UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3123

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

Heather Bartlett
Water Quality Program Manager
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Re: Request for Clean Water Act section 401 extension on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for Washington federal hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers

Dear Ms. Bartlett:

The EPA received Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) letter on December 7, 2018 requesting additional time for the Clean Water Act section 401 certification on preliminary draft NPDES permits for the Washington federal hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers. The letter also describes the uncertainty of pending actions that could affect the permits and requests that Ecology be given until February 1, 2019 to complete a Clean Water Act section 401 certification.

The EPA agrees that several processes are occurring that warrant additional time for the Clean Water Act section 401 certification from Ecology. Therefore, the EPA is granting Ecology's request for an extension until February 1, 2019.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Wu, of my staff, at (206) 553-6328 or Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Opalski
Director, Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Melissa Gildersleeve, Ecology
Vince McGowan, Ecology
Ellie Ott, Ecology