



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

September 13, 2023

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in the Klickitat Hatchery Spring Chinook Upgrades Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) finalized the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Klickitat Hatchery Spring Chinook Upgrades Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to proceed with the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the construction schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

Background: BPA will fund upgrades to the Klickitat Hatchery in the Klickitat River Basin in Klickitat County, Washington in partnership with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation). The hatchery was built in 1954 and most of the facilities have not been renovated since then. The proposed upgrades are designed to improve rearing conditions for spring Chinook, which would provide the capacity to increase annual production from 600,000 spring Chinook yearling smolts to 800,000 smolts, and facilitate a transition from a segregated to an integrated spring Chinook program that incorporates natural-origin fish in the broodstock. The upgrades would support BPA's commitments to the Yakama Nation under the Columbia River Fish Accords Memorandum of Agreement and subsequent amendments, while also supporting ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 *et seq.*).

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment on April 10, 2023, and received five comments from individuals and agencies during the 30-day public comment period. The final EA provides responses to those comments and minor revisions to the EA. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project would not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision: BPA decided to construct the Klickitat Hatchery Spring Chinook Upgrades Project. Project construction is expected to begin in Fall 2023 and continue through Spring 2025, with breaks in construction during seasonal restrictions.

All fish production (spring and fall Chinook and coho salmon) operations and facility maintenance at the hatchery have been funded through the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Mitchell Act of 1938 (16 U.S.C. 755-757) since the hatchery was built in 1954. BPA is not proposing to fund fish production or to assume responsibility for any Mitchell Act funding for the Klickitat Hatchery. BPA funds would be limited to the proposed capital improvements to support spring Chinook production.

Copies Available: The final EA, FONSI, and Mitigation Action Plan are available on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/nepa/klickitat-hatchery-upgrades. If you previously requested a copy of the documents,

they are enclosed. If you would like to obtain paper copies of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-5206, or by e-mail at casharp@bpa.gov. You can also reach us toll free at 1-800-622-4519.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Carolyn Sharp

Carolyn Sharp

Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA

FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan