

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2114-208—Washington
Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project
Public Utility District No. 2 of
Grant County, Washington

Ms. Kelly Larimer
Public Utility District No. 2
of Grant County
P.O. Box 878
Ephrata, WA 98823

MAR 10 2010

Re: Article 419 – Shoreline Management Plan – Crescent Bar Island

Dear Ms. Larimer:

This letter is in reference to your shoreline management plan (SMP) filed on March 2, 2010, pursuant to article 419 of the license for the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2114).¹ The project is located on the mid-Columbia River, in portions of Grant, Yakima, Kittitas, Douglas, Benton, and Chelan Counties Washington, and occupies approximately 3,052 acres of federal lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Army, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Energy.

Article 419 of the project license requires you to file, for Commission approval, and SMP to protect the scenic quality of the mid-Columbia River. Among other things, article 419 requires that provisions for the following be included in the SMP to protect and enhance Crescent Bar Island: (1) a trail; (2) dredging the existing boat channel and lengthening the existing boat launch; (3) removing six existing recreational vehicle campsites; (4) a directional sign; (5) picnic tables; (6) a vault toilet; and (7) a map that clearly identifies the location of project recreation sites, including the trail and its length, as well as the existing disturbed footprint. You are also required to include a construction schedule, cost estimates for construction and maintenance of the facilities, provisions for soil erosion and sediment control measures as required by license article 303, and a discussion of how the universal accessibility has been considered in the planning and design of the facilities. Article 419 requires that Crescent Bar Island be managed under the Planned Development and Conservation land use classifications, and that no further development, except for the trail, shall occur beyond the existing disturbed footprint.

¹ See Order Issuing New License (123 FERC ¶ 61,049), issued April 17, 2008.

Your filing indicates (page 4) that the measures required by article 419 to improve public recreation access, and protect and enhance wildlife habitat and scenic quality at Crescent Bar Island would occur after the final lease with the Port of Quincy expires in 2012. Further, the proposed SMP indicates that you plan to implement the recreation enhancements at Crescent Bar Island under the recreation resource management plan (RRMP) required by article 418, and have submitted an application with the Commission proposing to amend the RRMP accordingly.²

Upon review of your filing, we have determined an immediate need for information necessary to complete our review of your application. Specifically, we need a better understanding of your intended proposals with respect to improving public recreation access and use, and protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat and scenic quality of Crescent Bar Island upon expiration of the existing leases in 2012. In this regard, please note that the Commission does not condone residential development and occupancy of project lands, since such residential use is inconsistent with the Commission's policy of maximizing public recreational development.³ Consequently, your plan must demonstrate compliance with the Commission's policies on this issue. To address this issue, you should file a plan and schedule which outlines how you will accomplish the goals set by article 419 with regard to Crescent Bar Island.

Please file an original and 8 copies of the requested information by April 30, 2010, with:

The Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code: DHAC PJ-12.1
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Christopher Yeakel at (202)-502-8132.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Fletcher
Chief, Land Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower
Administration and Compliance

² See SMP at p. 4. The application to amend the RRMP was filed on February 26, 2010, and will be addressed in a separate proceeding.

³ 18 C.F.R. § 2.7