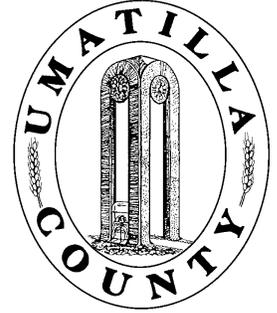


Umatilla County

Board of County Commissioners



Commissioners

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Date: May 30, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

To: Mr. Steve Oliver, and Mr. Rick Pendergrass
Bonneville Power Administration
U.S. Entity Coordinator, Columbia River Treaty

Mr. Dave Ponganis and Mr. Jim Barton
United States Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Entity Coordinator, Columbia River Treaty

From: Board of County Commissioners, Umatilla County

Subject: Comments on the Columbia River Treaty Review

As a unit of local government in the Umatilla Basin and Mid-Columbia region, we have a strong interest in the upcoming process regarding renewal, amendment or termination of the Columbia River Treaty (CRT). Umatilla County's historic, cultural and economic base is unequivocally connected to the river and the Treaty. We are keenly aware of potential after-effects on the northeastern Oregon economy, including but not limited to, power rates, navigation, flood control, recreation and consumptive uses (water supplies).

In our view, the Canadian Entitlement warrants consideration. Should a decision be made to amend the Canadian Entitlement, coordination with the State of Oregon could result in multi-beneficial projects that would assist BPA and the Corps of Engineers to allocate flows that would no longer be delegated to Canada. We request that strong consideration be given to additional infrastructure development in the United States, versus a continuation of the full current entitlement that Canada enjoys.

Additionally, we understand that detailed plans, technical work and engineering studies may be required if the current provisions of the CRT are to be changed. We respect the sensitivity, complexity and scope of such undertakings. But, we feel that the purpose at this point is to negotiate for the best outcomes for U.S. citizens in the event of either amendment or termination. So, we request continued outreach and coordination with affected states and local governments as these detailed studies progress

Lastly, we would like to express our strong reservations about the addition of further obligations that would bind the U.S. Federal Columbia River hydropower and water management agencies in these separate areas: additional fish "mitigation" measures; new "Ecosystem Management" stipulations that would further restrict hydroelectric power production, or increase the costs to rate payers, or restrict incremental increases to water supply diversions for industrial, municipal, or high-efficiency irrigation purposes.

TO SUMMARIZE:

1. We support renewal of the Treaty.
2. We support appropriate modifications that address upstream storage of water for timely release to be used downstream (especially in the Umatilla River Basin) to optimize agricultural production opportunities.
3. We believe that the suggestions we are forwarding are in the best interests of the citizens in our Basin. You may be receiving additional comment from many of them.
4. We want to remain engaged in the review process in a helpful and meaningful way.

Respectfully,



Larry Givens



William J. Elfering



Dennis D. Doherty