



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274
June 23, 2010

Bo Pham
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Re: Columbia Generating Station license renewal, request for species list for consultation.

Dear Mr. Pham:

This letter responds to your May 3, 2010 request for a list of species to be considered in Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) consultations on your proposed license renewal action for the Columbia Generating Station. This letter also clarifies how NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) intends to manage this consultation.

The Columbia Generating Station is located along the Columbia River near Richland, Washington. Through the intake of water from the Columbia River for cooling and the discharge of waste water from the plant to the river, the project has the potential to affect anadromous fish that may occur in the vicinity of the plant's freshwater intake and wastewater release works. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act likely to occur in these areas are:

- Upper Columbia River (UCR) spring Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*; listed as endangered on June 28, 2005 [70 FR 37160]); critical habitat designated on September 2, 2005 [70 FR 52630], and
- Upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead (*O. mykiss*; listed as endangered on August 24, 2009 [74 FR 42605]); critical habitat designated on September 2, 2005 [70 FR 52630].

This letter constitutes the required notification that Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under NMFS jurisdiction are present within the area affected by this project and may be affected by the proposed action.

Please refer to Section 7 of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 402) for information on interagency consultation. Additional information on listed species' distribution, copies of Federal Register documents designating listed species status, and links to various ESA consultation policies and tools may be found on our website at: www.nwr.noaa.gov.

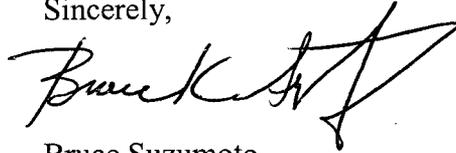
Concerning the MSA, the Columbia River, in the plant vicinity, provides essential fish habitat features for both Upper Columbia River Chinook and coho salmon (currently an unlisted reintroduction effort). Water withdrawal and wastewater disposal operations at the project have the potential to adversely affect essential fish habitat for these species. As the information



necessary to make the determinations required under ESA are sufficient to support any recommendations under the MSA, we generally conduct these analyses simultaneously using information developed during the ESA consultation. However, as Upper Columbia River coho are not listed under ESA, we request that you include them in any request for concurrence or consultation and assess the likely adverse effects of the project on their essential habitat to facilitate our MSA findings.

NMFS has determined that because the potential effects of the proposed action occur mostly or entirely within the Columbia River and our Hydro Division is most familiar with Columbia River issues, this project will be manned by our Hydro Division staff out of our Portland office. Please send all further correspondence regarding this action to the attention of Rich Domingue, (503) 231-6858 or Richard.Domingue@noaa.gov at this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Suzumoto", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Suzumoto
Assistant Regional Administrator
Hydropower Division