



1995 Third Street
Baker City, Oregon 97814

December 31, 2007

Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Mason Dam Hydroelectric Project P-12686-001 -- Amendment to Study Plan 6 and 7, Study Plan 3 and 5 Draft reports, and Study plan 1 and 2 updates

Dear Ms. Bose:

On behalf of Baker County I would like to ask for an amendment to the following study plans; Study Plan 6 Assess Traditional Cultural Properties and Study Plan 7 Assess Archaeological and Historic-era Properties. The amendment to these studies will correlate to the time line in which they were to be completed. With both of these studies we experienced contract difficulties with terms and language and the weather in the terms of freezing precipitation covering the area.

The wording of the study plans will change from the following:

Study Plan 6

6.8 Level of Effort and Cost

The project is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA and as such Section 106 Compliance is a Federal requirement for the issuance of a FERC license.

It is proposed this study will begin May 1, 2007 and end November 30, 2007. The draft report will be due on January 31, 2008 with comments on the draft due by February 14, 2008. The final report will be completed on March 1, 2008.

Study Plan 7

7.6 Level of Effort and Costs

Baker County asserts that the project area has been disturbed and that there are no Historic-era properties in the Project Boundary. The likelihood that archaeological sites exist within the APE are remote. To comply with state and federal rules and regulation is imperative. We believe that if a literature review and pedestrian survey confirm these

facts, this is a much more cost-effective way of ascertaining the existence of any Archaeological and Historic-era Properties. We intend to collaborate with all relevant resource agencies on the scope of the work.

If any sites are found in this survey, Baker County agrees to work with all interested parties on a more intensive field study.

It is proposed this study will begin May 1, 2007 and end November 30, 2007. The draft report will be due on January 15, 2008 with comments on the draft due by February 14, 2008. The final report will be completed on March 1, 2008.

To the following:

Study Plan 6

6.8 Level of Effort and Cost

The project is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA and as such Section 106 Compliance is a Federal requirement for the issuance of a FERC license.

It is proposed this study will begin **May 1, 2008** and end **November 30, 2008**. The draft report will be due on **January 31, 2009** with comments on the draft due by **February 28, 2009**. The final report will be completed on **March 31, 2009**.

Study Plan 7

7.6 Level of Effort and Costs

Baker County asserts that the project area has been disturbed and that there are no Historic-era properties in the Project Boundary. The likelihood that archaeological sites exist within the APE are remote. To comply with state and federal rules and regulation is imperative. We believe that if a literature review and pedestrian survey confirm these facts, this is a much more cost-effective way of ascertaining the existence of any Archaeological and Historic-era Properties. We intend to collaborate with all relevant resource agencies on the scope of the work.

If any sites are found in this survey, Baker County agrees to work with all interested parties on a more intensive field study.

It is proposed this study will begin **May 1, 2008** and end **November 30, 2008**. The draft report will be due on **January 31, 2009** with comments on the draft due by **February 28, 2009**. The final report will be completed on **March 31, 2009**.

We thank you for your consideration of the above amendments to the study plans.

Study Plan 3 and 5 Draft Reports

Attached are the draft reports for Study plan 3 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species Assessment and Study plan 5 Recreation Visitor Survey and Use Study.

Study Plan 1 and 2 Draft Reports

The draft reports for Study plan 1 Dissolved Oxygen, Water Quality and Temperature Assessment and Study plan 2 Vegetation, Rare Plant and Noxious Weed will be submitted by January 31, 2008 if not sooner. I am meeting with ODEQ to discuss study plan 1 on the 15th of January.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Yencopal".

Jason Yencopal
Baker County Project Manager
1995 Third Street
Baker City, OR. 97814