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

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

SEP 19 2018

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

SEP 24 2018

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Reply to
Attn of: OWW-191

Mr. Vince McGowan
Program Development Services Manager
Washington Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, Washington 98503

Re: Request for Preliminary Clean Water Act Section 401 Certifications of NPDES Draft Permits for
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

Dear Mr. McGowan:

Enclosed are preliminary drafts of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, John Day Project, and McNary Lock and Dam. These permits are covered under the fact sheet for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Lower Columbia River Hydroelectric Generating Facilities.

We are asking for the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to review and provide preliminary Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certifications for these permit actions. If we receive the certifications prior to public notice of the permits, we will include a reference to the State's certification in the public notice along with a copy of the certifications in the fact sheet. The public notice of the permits may also fulfill the Ecology's public notice requirements for certification under CWA Section 401(a)(1). If possible, we would appreciate a response within 30 days.

Since these preliminary drafts are not intended for review outside of Ecology, we appreciate your discretion in retaining them within the department.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Wu at 206-553-6328 or 1-800-424-4372 ext. 6328 or Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov. We look forward to your comments on these draft permits.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Lidgard, Manager
NPDES Permits Unit

Enclosures
cc: Ellie Key, Washington Department of Ecology (via email)