

JUN 21 2004

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

JUDY MARTZ
GOVERNORSTATE CAPITOL
PO Box 200801
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801

June 17, 2004

Mr. D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

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

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

RECEIVED BY BPA ADMINISTRATOR'S OFC-LOG #: 04-0119
RECEIPT DATE: 6-21-04
DUE DATE: 7-6-04

ASSIGN: DR-7C
cc: F03, DC/Mash, DR-7, KE-4, Cooper, Kuntz,
Custer, Williams, Morrow,

Gentlemen:

On June 8, 2004 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) released a proposal entitled, "Amended Proposal for FCRPS Summer Juvenile Bypass Operations". I would like to reiterate the comments made by my representative, Ed Bartlett, at your June 14, 2004 meeting in Portland and state that I fully support the spill reduction proposal and offsets released by BPA and the Corps.

The amended spill reduction proposal will bring much-needed savings to the region while ensuring that listed salmon are not adversely affected. Any cost effective measure that can be found is significant considering the state of the economy in the region, high electricity rates in the Northwest, and the uncertainty BPA is facing this summer due to low water forecasts and economic downturn.

Montana believes this amended proposal is a good compromise that makes sense. It is balanced and reasonable. Based on the facts, science, and comments, many of us believe the proposal does not go far enough. It is a good start, but the region needs to continue working on a more efficient and effective multi-year program.

I would also like to reiterate another item Ed Bartlett discussed at your June 14 meeting. Montana continues to advocate for the implementation of proposed changes to summer operations at Libby and Hungry Horse Dams. The science shows that the operations

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(stabilizing and extending summer flows and reducing drawdown) would benefit listed and unlisted fish above and below Libby and Hungry Horse Dams. Furthermore, there would be no harm to listed salmon in the lower Columbia River from these operations, and on an annual average basis the operations would save several million dollars.

I again request that a timely decision be made to implement these reservoir operations. This issue has been on the table since the Northwest Power and Conservation Council unanimously passed its Mainstem Amendments in April 2003 and Montana submitted its System Operational Request (SOR) on these matters last year. I request that you and the other Federal Executives support these changes and continue your efforts to implement them this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Martz", written over a horizontal line.

JUDY MARTZ

Governor

c: The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
The Honorable Gary Locke
The Honorable Theodore R. Kulongoski