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November 7, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC, 20585

Via: USPS with 11 additional enclosures

Re: Immediate term action path to propel system optimization; resolve crises and fiscal imbalance stemming from Lower Snake River dams.

Dear Secretary Granholm,

I'm writing to provide you with a proposal and correspondence sent to President Biden in July 2021 and September 2022 respectively, regarding the Lower Snake River dams in Washington state.

I'm a retired professional engineer (for 35 years) with USACE and a former high level policy advisor in the USACE headquarters. I was Deputy District Engineer for Program Management for USACE's 700-person Walla Walla District where the Lower Snake River dams are located.

The proposal, supported by senior subject matter experts and leaders, provides for achievable action required in the immediate term to resolve crises and fiscal imbalance stemming from these dams. It viably informs the executive pathway for the solution and obligations that are no longer avoidable, including with consideration of the federal mediation process now confronting Columbia Basin salmon & steelhead recovery.

The Lower Snake River issue is paramount and critically urgent for the Northwest United States and North Pacific Ocean life. Despite a veneer of complexity, it is not intractable or deferrable. The evidence, obligations and public awareness are converging on remedy in the short term,

which the Bonneville Power Administration must be prepared for under your guidance. Bonneville currently holds the amount of surplus revenue to cover the cost requirements associated with dam retirement. However this ledger balance cannot be expected to recur. It is notable that Bonneville has often stated its goal to preserve and protect the hydro system, which is inconsistent with optimizing the system with renewables and retiring underperforming projects such as the Lower Snake River dams to yield benefits, including for economics and grid space. As the Secretary of Energy, your attention and supervision are crucial to restoring workable management of socioeconomic imperatives and critically endangered keystone species that have run out of time. And not least, to address this site of uncatalogued but very real-life methane emissions.

I thank you for your career of forward-thinking energy and public policy initiatives and request the following:

- That you review the enclosed materials, allowing room to consider that a practical and timely solution is within means today and confers value in legitimate alignment with frameworks of federal and state planning for security, resilience and economic prosperity.
- Due to necessity in urgency, that your office contact me to schedule a meeting with you, to take place within the next 30 days in order to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Waddell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Waddell
Civil Engineer, PE USACE Retired
Public Utility Commissioner

Note: I am a Commissioner of Clallam County PUD in Washington State, although I am not representing my PUD in this communication.

11 Enclosures:

Request for Executive Action—Tribal Justice and the July 2022 NOAA Fisheries' Draft Report Require Immediate Lower Snake River Dam Breaching to Prevent Snake River Salmon Extinction. Letter to President Biden, October 19, 2022

“Shovel Ready” Executive Action to Create a Win for Native and Rural Americans and Endangered Species, Breaching Lower Snake River Dams Now Opens Up Economic Development in the Northwest. Letter to Biden Administration, July 1, 2021

Lower Snake River Dams Breach Mitigation Plan & Cost. DamSense, December 2020

5 Means for Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams. DamSense, October 2018

An Update to the 2016 Paper, ‘The Lower Snake River Reservoirs Generate Significant Amounts of Methane, a Potent Greenhouse Gas.’ DamSense, 2020

2002 Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement. USACE Walla Walla District webpage.

Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead. NOAA, July 11, 2022

Requirements and availability of prey for northeastern pacific southern resident killer whales. Couture et al. June 27, 2022

Rule-Making Order. WDFW Emergency for Southern Resident killer whales, June 30, 2022

WDFW webpage alert on emergency order for Southern Resident killer whales, June 30, 2022

Columbia River Basin Fisheries: Working Together to Develop a Path Forward. The White House, March 28, 2022