



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE**
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Columbia Basin Branch
304 South Water Street, Suite 201
Ellensburg, Washington 98926

August 3, 2017

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Enloe Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 12569)
Request for Reinitiation of Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

Dear Secretary Bose:

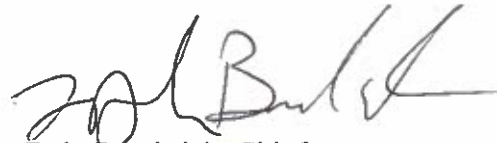
On February 26, 2010, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) filed its preliminary recommended terms and conditions under section 10(j) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) for a new proposed license for the Enloe Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 12569, hereafter Project), located on the Similkameen River near the City of Oroville in Okanogan County, Washington. While NMFS did not prescribe fishways at that time, we did reserve our authority to prescribe fish passage under section 18 of the FPA. On September 27, 2012, NMFS completed its Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7 consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on issuance of a new license for the Project. The new license was issued by FERC on July 9, 2013.

Since the license was issued, it has been brought to our attention that Chinook salmon have been observed jumping at the base of the dam, demonstrating that salmon can navigate the falls roughly 300 feet downstream of the dam. The ESA-listed species present near the Project is Upper Columbia River steelhead. As steelhead are normally better leapers than Chinook salmon, if Chinook salmon can navigate the falls then it is very likely that steelhead are doing so. In light of this new information, we request that FERC reinitiate ESA section 7 consultation for Upper Columbia River steelhead.



If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please contact me at (509) 962-8911 ext. 802, or email: dale.bambrick@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Bambrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dale" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bambrick".

Dale Bambrick, Chief
Columbia Basin Branch
NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region

cc: Jeff Krupka, Branch Manager, USFWS, Wenatchee (Jeff_Krupka@fws.gov)
Scott Vejraska, President, Okanogan PUD (scottv@okpud.org)