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From the desk of*Dick Adams*

Columbia River Treaty Review in the Final Lap

Since I last checked in with you the activity surrounding the U.S. Entity's recommendation to the U.S. Department of State on the future of the Columbia River Treaty has reached full throttle. The U.S. Entity released its Draft Recommendation on September 20th and is asking for feedback by October 25th. In tandem they are trying to build momentum for broader regional support of their proposal and are in the midst of another set of regional public meetings that will wrap up next week.

One more face-to-face opportunity. In addition to offering written reactions to the Draft Recommendation you are encouraged to join the Corps and Bonneville for another discussion on what they will be presenting to the U.S. Department of State in December. The final two public discussions are next week – October 15th in Olympia and October 16th in Portland. You can join them in person or electronically to share your ideas. The meeting details are on the Columbia River Treaty Review website, www.crt2014-2024review.gov.

PNUCC continuing our course. While we share the U.S. Entity's goal for broad regional support of their recommendation, I'm cautious about the region's ability to reach that finish line. There are a multitude of stakeholders seeking a recommendation that promotes their interests. The PNUCC Board is working on their reaction to the final draft as well. We will continue to drive for a modernized Treaty that establishes the greatest possible shared downstream power benefits for both the U.S. and Canada, maintains flood protection at current levels post-2024, and maximizes power system reliability and flexibility for both countries.

Wrapped around the axle on ecosystem. There is a great deal of confusion on what and how Canadian storage is used to address ecosystem concerns. The fact is today's river operations, utilizing Canadian storage, are designed to enhance fish populations in the Northwest. These efforts should continue as long as the science shows they work. We need to keep the focus in the international conversations about how much Canadian storage is available for us to use. The existing forums in the U.S. should continue as the places for deciding how best to balance the competing uses for the water.

So as we turn the corner on this final lap, take a moment to let the U.S. Entity know what is important to you and your customers regarding the future of the Columbia River Treaty. And I will keep you apprised as the conversation moves to the Department of State.

Stay tuned...



Dick Adams
Executive Director