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## **BAKER RIVER PROJECT RELICENSE**

### **Hydrological & Water Resources Working Group**

September 14, 2000

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cottontree Inn  
2401 Riverside Drive  
Mount Vernon, WA

### **AGENDA**

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| 1. Review/revise agenda and minutes                                     |
| 2. Introductions  |
| 3. Review action items  |
| 4. Tour debrief   |
| 5. Review draft of communication protocol and draft procedures document |
| 6. Presentation by Ed Schild and Joel Molander of Puget Sound Energy    |
| 7. Continue interests and issues development                            |
| 8. Evaluate meeting   |



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### MEETING NOTES

**\*\*\*\*\* LOCATION OF OCTOBER 12 MEETING: Skagit Valley Community College, Board Room, CA-118 (Administrative Annex), 2405 E. College Way, Mt. Vernon, WA.**

**Team Leader:** Ken Brettmann (Puget Sound Energy) (425) 462-3092, kebret@puget.com

**PRESENT:** Ken Brettmann (PSE), Gary Sprague (WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife), Stan Walsh (Skagit System Cooperative), Rod Sakrison (WA Dept. of Ecology), Bob Newman (WA Dept. of Ecology), Jerry Louthain Consultant to City of Anacortes, and Skagit PUD (Economic & Engineering Services, Inc.), Phil Hilgert (R2 Resource Consulting), Bob Barnes (PSE), Fred Seavey, (USFWS), Lloyd Pernela (PSE), Joel Molander (PSE), Ed Schild (PSE), Lyn Wiltse, facilitator (PDSA Consulting).

### INTRODUCTIONS

Team members introduced themselves to visitors: Ed Schild, Director of Energy Production and Storage, Joel Molander, Asset Manager for Hydro Operations, and Lloyd Pernela, newly hired PSE Licensing manager. Ken Brettmann will assume the team leader responsibility replacing Bob Barnes. Bob will continue to be a technical resource.

### ACTION ITEMS

- All ---review communication, protocol and legal and policy review and procedures document drafts on website and provide legal and policy-related feedback to PSE at your earliest convenience.
- Rod: --- Check with ID team re: their process
- Fred: --- Bring sample models for structure
- Bob --- Will transfer his tasks to new team leader, Ken.

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- Ken---Will update list of contacts from Bob.
  - Rod ---Will give Ken contact information on Department of Commerce, Trade and Economic Development
  - Bob ---Contact Army Corps/County re: flood control presentation
  - All ---Review list of issues/interests and circle ones you want to own.

**TOUR DEBRIEF :** Those who attended said the tour was very complete. Ken distributed a sign-up sheet for those who were unable to attend, so we can schedule a make-up date.

## **PSE PRESENTATION**

Ed thanked the group for their energy and participation over the last few months. Joel gave an overview of how investor owned utilities operate. Ed concluded the presentation by discussing the idea of collaboration. He recommended the following article:

“Collaborative Processes for Improving Land Stewardship and Sustainability,”  
by Mark Hummel and Bruce Freet, Ecological Stewardship: A Common Reference for Ecosystems Management, Volume I-III . Editors: N.C. Johnson, A.J. Malk, W.T. Sexton, R.C. Szaro. Publisher: Elsevier Science Ltd., Netherlands, 1999.

Pending copyright issues, PSE will make copies of the article to distribute at the October meeting. Ed also shared PSE’s interests with the group. He stressed his support of the collaborative process and asked team members to give him a call at any time if they have questions. His direct number is 425-462-3022. The question was raised re: PSE’s plans for potential structural modifications to increase power production at the Baker River Project. The only thing that may be on the horizon is possibly adding another turbine at Lower Baker (The new turbine would likely tap off the existing penstock). Handouts of the presentation were distributed and will be available on the website.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The RESOLVE Training addresses issues and interests and decision making styles within the collaborative process. This training is suggested for all working group members and IS REQUIRED for Solution Team Members. Dates for the training are Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at the U.S. Forest Service Office at Mountlake Terrace and on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at Cottontree Inn, Mount Vernon, WA. Team leaders will be calling all interested parties and asking them which date works best for them to attend the training. There is a limit of 40 participants in each training. The sessions will run from 9:00 to 4:00 and lunch will be provided. In the meantime, Ken distributed up a sign-up sheet for those who were ready to sign up.

## **ISSUES/INTERESTS**

The team did not add to the list of issues and interests already developed. They will continue with this process at the November meeting (after the RESOLVE Training).

### **Interests**

- Protection, preservation, perpetuation, of fish and wildlife and habitats
- Fish don’t get stranded
- Economic viability

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- Flood control
  - Fulfilling legal mandates (CWA, CZMA, FPA)
  - Combo of CWA and CZMA, FPA, and ESA, FWCA, Forest and Park, ...
  - Impacts on terrestrial, water quality, aquatic resources, and recreational resources
  - Loss of spawning habitat
  - Loss of access to tributaries
  - Loss of habitat
  - Protection of life and property
  - Consequences of operating the reservoir to provide flood protection
  - Loss of natural stream processes
  - Protection of existing water rights
  - Time constraints- I might be left out of the process
  - Town of Concrete and Skagit Valley municipalities meeting financial and legal responsibilities
  - Potential loss of cultural, recreational, and natural resources
  - Drinking water quality
  - Possible conflicting outcomes due to multiple simultaneous processes external to re-licensing

#### Issues

- Lake productivity, limnology
- Minimum flows
- Marine derived nutrients
- Ramping rates
- Relationship between flood control and water level manipulations for (reservoir) impoundments (ecological considerations)
- Erosion
- Recreational considerations
- Fish migration (upstream and down)
- Water releases for restoration projects
- Impacts of operation on water flow (moved to issues, from interests)
- Potential contaminant sources in basin for snow chemistry, air pollution, recreation impacts to water quality.
- Parameter Effects (pH, etc.)
  - Impacts on water quality
  - Impacts of reservoir operations
- Watershed discharge rate (peak and low flow)
  - From land use
  - Impacts water quality
- Impacts of glacial flux on flow and water quality relationships to project operations

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## **PARKING LOT**

- Communication Plan to enlist “reluctant” members
- Reservoir/watershed:
- “Hydrology 101”
- Consider moving meeting locations around—closer to Olympia

## **EVALUATION OF MEETING**

Well Dones: PSE presentation

Half & half

Good nibbles

Good location/nice meeting room

Need to improve:

Ran over

Started late

Good to find meeting places that don't cost.

## **TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

**October 12, 2000 Agenda**

**9:30 - 12:30**

**Skagit Valley Community College, Board Room, CA-118 (Administrative Annex), 2405 E. College Way, Mt. Vernon, WA.**

**(THIS WILL BE A COMBINED MEETING OF THE HYDRO AND FISH WORKING GROUPS)**

1. Review/revise minutes
2. Introductions
3. Action Items
4. Hydro 101 Presentation (Bob Barnes)
5. Presentation on flood control by Corps/County?
6. Continue to work on interests/issues
7. Evaluate meeting
8. Set agenda for next meeting.