



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

JAN 17 2017

Mr. Jim Waddell
289 Ocean Cove Lane
Port Angeles, Washington 98363

Dear Mr. Waddell:

This is in response to your letter co-signed with Ms. Sharon Grace, regarding immediate action to breach the four lower Snake River dams. An identical letter is being provided to Ms. Grace. I apologize for the delay in responding.

As you note in your letter, the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon issued an Opinion and Order on May 4, 2016. The Order directs the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for operation and maintenance of the Federal Columbia River Power System. It emphasizes that the EIS prepared by the Corps and Reclamation should take a "hard look" at all reasonable alternatives, associated potential environmental effects, and ensure meaningful public involvement in the process; that hard look specifically mentions removing the four Snake River dams. **The 2002 Lower Snake River Feasibility Report (FR/EIS) also mentions dam removal as an alternative; the other alternatives from that FR/EIS are the basis for ongoing mitigation actions.**

The Corps is committed to conducting a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that is consistent with the guidance in the Order and satisfies Federal laws and regulations; the Corps will be accepting public input on issues to consider and will analyze all alternatives in its upcoming NEPA process to determine the appropriate way forward. Meanwhile it is also **committed to following the guidance in the 2002 FR/EIS as a framework for its actions, which includes ongoing assessments as to the efficacy of the alternatives it has implemented to date; the results of those assessments will inform our next steps while the NEPA process is underway, and the NEPA process itself.**

Thank you for continued interest in the Snake River dams.

Very truly yours,

Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)