STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
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February 5, 2019

Dan Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds
U.S.EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

Re: Withdrawal of Request for Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification of Draft Permits for Federal Hydroelectric Generating Facilities on the Columbia and Snake Rivers

Dear Dan Opalski:

This letter is in response to your February 1, 2019 letter withdrawing your request for Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 certifications for the following draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits:

- Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026816
- Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026808
- Little Goose Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026786
- Lower Granite Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026794
- Bonneville Project, NPDES Permit No. WA0026778
- The Dalles Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026701
- John Day Project, NPDES Permit No. WA0026832
- McNary Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026824
- Grand Coulee Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026867

Ecology seeks to understand the reason for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) withdrawal, as federally-issued NPDES permits require Section 401 certification and must meet all federal and state water quality standards. Ecology and EPA have had routine communication on the draft permits as Ecology works towards a decision on EPA's request. Has EPA decided not to issue the above-referenced permits? Your letter references a potential "renewed request for water quality certification." When does EPA anticipate making this renewed request?

This letter is **not** to be considered a decision or waiver of Washington State's 401 certification authority.

As you are aware, Ecology public noticed the request for 401 certification of the nine draft NPDES permits on January 30, 2019 for a 20-day comment period ending at midnight on February 19, 2019. We intend to complete our public notice process.

You requested that Ecology return all materials provided with your certification requests. Please explain why you are requesting a return of these materials. As public stewards, we have a responsibility to maintain copies of the materials you submitted to us for public records purposes. Therefore, we will maintain copies of all materials provided with your certification request.

Sincerely,

Heather R. Bartlett
Water Quality Program Manager

Enclosures