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March 6, 2023

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

Via: email and USPS with 12 additional enclosures

**Re: Request meeting; follow up to November 7, 2022 letter: Immediate term action path to propel system optimization; resolve crises and fiscal imbalance stemming from Lower Snake River dams.**

Dear Secretary Granholm,

I'm following up to my letter sent to you regarding the Lower Snake River dams in Washington State, referenced above, in urgent request of a meeting with you to convey a course of remedy. I have comprehensive expertise of this infrastructure and related policy as a retired professional engineer with USACE, a former high level policy advisor in the USACE headquarters, and having overseen Program Management for these hydro projects.

We are at the inflection point in the existence of impacted keystone species and tremendous costs in *required* efforts to save them as the Northwest power sector is undergoing enormous and novel transformation while overladen with these four inefficient projects. They are undermining statutory low cost power, system optimization, and relief for species that by law must receive equitable treatment but are now facing imminent extinction. This is of great consequence to millions of people as new 20-year contracts with the Bonneville Power Administration are being formed.

The people and science of the Northwest are calling forthright to breach the dams in time for the species. In the enclosed September 30, 2022 report, NOAA states that, “most urgent” is “an *expedited pathway* to mainstem lower Snake River restoration” which “requires dam breaching” that “specifically refers to removing the earthen portion of each dam”. (Emphasis added)

It is crucial that you’re aware and have access to mechanisms for a timely remedy and in striving to transition into meeting climate, tribal and environmental directives that are priorities of the Biden administration. These are targets your principles and objectives are clearly parceled with and can be effectuated by what I have to brief you on.

There is an abundance of new analyses and information showing these dams are not serving authorized purposes nor generating the benefits they were intended to provide, while also emitting unchecked methane. We’re skirting the point when restoration and recovery, and its significant environmental, social, and economic benefits will be forever lost. Therefore please accept my request for a call, as I would like to confer with you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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.

12 Enclosures:

[Immediate term action path to propel system optimization; resolve crises and fiscal imbalance stemming from Lower Snake River dams.](#) Letter to Secretary Granholm, November 7, 2022

[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, September 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.  
<https://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Library/2002-LSR-Study/>

[Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead.](#) NOAA, September 30, 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