

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Statement of Agreement on Combining the Downstream Passage Alternatives Action, Progress and Implementation, Fish Operation and Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Plans and Reports into a single document and filing an annual report with FERC on April 15th of each year

Submitted to the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: February 29, 2012

Approved by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: February 29, 2012

Statement: Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee agrees to modify the current reporting schedule for the Downstream Passage Alternatives Action, Progress and Implementation, Fish Operation and Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Plans and Reports from February 15th to April 15th of each year and agrees to the combination of the various reports and plans identified below into a single document. By combining the various plans and reports into a single document and moving the reporting date to April 15 of each year, the PRCC and Grant PUD will be able to more thoroughly review the previous year's information as well as the upcoming year's planned operations and activities. Ultimately, this will result in a more efficient and rigorous process.

Background: There are various conditions of the Priest Rapids Project license (No. 2114) found in within the Washington Department of Ecology's (WDOE) water quality certification, National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) fishway prescriptions, NMFS' terms and conditions in the incidental take statement for upper Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead, and FWS' terms and conditions in the incidental take statement for bull trout that require Grant PUD to prepare plans in consultation with other entities for approval by WDOE, NMFS, FWS and/or the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee. The plans/reports that Grant PUD proposes to combine into a single document and modify the reporting date are listed below;

1. Downstream Passage Alternatives Action Plan: On May 8, 2009, Grant PUD filed the Downstream Passage Alternatives Action Plan (DPAAP) pursuant to license Article 401(a)(1), Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) Condition 6.2(1), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Section 18 Fishway Prescription Conditions 8 and 14, and NMFS's Incidental Take Statement (ITS) Terms and Conditions 1.2 and 1.11 under the April 17, 2008 Order Issuing New License¹ for the Priest Rapids Project. Grant PUD also included with the DPAAP, the Priest Rapids Dam Alternative Spill Measures and Evaluation Plan pursuant to license Article 401(a)(8), WDOE 401 WQC Condition 6.2(1), FWS and NMFS Section 18 Fishway Prescription Condition 16, and NMFS's ITS Condition 1.13. Additionally, the DPAAP included the Wanapum Dam Interim Spill Regime Evaluation Plan pursuant to license Article 401(a)(9), WDOE 401 WQC Condition 6.2(1), FWS and NMFS Section 18 Fishway Prescription Condition 11, and NMFS's ITS Condition 1.6. FERC issued and order modifying and approving the DPAAP on October 23, 2009. Per FERC license Article 401(a)(1), Grant PUD is required to file the DPAAP for FERC review and approval by or on February 15th of each calendar year.
2. Performance Evaluation Program or Progress and Implementation (P&I): The P&I Plan requires Grant PUD to prepare an annual summary report of progress under the requirements of the BiOp. The report is required to reflect all activities and progress during the previous calendar year. The purpose of the program is to provide a reliable technical basis to assess the degree to which Grant PUD is improving juvenile and adult passage survivals, habitat productivity improvements,

¹ 123 FERC ¶ 61,049 (2008)

and supplementation for the listed anadromous fishery resources affected by the Project. Within the annual report, Grant PUD is required to also include results of monitoring, modeling, or other analyses that take place in the calendar year to evaluate the degree to which the actions are likely to improve juvenile and adult survivals. The P&I report is required under FERC License Article 401(a)(2), term and condition 1.33 of the 2008 NMFS BiOp, NMFS and USFWS fishway prescription (24) and the water quality certification (Section 6.2(1)) for the Priest Rapids project. Grant PUD is required to provide the P&I to NOAA Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the PRCC by no later than February 15th of each year to assist in systems operational planning for that year.

3. Fisheries Operations Plan: On January 20, 2009, Grant PUD filed its' Fishery Operations Plan pursuant to license Article 404 of FERC's April 17, 2008 Order Issuing New License for the Priest Rapids Project.² FERC issued an order modifying and approving the Fishery Operation Plan on May 27, 2009 and required Grant PUD to file an annual report detailing fisheries related operations from the previous year. Grant PUD was required to include, but not be limited to the following: (a) descriptions of fisheries-related operating criteria that are modified from the original Fishery Operations Plan for the project turbines, the unit No. 11 fish passage facility, fishways, spillways, and sluiceways; (b) rationale for why changes were adopted and the effectiveness of these modifications in safely passing fish; and (c) an annual schedule for operation. The order also required Grant PUD to the report to members of the PRCC and PRFF and allow for a minimum of 30 days to comment before filing the report with FERC by February 15 of each year.
4. Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Plans: Through various orders issued by FERC in last 2011 and early 2012, Grant PUD is required to report the monitoring and evaluation results of its hatchery programs to FERC. On January 26, 2011, Grant PUD submitted a compliance filing for the HGMP/APP to FERC stating that under license article 401(a)(2) Progress and Implementation Plan (P&I) that Grant PUD included the reporting for the hatchery program monitoring results in the P&I which is due to FERC on February 15, 2012. Grant requested that FERC refer to the P&I to meet the reporting requirements for license article LA 401(a)(4).

² Order Issuing New License. Issued April 17, 2008. 123 FERC ¶ 61,049.