



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

August 6, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Waddell:

This is in response to your letter advocating for immediate action to decommission or breach the four lower Snake River dams in southeast Washington. Acting Assistant Secretary Pinkham asked that I respond directly to you on this matter.

As you know, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration completed a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for operation and maintenance of the Columbia River System (CRS), wherein the preferred alternative did not include breaching these dams. The full final EIS may be found at <https://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/CRSO/Final-EIS/>. For a detailed explanation to your concerns, I would direct you to the Corps' Northwestern Division CRS Operations EIS staff if you haven't previously consulted with them.

As previously discussed, to inform its decision, the Corps conducted a robust and transparent NEPA process with input from the public, stakeholders, cooperating agencies, and others with special expertise, including tribes. The co-lead agencies selected senior staff from across the country with expertise in their fields to serve on the EIS team and provided reviews with regional experts as well as Corps' Centers of Expertise. Additionally, the entire document, analyses, and modeling were reviewed following an Independent External Peer Review process that meets the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circular on peer review requirements under the Information Quality Act, the Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review by the OMB, and standards of the National Academy of Sciences independent peer review. Public, agency and tribal comments helped to identify areas that needed clarity or correct, and new discussion in the document reflect public comments and the result of independent external review.

Thank you for your support of the Army Civil Works program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "V-F Stewart III".

Vance F. Stewart, III
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
of the Army (Civil Works)