STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
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U.S. EPA REGION 10
OFFICE OF WATER AND WATERSHEDS

January 12, 2007

Mr. Michael J. Lidgard
Manager NPDES Permits Unit
US EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, OWW-130
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: EPA Draft NPDES Permit No.: WA-002666-2 authorizing discharges from the Elwha Water Treatment Plant to the Elwha River, Clallam County, WA.

Dear Mr. Lidgard:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) received the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Draft* Fact Sheet and *Draft* National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit Number WA-002666-2 on December 13, 2006. Ecology reviewed the documentation and discussed potential concerns with Mr. Brian Nickel, EPA's permit writer. During a phone conversation with Mr. Nickel on January 4, 2007, EPA agreed to revise the sampling frequency for total suspended solids (TSS) and turbidity in the receiving water from monthly to weekly. This is intended to provide necessary information to validate the mathematical relationship between TSS and turbidity at the concentrations expected during the dam removal and equilibrium phases of the project.

Based on our review of the latest draft permit, draft fact sheet, proposed activities, and the agreed changes discussed above, Ecology believes the discharge from the treatment plant, as conditioned by the draft permit, would comply with Chapter 173-201A of the Washington Administrative Code (Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington).

This preliminary determination is based on the draft permit and should not be construed as a formal water quality certification. It is our understanding that EPA will request a formal certification once the permit has been finalized.

If you have any questions, please call me at 360/407-6271 or Betsy Dickes at 360/407-6296.

Sincerely,

Kelly Susewind, P.E., P.G.
Southwest Region Manager
Water Quality Program

cc: Michael F. Gearheard, Director, EPA Office of Water and Watersheds
Brian Nickel, EPA
Brian Winter, Olympic National Park
Dick Bauman, USBR
Joan Marchiaro, Ecology AAG
Sally Toteff, ORA
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