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

OCT - 1 2018

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

The Honorable Jennifer Oatman
Chairman
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Dear Chairman Oatman:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would like to invite your tribal government to initiate consultation with our Agency regarding the issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits for four hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Columbia River and four hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Snake River operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

Bonneville Project, WA0026778
Exit 40, Interstate 84
Cascade Locks, Oregon 97014

The Dalles Lock and Dam, WA0026701
Exit 88, Interstate 84
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

John Day Project, WA0026832
Exit 109, Interstate 84
Rufus, Oregon 97050

McNary Lock and Dam, WA0026824
82925 DeVore Road
Umatilla, Oregon 97882

Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, WA0026816
2763 Monument Drive
Burbank, Washington 99323

Lower Monumental Lock and Dam
5220 Devil's Canyon Road
Kahlotus, Washington 99335

Little Goose Lock and Dam
1001 Little Goose Dam Road
Dayton, Washington 99359

Lower Granite Lock and Dam
885 Almota Ferry Road
Pomeroy, Washington 99133

These permits will address oil and grease discharges and pH from hydroelectric generating facilities. The permits that apply to the Lower Snake River discharge in areas of interest to the Nez Perce Tribe, but do not discharge directly into tribal waters. The permits that apply to the Lower Columbia River discharge downstream of areas of interest to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The EPA is planning to public notice draft NPDES permits for the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, John Day Project, McNary Lock and Dam, Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, Little Goose Lock and Dam, and Lower Granite Lock and Dam in late October 2018. The EPA provided staff at the Nez Perce Tribe information on the development of these permits in August 2018 and presented an overview and status of these permits on September 19, 2018.

The EPA staff contact for this permitting action is Jenny Wu. You can reach her at (206)553-6328 and Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov. The EPA would appreciate a response to this tribal consultation invitation no later than October 31, 2018. In your response, please include a designated tribal official for my staff to work with in the planning for tribal consultation. If your tribe has a policy regarding consultation with EPA, please include that, as well. If your tribe does not wish to request tribal consultation, there will still be opportunities to be involved and provide comments now or during the EPA's public comment period.

The enclosed documents are not available to the general public yet. Therefore, please do not release them to external parties until the formal public comment period is in effect. We will notify you when we begin the public comment period for this permit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (206)553-1855, if you or your tribal government have any questions or concerns regarding this letter. I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Opalski
Director

Enclosures

cc: Ken Clark, Nez Perce Tribe (via email)

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