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February 12, 2013

Columbia River Treaty Review (DKE)
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 14428
Portland OR, 97293

Re: CRT Review Comments "Flood Risk"

Dear CRT Review Committee

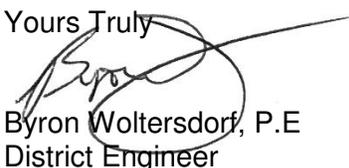
Thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspectives on the potential impact of the two scenarios provided and the opportunity to give guidance of how the U.S. should proceed with the treaty. The Multnomah County Drainage District #1 (MCDD) has a primary mission of flood protection; therefore our review will focus principally on the risks associated with increased flow levels.

The 600kcfs flow and treaty sunset scenario does pose a greater risk to flood prone areas and those areas protected by civil flood protection works. Higher flows and longer durations produce hazards that can be catastrophic to the communities that rely on them for protection. Improvement of the flood reduction structures would be required for the increased flows in order to protect the communities that live behind them. This scenario will most likely meet flow targets for fish and keep the river temperature cooler. There still needs to be additional study, but the preliminary data supports further discovery of consequences and benefits. This improvement would be a costly endeavor but the long term financial and environmental gains could be substantial.

The scenario that releases 450kcfs of flow regardless of treaty status after 2024 seems to be problematic where flood control is concerned. Unlike the 600k scenario storage volume behind U.S. dams does not have capacity for large events therefore requiring the need of call upon storage from Canada. In the 450kcfs scenario the flood risk may be less than that of the 600kcfs flows, but the environmental gains are not seen either.

It is the Districts opinion, with the right improvements to the flood reduction system the 600kcfs could yield more benefits to the U.S., however this does not come without some cost and close studies.

Yours Truly


Byron Woltersdorf, P.E.
District Engineer