



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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February 18, 2020

Steve Wright  
General Manager  
Public Utility No. 1 of Chelan County  
PO Box 1231  
Wenatchee, WA 98807

Re: Response to a request for modification for the aquatic life designated use and associated temperature and dissolved oxygen criteria for the Chelan River

Dear Steve Wright:

Thank you for the Public Utility No. 1 of Chelan County (Chelan PUD) submittal of the proposed use attainability analysis (UAA) for the Chelan River dated December 20, 2019. We have reviewed the submittal document, "Chelan River Use Attainability Analysis and Site-specific Criteria Development" (UAA Report) and concluded that the information provided is sufficient to proceed toward a rulemaking in accordance with Chapter 173-201A-440 WAC. Our next step will be to gain the necessary approvals to initiate a rulemaking.

I appreciate the collaborative manner in which Water Quality Program staff, EPA Region 10 staff, Chelan PUD staff, and others have engaged to implement the conditions of the Lake Chelan Hydroelectric Project (Project) 401 Water Quality Certification (401 WQC). The agreements and implementation strategies that have grown from the 401 certification compliance discussions, the Chelan River Evaluation and Implementation Plan (CRBEIP), and the ten year adaptive management program are important gains for increasing the protections of aquatic life within the Project area. Chelan PUD's UAA submittal is an important next step to support the Project's habitat improvement efforts and 401 WQC compliance.

Determining the highest attainable use for the Chelan River that is enjoying returned annual flows and newly constructed habitat is a unique challenge. Our staff look forward to continued collaboration with Chelan PUD and EPA as the Department of Ecology (Ecology) works to evaluate the UAA report. We will also provide notice and consult with interested affected Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis, and carefully consider their recommendations.

The Water Quality Standards staff are in the process of prioritizing our rulemaking needs, and have included the Chelan River UAA in that schedule development. We hope to initiate the public process for this rulemaking with a rule announcement (CR-101) later this year.



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This decision to announce a CR-101 must first be approved by Ecology's Director. We will continue to work closely with Chelan PUD staff on this project and will keep your team informed of our schedule and decisions regarding this submittal.

If you have any questions, please feel free contact to me at (360) 407-6489 or Melissa Gildersleeve, at [melissa.gildersleeve@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:melissa.gildersleeve@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-6461.

Sincerely,



David Giglio  
Water Quality Program Manager (Acting)

cc: David Bowen, Water Quality Section Manager, Central Regional Office