know.

The entire region will benefit if it is determined that reduction or elimination of summer spill can put \$50-100 million back into the economies of the NW and that reducing predation is a much more economical means of returning more fish.

It is time to find out and authorize a period of testing. If it only costs approximately 20 fish if wrong, but saves several hundred fish if right, it is hard to find a legitimate reason to not try the test and reduce summer spill.

I encourage you to take a bold move and authorize reduction of summer spill and test these hypotheses.

Thank you,

BPA Public Involvement

From: roberto@penlight.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 3:05 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Robert E Orton
Peninsula Light Company
roberto@penlight.org
253-857-5950
P.O. Box 78
Gig Harbor WA 98335

To Whom it May Concern: Peninsula Light Co. supports a reduction in the summer spill regime. The region's ratepayers are entitled to prudent use of their money for fish recovery. Spilling water to aid primarily non-listed salmon hardly meets this standard. The region's public utilities have high rates as a legacy of the energy crisis. Poor salmon policy is not needed to exacerbate power costs. Thank you. Robert E. Orton Chief Executive Officer Peninsula Light Co. Gig Harbor, WA 98335

BPA Public Involvement

From: bob.crump@kec.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 15:44
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Robert L. Crump, General Manager
Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc.
bob.crump@kec.com
208/292-3207
PO Box 278
Hayden ID 83835-0278

Re: Commenting on the March 30, 2004 Summer Spill Proposal Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KEC), the largest electric cooperative in Idaho with almost 20,000 customers and a full requirements wholesale customer of the Bonneville Power Administration, supports the proposal of reducing summer spill and providing offsets. We see this proposal as a step in the right direction of implementing cost-effective salmon recovery. KEC serves an area of North Idaho that has some of the state's highest unemployment and has been severely impacted by the continued downturn in the economy and loss of jobs. Steps need to be taken to decrease the cost of power and thereby improving the economy of the Northwest. As far as the offsets are concerned, the initial proposals are a good start and additional offsets considered must be cost effective and provide sound biological benefits. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Comments submitted by: Robert L. Crump, General Manager Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. P.O. Box 278 Hayden, ID 83835-0278

BPA Public Involvement

From: rod.cochran@worldnet.att.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 9:34 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Rod
Alcoa
rod.cochran@worldnet.att.net
360-380-2665
4378 Saltspring Dr.
Ferndale Wa 98248

Dear BPA and the Corps of Engineers, I work in an industry that depends on economical power from federal hydroelectric projects in the Northwest. Recent BPA power rate increases have had tremendous impacts, and have put the future of my job in doubt. It is vital that we reverse the upward trend on power costs. I support your common-sense proposal for a more efficient summer spill program. Protecting people as well as salmon is important, and I urge you to proceed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

BPA Public Involvement

From: roger.bagley@rupert.id.us
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 4:09 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Roger Bagley
City of Rupert
roger.bagley@rupert.id.us
(208) 436-9600
624 F Street
Rupert ID 83350

I wish to state the following. The City of Rupert is experience hard economic times and we are operating under a 10 year contract. Since the contract was signed retail rates have increase over 45%. These higher rate do nothing to help the dampened economic situation. We believe that BPA's three year proposal and the foregoing of the August summer spill will save about \$40 millions dollars. This should reduce power rates in FY2005 by close to 5%. We believe that unless the BPA eliminated the August spill it will continue to impede economic growth in the area. We believe that if cost effective migitation measures will achieve this without harming the Fall Chinook. Please help use be more competeive by doinjg all that is possible to reduce rates.

BPA Public Involvement

From: Lummi5@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 3:01 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on BPA's Strategic Direction

Comment on **BPA's Strategic Direction**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Ron Morris

Lummi5@aol.com
3603802731
4188 Haxton Way
Bellingham Wa 98226
This sounds like a fine idea.

BPA Public Involvement

From: oreca@oreca.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 3:31 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Sandra Flicker
Oregon Rural Electric Co-op Association
oreca@oreca.org
503-585-9988
707-13th St. SE Suite 200
Salem OR 97301

On behalf of Oregon's Rural Electric Cooperatives we commend you for moving in the right direction with your spill proposal. It is imperative to address the economic consequences of continuing a salmon recovery program that is ineffective. A \$77 million dollar spill program that only saves 24 listed fish is a gross mismanagement of our salmon recovery dollars. Oregon's electric cooperatives strive to maintain very expensive distribution systems at minimal cost in order to keep the electricity rates of our consumer owners at a minimum. However, approximately 50% of our total costs are for wholesale power, which we purchase from Bonneville Power Administration as preference customers. When wholesale power costs continue to increase because of salmon recovery programs that have been scientifically proven to be ineffective, it is extremely offensive to the utilities that manage their budgets frugally – and even more offensive to our customers who pay the bill. When an ineffective salmon recovery program costs one irrigator over \$1,200 per year, something needs to change. I will leave the suggestions for other more effective offsets to the very qualified technical folks who represent public utilities. However, I felt it was imperative for the electric co-ops to comment on gross mismanagement of rate-payer dollars. Again, we appreciate the proposal acknowledging the need for change, but we need to go further and eliminate spill completely – and put effective programs in place. We still have not achieved the appropriate balance between fish and energy. Thank you for continuing to improve the success of our salmon recovery programs and address their economic impact to Northwest ratepayers. Sincerely, Sandra Flicker, Executive Director Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association

BPA Public Involvement

From: smclain@cityofpa.us
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 4:04 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Scott McLain
City of Port Angeles
smclain@cityofpa.us
360-417-4703
321 East Fifth Street
Port Angeles WA 98362

The City of Port Angeles supports the reduction in summer spill and offsets described in the Preliminary Proposal For Federal Columbia River Power System Juvenile Bypass Spill Operations. The City supports actions to protect fish in the Columbia River System and believe that a cost effective, performance based approach will lead to greater overall benefits to salmon. The City urges NOAA-Fisheries to support the efforts in this proposal and to implement the summer spill and mitigation measures in 2004. Respectfully submitted, Scott McLain Deputy Director for Power Systems City of Port Angeles

BPA Public Involvement

From: slsohnstad@hotmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 3:15 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on BPA's Strategic Direction

Comment on **BPA's Strategic Direction**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Sharon Smith

none

slsohnstad@hotmail.com

5097737610

1313 S Columbus

Goldendale WA 98620

The amount of money that is WASTED on fish is ridiclous. If there IS any problem (and I hear the fish count is up) We need to tell the fisherman which includes Indians to STOP OVER FISHING. This is where the fish problem lays, you tell me, how many fish can actualy get through nets that are the with of the river in some spots. They are cutting their nose off to spit their faces the white man included! Stop wasting money on Summer Spills and pass the savings or no more rate increases to the consumer.

Sharon Smith

BPA Public Involvement

From: finlaysonlaw@centurytel.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 15:22
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Stephen Finlayson
Oregon citizen
finlaysonlaw@centurytel.net
541-573-2151
709 Ponderosa Village
Burns OR 97720

We support a conservative, common sense approach to spilling water of the Columbia River and streams and rivers that feed into the Columbia to help fish. The current proposal that will save about \$40 million per year is a good start and could reduce power rates in FY 2005. For ESA listed Snake River Fall Chinook, the spill adjustment only impacts a range of 2 to 20 returning adults. Increases in the Pikeminnow predator reduction program will mitigate for half of the ESA listed fish anticipated to be lost from spill reductions, for a net impact of 1- 10 ESA fish. This is in the context of a run of Wild Snake River Fall Chinook returning adults reported as about 2,420. For non ESA listed Fall Chinook the impact for spill adjustments is 12,600, but the mitigation measures will produce 88,662 returning adults. These runs exceed 384,000 fish and they are harvested in-river at over 32%, about 123,000 fish. The proposal is a step in the right direction! Please consider these comments.



April 7, 2004

Mr. Stephen J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Brigadier General William T. Grisoli
Commander and Division Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Northwestern Division
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Bob Lohn
NOAA Fisheries
Office of Regional Director
7600 Sandpoint Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Dear Gentlemen:

Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) is commenting to voice its strong support of improving the effectiveness of salmon recovery. We agree with the Independent Economic Analysis Board of the Northwest Power Conservation Council who reached the conclusion that Summer Spill is as much as 50 times more expensive than other measures, which could return more adult salmon than Summer Spill practices.

UEC believes that it is also time that the level of responsibility, which the federal based hydro system and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) are held, is shared more broadly. The FCRPS is no longer an economic, reliable, or efficient source of energy. Flow augmentation, reservoir operation limits, and turbine limits have greatly diminished the efficiency of the hydro system.

Since 1996, fishery limits have trumped power needs, even in emergencies, leading to systems deterioration and significant reduction in the hydro system's ability to meet peak loads. UEC believes that hydro operations must be restored in all areas unless it is clear

750 W. Elm Street · PO Box 1148 · Hermiston OR 97838

Phone: (541) 567-6414

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Toll Free: 800-452-2273

that the loss of salmon resulting from the hydro operations cannot be mitigated through other means.

UEC specifically supports the three-year spill reduction trial for both listed and non-listed salmon with these comments:

1. The McNary Dam should be included in the trial;
2. Do not continue anything that is discovered to be illogical just because it is within the trial period; and
3. Take advantage of any new insights discovered during the trial.

UEC supports additional taking of the North Pike Minnow with these comments:

1. Is 'hook and line' the most efficient way to catch North Pike Minnow?
2. Why not remove 50% of the North Pike Minnow population at each project?

UEC supports the stabilization flows on the Hanford Reach with these comments:

1. Why should Grant PUD receive payments or energy or decline to share benefits with BPA?
2. Since 32% of the returning salmon are 50% non-tribal and 50% tribal, both groups should contribute one percent of their catch, if the run is equal to or greater than that of 2003, to share in the mitigation for spill reduction which help non-listed fish to a far greater extent than listed salmon.

UEC strongly supports the recommended change in summer operations of Libby and Hungry Horse Dams. Moderate predictable drawing down of these reservoirs is necessary for balance between the people of Montana and actual effects on listed salmon. Sufficient monitoring should be conducted to determine if further modification of the summer operations is justified.

In addition to the above comments on planned actions, UEC has the following to offer:

1. UEC is against drafting of Dworshak Dam unless it can be clearly shown how many salmon are helped and to what extent. Anyone who has actually traveled on the Snake River in Hells Canyon knows that the very cold water at Dworshak Dam cannot offset the heat gained as the water travels down the canyon.
2. Is Transportation possible for Umatilla River Salmon to lower expected losses? One project on the Umatilla River is to flood areas along the river during the winter such that this water would percolate through the earth and re-enter the river much cooler in an effort to lower the overall temperature of the Umatilla River during the summer.

3. Other predators must be controlled, not just studied. The fact that predator populations are increasing is because of food supply (i.e. more salmon for them to eat). Specifically, the predators include seals, sea lions, cormorants, gulls, and Caspian terns. Begin control of these predators and monitor the effects – stop just talking about the problem!
4. Several habitat improvement projects we have been involved in have not delivered as advertised and no one seems to care. As a result of our experience, we are only interested in habitat projects, which stay on course. If they do not perform, they should be closed down and the funds restored.
5. We do not support acquisition of water, except where biological benefits are certain and current uses of the water are mitigated fairly.
6. UEC believes hatchery practices should be uniform and hatchery fish should be raised to enhance “wild fish” characteristics.
7. UEC supports surface passage technologies and all projects and agree with giving priority to the lower Columbia Dams.
8. Fishing licenses and salmon tag fees should be increased.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the important proposal.

Sincerely,

M. Steven Eldrige
General Manager and CEO

MSE/dkt

April 6, 2004

Mr. Stephen J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Re: Proposed Spill Operation Modifications for July and August 2004

Dear Administrator Wright:

The Springfield Utility Board wishes to support the proposed modifications to your summer spill operations as being logical, common sense and good public policy in balancing the needs of both endangered and non-endangered fish species, and the social-economic requirements of Northwest residents.

There is overwhelming evidence that endangered salmon species are returning in near record-like runs, while at the same time Northwest decision-makers continue to spend massive amounts of public resources to assist returns of a paltry number of additional endangered fish. While these resources are being spent in inefficient ways, we continue to harvest these same salmon and non-threatened fish in large numbers. Our current policies simply make no sense. Therefore, we applaud you for confronting this situation and putting forth the current summer spill modifications.

We believe that after one or two years of demonstration of revised summer flow regimes that the scientific record will show that fish populations will not be harmed and that a substantial economic benefit will accrue to Northwest consumers.

We support reasonable mitigation programs to provide offsets for potential negative impacts on both endangered and non-endangered species. We would caution you, however, to be pragmatic and realistic in your evaluation and adoption of offset programs such that they are efficient and cost effective towards their proposed purpose, i.e., mitigation of fish damage and optimization of fish returns.

News accounts of some of the proposed offset/mitigation programs would indicate that parties in the region who have a vested interest in current fish restoration programs have proposed very extensive and costly offsets.

Some of these programs would appear on the surface to be questionable in their efficiency and in their scope. Certainly the enhanced Pikeminnow program and Hanford Reach "anti-stranding" offset programs are laudable and ones that we support. We believe that there are other offset, mitigation programs that are worthy of federal agency review. These include additional flow augmentation from Dworshak Reservoir and enhancement of the Regional Power Council Fish and Wildlife Program for a three-year test.

To the extent that the region is able to address reductions in commercial harvest (non-tribal), we would strongly support those efforts, as being a direct benefit to adult fish and in conserving the hard-won gains in return of endangered fish stocks.

In closing, we wish to recognize your leadership in providing responsible policy direction on this important matter of regional concern. We fully support the federal agency summer spill modifications.

If you should have any questions on this or if we can be of any assistance, please feel free to call on me.

Yours very truly,

**Steve L. Loveland
General Manager**

**cc: Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Bob Lohn, NOAA Fisheries
Tom O'Connor, OMEU
Shauna McReynolds, PNUCC
Shane Scott, PPC**

BPA Public Involvement

From: Terence_E@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 10:25 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Terry Easterwood
Electricity Consumer
Terence_E@comcast.net
(360) 392-8450
2252 Lancaster Way
Ferndale WA 98248

Dear BPA and the Corps of Engineers, I live and work in northwestern Washington, and depend on economical power from federal hydroelectric projects in the Northwest, having recently moved to the area. The power rate increases by BPA have had a terrible impact on the viability of my business, and jeopardize my job and my willingness to remain in the area. So, it is essential for you to do everything possible to reduce power costs. I support the proposed summer spill program. We need more good proposals like this one that will support people in the northwest as well as protect the salmon. Thank you for soliciting comments. Sincerely, Terry Easterwood

BPA Public Involvement

From: TFis688534@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 11:31 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Terry
Fischer
TFis688534@aol.com
360-676-8210
915 Sudden
Bellingham WA 98229

Dear BPA and the Corps of Engineers, I work in an industry that depends on economical power from federal hydroelectric projects in the Northwest. Recent BPA power rate increases have had tremendous impacts, and have put the future of my job in doubt. It is vital that we reverse the upward trend on power costs. I support your common-sense proposal for a more efficient summer spill program. Protecting people as well as salmon is important, and I urge you to proceed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, Terry G Fischer

BPA Public Involvement

From: trichardson@cityofcheney.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 2:58 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Thomas G. Richardson
City of Cheney, Washington
trichardson@cityofcheney.org
509 498-9230
609 2nd St
Cheney WA 99004

The City of Cheney City Council passed a resolution last month asking federal agencies to reduce summer spill. A copy of this resolution has been forwarded to the federal agencies, Governor Locke, and Cheney's congressional delegation. The reasoning behind the City Council's decision is primarily that federal agencies are required to expend public resources in a cost effective manner. Spending resources on one program, when there are other programs available that will achieve the same or better results at a lower cost, should be considered malfeasance and a misuse of public funds. The federal agencies have a fiduciary responsibility to the public to fund the right programs. Summer spill is not a good program, and should be changed to make it more effective and more cost-effective. Much of the negative comments against the reform of summer spill has focused on the statement that other "offset" measures have not been sufficiently defined so as to determine if they will actually offset the loss of spill. The correct response to this should be to get the final list of effective and cost-effective offset programs as soon as possible. Identifying effective and cost-effective offset programs is do-able and needs to happen right away. The City of Cheney strongly recommends the reduction of the summer spill program, replacing it with more effective and cost-effective measures.

BPA Public Involvement

From: tim.coleman@conagrafoods.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 3:49 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Tim Coleman
Lamb-Weston, Inc.
tim.coleman@conagrafoods.com
509-736-0251
8701 W. Gage Blvd.
Kennewick WA 99336

Dear Sirs: Lamb-Weston, Inc. offers this letter in support of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's proposal to modify the Federal Columbia River Power System's summer juvenile bypass spill operations. Lamb-Weston is the largest producer of processed potato products in the United States, with 6 processing facilities in the Columbia Basin, employing approximately 5,000 people. Our facilities are dependent upon some 6-8 billion pounds of raw potatoes annually, the majority of which are grown in the Columbia Basin, the area that will be most impacted by the March 30, 2004 Summer Spill Proposal (Proposal). The financial health of the potato industry in the Pacific Northwest is precarious. During the past five years, selling prices for potatoes have been very low, margins are tight, credit is scarce, and losses are mounting for many potato farmers. On the processing side, increased manufacturing costs, caused in no small part by increased electricity costs, coupled with competitive pressure from Canadian producers who enjoy pricing advantages caused by unfavorable exchange rates, have eroded margins and threaten to make our industry uncompetitive. Closing of production facilities would have a substantial negative impact on the potato industry in the Columbia Basin and the 28,000 jobs ag-industry provides in this region. The Program promises a beneficial reduction in existing electricity rates and/or the avoidance of future rate increases through increased revenue/reduced costs. This will be a mendous benefit to both the processing and farming industries in the Columbia Basin. Lamb-Weston believes the current spill program is wasteful, and lacks a scientific justification. Annual costs of the current summer spill program costs ratepayers some \$77 million annually, while having little impact on salmon recovery. The current summer spill program, while well intentioned, is ill conceived, prohibitively expensive, and should be modified or eliminated. We support the Proposal as a first step towards that result. Lamb-Weston, Inc. is a member of the Washington State Potato Counsel (WSPC) and works closely its leadership. We have reviewed in detail the comments made by the WSPC, and we strongly endorse the conclusions reached by the WSPC. We strongly urge the BPA implement the Proposal and to act according to the recommendations made by the WSPC. Respectfully, Tim Coleman Corporate Counsel Lamb-Weston, Inc. Cc: U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, Washington U.S. Senator Patty Murray, Washington Representative Doc Hastings, 4th District, Washington U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, Oregon U.S. Senator Gordon Smith, Oregon

4/16/2004

BPA Public Involvement

From: tomanderson@pudwhatcom.org
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 12:04 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Tom Anderson
PUD #1 of Whatcom County
tomanderson@pudwhatcom.org
360-384-4288 ex12
1705 Trigg Rd
Ferndale WA 98248

The Northwest economy is dependent on reasonably priced electricity and a stable electric market. It is clear to me that one lesson we should have learned from the California electricity crisis is that uncertainty about power pricing is disruptive to the Northwest economy. Making plans to reduce summer spill is a good start in managing costs in a way that will support a stable Northwest electricity market. The proposal of reducing spill and providing offsets is going in the right direction for achieving cost-effective salmon recovery. The two initial offsets proposed are a good start and go far in meeting the biological criteria. If a decision to proceed can be supported I am confident additional cost effective and biologically workable offsets can be identified and implemented. Ultimately support for salmon will only be possible if the economy is functioning. It is possible to have both. Deciding to reduce summer spill, a questionable benefit according to some scientists, is the right direction.

BPA Public Involvement

From: Tburke6273@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 11:20 AM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on BPA's Strategic Direction

Comment on **BPA's Strategic Direction**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Tom Burke
Alcoa Intalco Works
Tburke6273@aol.com
360-988-8651
5713 Reese Hill Rd.
Sumas WA 98295

Dear BPA and the Corps of Engineers, I work in an industry that depends on economical power from federal hydroelectric projects in the Northwest. Recent BPA power rate increases have had tremendous impacts, and have put the future of my job in doubt. It is vital that we reverse the upward trend on power costs. I support your common-sense proposal for a more efficient summer spill program. Protecting people as well as salmon is important, and I urge you to proceed. Thank you, Tom Burke

BPA Public Involvement

From: tmcdonald@madsenelectric.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 2:40 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Tom McDonald
Lakeview Light & Power
tmcdonald@madsenelectric.com

11509 Bridgeport Way SW
Lakewood WA 98499

To whom it may concern: The Summer Spill issue, which helps juvenile salmon migrate to the ocean, costs our region about \$77 million each year. I am asking you to support alternative methods. The Summer Spill that occurs between July and August each year, allows water to pass through spillways, thus does not generate power. The "Program" provides little actual benefit to the juvenile salmon migrating, since 90% of the fall Chinook in the Columbia are safely transported past the dams and released back into the river below the Bonneville Dam. There are alternative methods to meet the goal of a more cost-effective salmon recovery. These methods are supported by BPA, USACE and NOAA-F, working cooperatively with the Council staff, state fish managers, tribes and utilities representatives. Your support of the alternative mitigation programs is imperative. It will provide a potential savings of over \$75 million to the region, with a net benefit in the number of adult fall Chinook salmon returning to the Columbia River. Best Regards
Tom McDonald Board Member Lakeview Light & Power

BPA Public Involvement

From: tsvendsen@klickpud.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 5:07 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Tom Svendsen P.E.
Klickitat PUD
tsvendsen@klickpud.com
509 773-5891
1313 S Columbus
Goldendale WA 98620

Stop summer spill! Your proposal is a step in the right direction. The Corp should eliminate summer spill. The benefits are almost not measurable. The cost is ridiculous. There are far more effective and responsible ways to improve salmon runs than spilling a valuable renewable resource over the dams. Klickitat PUD is in support of your proposal to reduce summer spill. We urge you to stop summer spill. Tom D. Svendsen P.E. General Manager Klickitat PUD

BPA Public Involvement

From: vewalkley@columbiainet.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 8:14 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on BPA's Strategic Direction

Comment on **BPA's Strategic Direction**

View open comment periods on <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/home/comment.cfm>

Van I Walkley
Irrigator
vewalkley@columbiainet.com
509-547-3020
1188 Walkley Rd.
Burbank Wa 99323

To whom it may concern, Thank you for the chance to comment on the spill reduction. My only disappoint is that is only one month. The region needs as much economic input it can get and the ability for BPA to generate about \$40 million a year which will help lower rates will help with either keeping or generating jobs for the region. I do hope that you will keep up the fight to get rid of those programs that do not benefit fish recovery. High rates of spill is one of those programs that are very costly per fish saved. Thank you, Van Walkley th

BPA Public Involvement

From: wmgmt@montana.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004 3:00 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

Comment on **Summer Spill Proposal**

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On behalf of the members of Western Montana G&T who serve over 100,000 consumers and get all or most of their power from the Bonneville Power Administration, I am writing to support the proposed reduction in the summer spill program. We believe that the proposed reduction in summer spill and changed operations at Libby and Hungry Horse reservoirs are essential steps to achieving a more cost-effective and efficient salmon recovery program. We also believe that there are a number of cost-effective programs available to make up for the negligible losses associated with the reduction in summer spill. Some of the programs include increasing the scope of the Northern pikeminnow bounty program, avian predator control, specific habitat restoration programs and specific adjustments to the hatchery program. Finally, we believe that these proposed changes are within the scope of the existing Biological Opinion. The reduction in the summer spill program will not require waiting until a new Biological Opinion is developed. The members of Western Montana G&T support the proposed changes in the summer spill program and operations at Libby and Hungry Horse reservoirs.

BPA Public Involvement

From: citymanager@explorecarlinnv.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2004 4:57 PM
To: comment@bpa.gov
Subject: Comment on Summer Spill Proposal

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Attention: Bonneville Power Administration Corps of Engineers NOAA Fisheries Subject: Support for proposal regarding modifications to the Summer Spill Program It is my position, as City Manager for the City of Carlin, Nevada that the proposal is positive. It will save about \$40 million per year. The projected savings from 2004 and 2005 will shave approximately 5% from the proposed rate increase. In an era of tight municipal budgets, such savings have a significant impact, not only on the City itself, but also on the citizens. For ESA listed Snake River Fall Chinook, the spill adjustment impacts less than 20 returning adults. Increases in the Pike minnow predator reduction program will mitigate for half of the ESA listed fish that could be lost from spill reductions. The net impact is less than 10 ESA fish. The runs for non-ESA listed Fall Chinook currently exceed 384,000 fish. Approximately 123,000 of these are harvested in the river. The impact for proposed spill adjustments is 12,600 but the mitigation measures will produce 88,662 returning adults. For these reasons, and more, the proposal is a good one. William A. Kohbarger City Manager City of Carlin