

SS3-284

JUN 14 2004

Kuehn, Ginny - DM-7

From: citymanager@ci.bandon.or.us
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2004 2:23 PM
To: BPA Public Involvement
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>

Matt Winkel
City of Bandon
citymanager@ci.bandon.or.us
541-347-2437
P.O. Box 67
Bandon OR 97411
Comments Attached.

This comment includes an attachment!

DATE: June 14, 2004
TO: Bonneville Power Administration
FROM: Matt Winkel, City Manager, City of Bandon

SUBJECT: Amended Summer Spill Proposal

The City of Bandon believes the Amended Summer Spill Proposal is a step in the right direction, and, while it doesn't go far enough, we support it. It will put more salmon back in the river and more people back to work.

This proposal meets the objective of saving more fish for less money; establishes cost-effectiveness as a key objective in determining salmon recovery measures; and recognizes that there are better ways to protect summer migrants than unnecessarily wasting water that could be used to produce electricity.

The federal agencies should be applauded for finding ways to provide relief to the region's ratepayers at no harm to fish. BPA's power rates have risen by nearly 50% since 2001, contributing to the struggles of the Northwest economy.

Although the City of Bandon supports the Amended Summer Spill Proposal as an interim measure, it still contains too much waste, and is a significant missed opportunity to provide an additional boost to the Northwest economy. There is scientific support for eliminating summer spill entirely. We are urging the federal agencies to expand this program in the coming years. The Northwest citizens who finance these fish programs rightfully expect accountability and results.

The proposal has been subject to extensive scientific scrutiny. The federal agencies are relying on NOAA Fisheries' analysis, which was designed to err on the side of the fish. The analysis was very conservative in estimating the benefits of the new programs, and assumed maximum impacts from reducing spill.

There is no credible scientific proof that the lack of spill in 2001 relates to the lower than expected adult returns observed this spring. Data shows that one and two year-old fish from 2001 returned in record numbers. Ocean conditions are likely playing a key role in this year's adult returns, which are still significantly higher than the ten-year average.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the Amended Summer Spill Proposal.

Sincerely,

CITY OF BANDON

Matt Winkel
City Manager