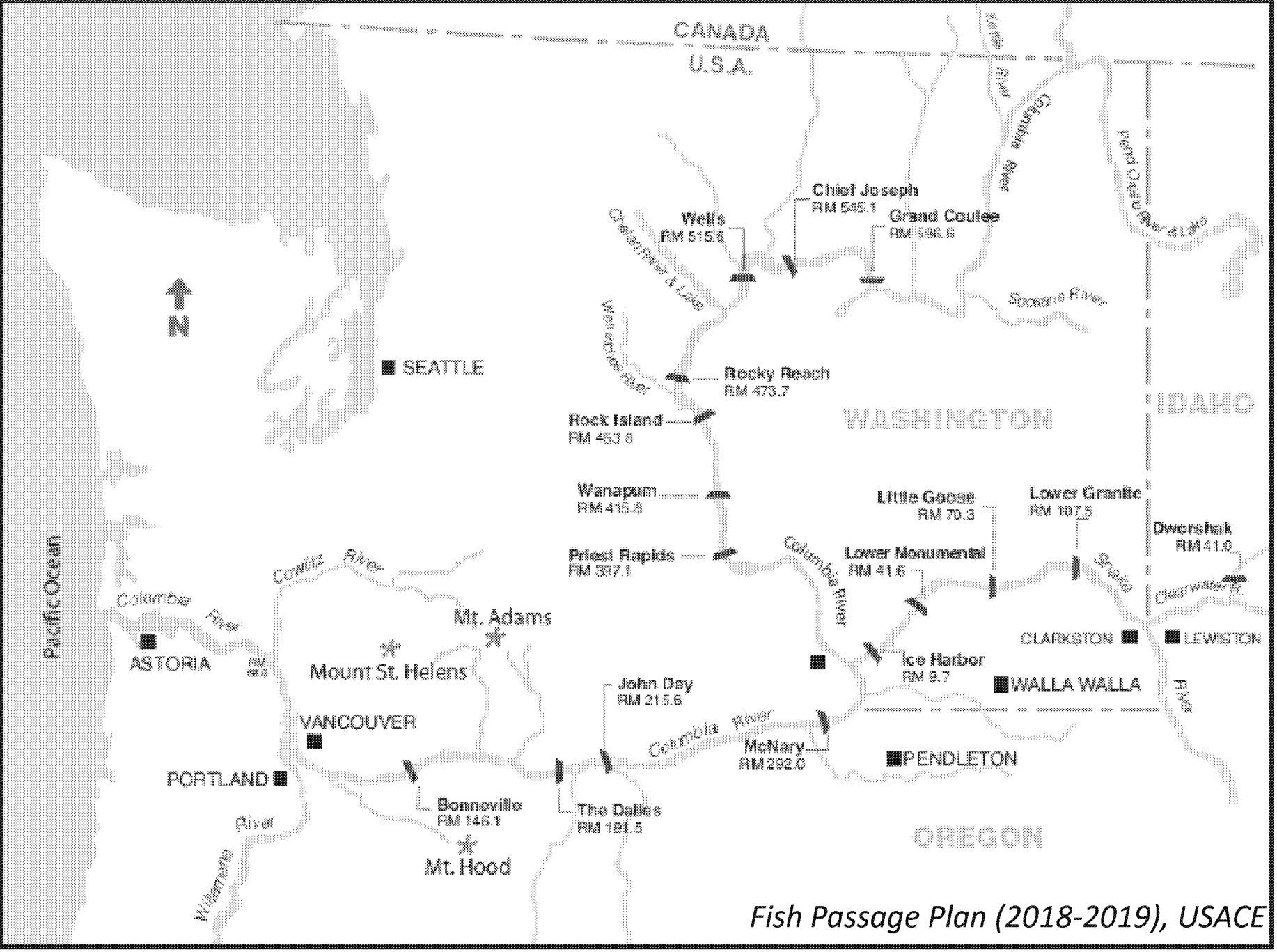
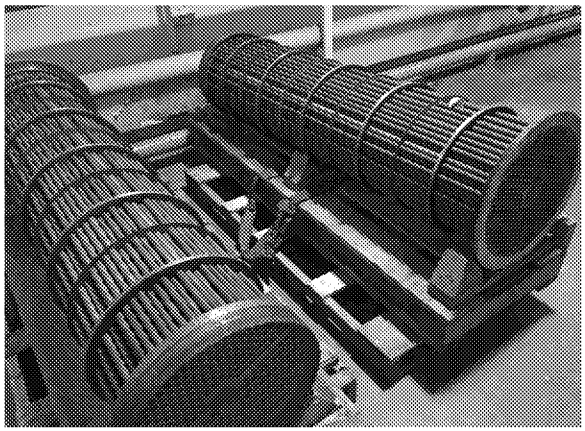
Upcoming NPDES permits for Lower Columbia River, Lower Snake River, and Grand Coulee Dams

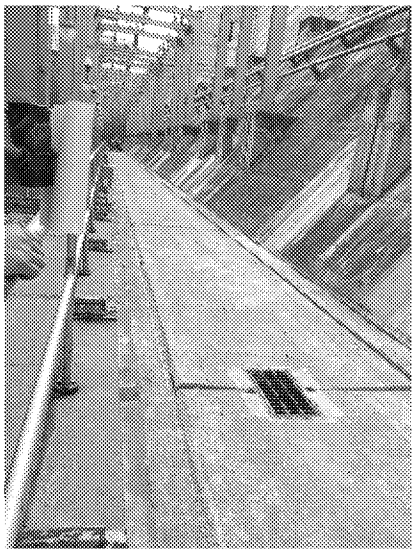


Fish Passage Plan (2018-2019), USACE

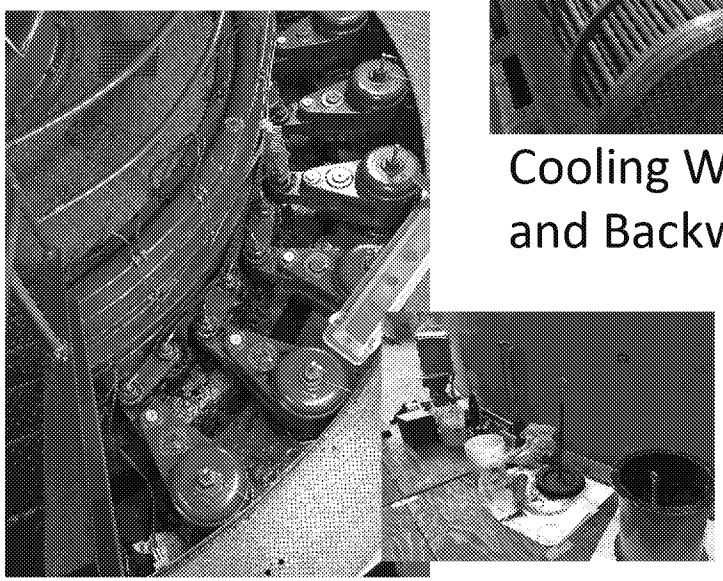
What is covered under the permit?



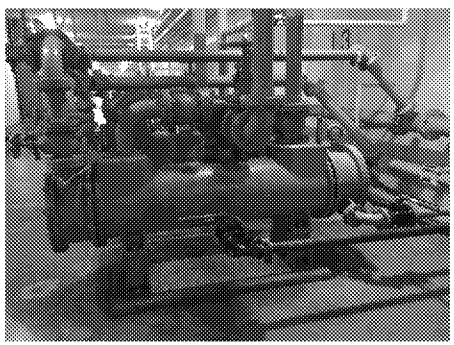
Cooling Water Discharges and Backwash Strainers



Drains, Sumps

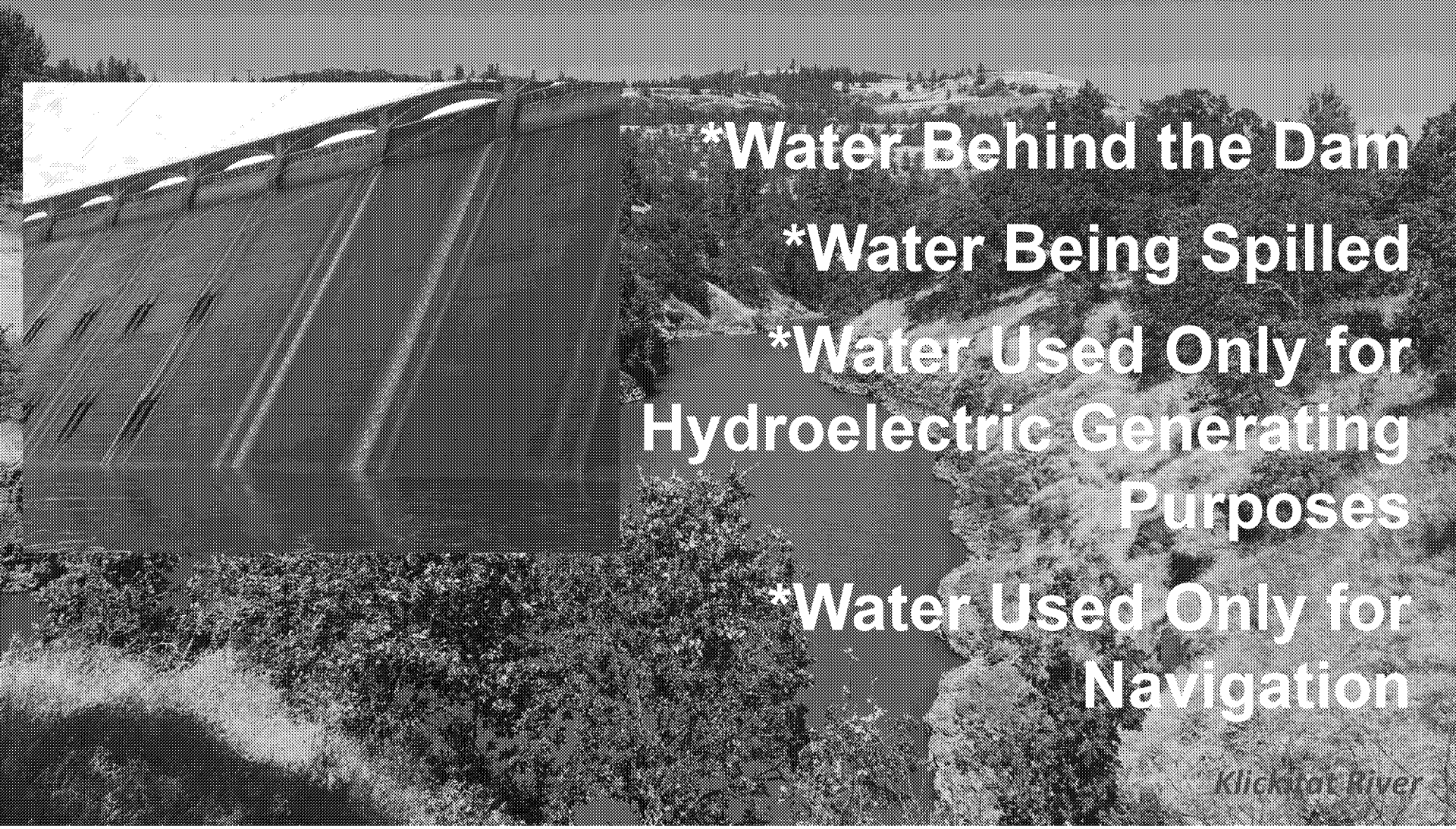


Wicket gates, in-line equipment, lubricated wires



Cooling Water Intake Structures

What is *not* Covered Under the Proposed Permits?



- *Water Behind the Dam
- *Water Being Spilled
- *Water Used Only for Hydroelectric Generating Purposes
- *Water Used Only for Navigation

How are pollutants/operations addressed?

Drains and Sumps – *BMPs, oil and grease/pH numeric limits; continuous temp monitoring*

Cooling Water – *oil and grease/pH numeric limits; continuous temp monitoring*

Backwash Strainers - *BMPs*

Wicket Gates, In-line equipment, Lubricated Wire ropes – *BMPs, EALs, no toxics discharges*

Cooling Water Intake Structures – *Technologies that comply with BiOp and Fish Passage Plans*

Wind River

Other Permit Provisions

- No toxics discharges
- No visible oil sheen
- No floating or deleterious substances
- BMP Plan and Annual Updates
  - Prevention, minimization, tracking, reporting of oil and grease
- Environmentally Acceptable Lubricants (EALs) Annual Report
- 316(b) Annual Report

Wind River

Similarities in Proposed Permits

- All permits have similar wastestreams except McNary and cover the same scope.
- Same numeric effluent limits and monitoring frequency
  - Oil and grease: 5 mg/L daily maximum; monthly monitoring
  - pH: 6.5 – 8.5; monthly monitoring
  - Temperature: continuous monitoring
  - Flow: 1/month monitoring
- BMP plans, EAL reports, and 316(b) reports

Wind River

Differences in Proposed Permits

- Lower Columbia/Snake dams and Grand Coulee Dam
  - ESA species
  - Corps vs. BOR
  - Jurisdictional differences
    - Colville Tribe and Ecology in Grand Coulee
    - Ecology and ODEQ for Lower Columbia
- Differences in 316(b)
- Different number of outfalls

Issues/Next Steps

- Communication with Tribes, federal agencies, states, Columbia Riverkeeper
- Draft 401 cert requests to Ecology, Colville Tribes, ODEQ
- 316(b) applicability to dams
- ESA consultation
- Draft permit issuance goal: End of November 2018

White Salmon River