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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3701

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respond
See 0044
COMMITTEES: *Settled*
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
21ST CENTURY COMPETITIVENESS
EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
ADMINISTRATOR'S
LOG #: *04-0050*
SCIENCE
ENERGY
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
RECEIPT DATE: *3.18.04*
DUE DATE: *DR-7C*
~~APP ACTION~~

Stephen J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

APP ACTION: **DR-7C**
cc: FO3, DC/Wash, DR-7, L-7, P-6, PL-6,
KE-4, KEW-4, Bodi-A/Seattle, McNary-A-7,
Cooper-PG-5

Dear Steve:

I am writing regarding the recent analysis by the federal agencies of a variety of summer spill regimes for the Federal Columbia River Power System. According to this analysis, spill during July and August provides limited biological benefit at a significant cost to ratepayers. Your recent work was consistent with results from a July study by staff for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

I also understand that you have done some analysis of potential biological offsets for various reduced spill regimes. Your analysis shows that full mitigation for the biological harm resulting from reduced spill could – in theory – be achieved at lower cost to ratepayers. I believe this analysis should be tested, in compliance with the 2000 Biological Opinion, beginning this summer. This test should be limited in scope and must occur when the smallest number of fish are attempting passage.

I support your efforts to explore the most effective and cost-efficient means of salmon recovery. However, negative effects on salmon runs, which result from an elimination of summer spill must be mitigated. Such mitigation actions should leave salmon runs in an equal or better condition than exists today.

Finally, I am aware that state fish and wildlife agencies have raised questions about the proposed changes in summer spill. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Tribal comments have conveyed concerns about the effectiveness of proposed mitigation efforts. I urge you address these concerns when making your decision. I also ask that you reply in writing to questions and concerns and make these documents available to the public.

I thank you for your efforts in pursuing actions that can meet our twin goals of achieving salmon recovery and striving for a strong economy.

With warm regards,

David Wu
Member of Congress

cc: Regional Administrator Bob Lohn and General Robert Flowers