Message

From: Wu, Jennifer [Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/1/2019 10:25:57 PM
To: Poulsom, Susan [Poulsom.Susan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: WA Hydro Dams NPDES wkly update, 3/1/19

Yeah – Courtney voicemailed me on 316(b). Fingers crossed to get an answer.

I'll put the ppts on Sharepoint – I shamelessly copied Karen's and Cindi's presentations – they were great. I'll put those up, too.

From: Poulsom, Susan
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 1:42 PM
To: Wu, Jennifer <Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: WA Hydro Dams NPDES wkly update, 3/1/19

Thanks Jenny – I know Courtney mentioned they discussed 316(b) at the OGC call last week. David Fotouhi was going to discuss Anna W. So I guess we haven't heard anything back yet.

Also – Did you end up with a powerpoint 101? I'd like to put on sharepoint

---

From: Wu, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 1:26 PM
To: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; Lidgard, Michael <Lidgard.Michael@epa.gov>; Soscia, Mary Lou <Soscia.Marylou@epa.gov>; Poulsom, Susan <Poulsom.Susan@epa.gov>; Weber, Courtney <Weber.Courtney@epa.gov>; Palmer, John <Palmer.John@epa.gov>; Merz, Martin <merz.martin@epa.gov>; Clayton, Alexandra L. <clayton.alexandra@epa.gov>; Stoddard, Jamey <Stoddard.Jamey@epa.gov>
Subject: WA Hydro Dams NPDES wkly update, 3/1/19

Here's a short weekly update on the WA hydro dam permits.

Lower Columbia, Lower Snake River, Grand Coulee Dams

1. 401 certs (Washington and Oregon) and press coverage –
    - On 2/28/19, Ecology sent a letter to EPA on the 401 cert in response to our 2/15/19 letter. They indicated that they received comments on the public notice of our request for a 401 cert and that the majority of comments focused on the importance of ensuring all discharges from dams meet WA WQS in particular for temperature. They also requested a timeline for resubmitting a 401 request, and indicated that Ecology would need to do another public comment on the new request. They also indicated that the letter not be considered a waiver and if EPA moved forward with the permits without submitting a new request, the letter indicated a denial of the 401 cert request. Commenters to Ecology's public notice were from citizens and environmental groups.
2. 316(b) – We are waiting to hear from EPA HQ on 316(b) before moving forward.
3. Permit development – Martin and Jenny have QA'ed/QC;ed the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake permits. The main outstanding issue is PCB Plan requirements. We met with EPA's PCB Coordinator to advise on permit conditions. We expect to wrap up the PCB Plan conditions next week and add those to the permits and Fact Sheet. Jenny will be done incorporating changes into the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Fact Sheets by early next week. I will then make the changes in the Grand Coulee permit and Fact Sheet.
4. ESA Consultation – Jamey completed his BE review and provided very helpful comments (Thanks, Jamey!). We are meeting next week to discuss questions on the BE. Once we make changes, we will start the BE for the Grand Coulee permit.

5. NPDES 101 Presentation to the Corps – Jenny presented an intro to NPDES permits at the Corps of Engineers annual meeting for dam operators on 2/25/19. Jenny and Martin both attended the meeting. Discussion of the dam permits was limited to the EPA press release statement and questions from the audience on the 401 cert process and the Seattle Times articles. The presentation was well-received.

Overall

1. Internal communications – No updates
   External communications
   a. Tribes – Colville Tribes asked for a status update on the permits. I said nothing has changed.
   b. Services – no update
   c. Federal Caucus - no update
   d. BOR – no update.
   e. US Army Corps – See above under NPDES 101 Presentation to the Corps.
   f. Columbia Riverkeeper – no update
   g. Ecology – See above under 401 cert and communications
   h. ODEQ – no update
   i. BPA – no update

Jenny Wu
Environmental Engineer, NPDES Permits Unit
EPA Region 10
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 155 (OWW-191)
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-6328