



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-2255

ENERGY PRODUCTION
FEB 02 2004
AND STORAGE

CENWS-PM-PL

February 2, 2004

Economics/Operation Working Group
Baker Relicensing Project

To the Economics/Operations Working Group:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify for the Econ/Ops Working Group the Corps' interest in flood control storage at the Upper and Lower Baker Projects. The Corps' primary interest is to insure that the existing level of flood control at the Baker projects, 74,000 acre feet available storage as noted in Article 32, is not reduced.

Secondly, the Corps has a strong interest in the potential for additional flood control storage at Upper and Lower Baker. The Corps is currently performing a review of the supporting documentation used to calculate the inflow hydrographs in the Baker River basin to determine whether the hydrologic analysis may have understated the contribution of flow into the Baker system. We will then review the operations of both the Upper and Lower Baker projects to determine if significant downstream flood reduction benefits are available from modified storage and operation of the Baker Dams during flood events.

The Corps will continue evaluation of the potential for reservoir storage at the Baker projects along with other flood damage reduction alternatives elsewhere in the Skagit basin. The Corps will evaluate associated economic hydropower impacts and structural/maintenance requirements for storage, as well as the environmental and social impacts and mitigation needs.

The Skagit River Valley has experienced some of the worst flooding in Washington. The Corps wishes to express its continued strong support to implementing a flood damage reduction project for the Skagit River that is economically, socially, and environmentally

acceptable and conforms with Federal planning guidelines.



Linda Smith
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CC:
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