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December 6, 2005

Ms. Melinda Eden, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1020

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Dear Ms. Eden:

The Bonneville Power Administration is currently involved in a competitive and open process to transfer and fund the activities previously conducted by the Fish Passage Center (FPC). Grays Harbor PUD supports this effort by BPA. We believe that a reasoned, unbiased, and scientific approach to data collection is crucial to the sustainability of salmon recovery in the northwest.

As a new Biological Opinion is being developed, it is a critical time in the management of the listed Columbia and Snake River salmon. Many believe that the FPC has shifted to an advocacy role, rather than remaining independent and unbiased. It is imperative that data collection and analysis be conducted in an independent manner, free from advocacy.

Scientific credibility and fiscal accountability are the cornerstones of a sustainable salmon recovery effort in the Northwest. BPA's customers are currently investing more than \$700 million per year in salmon recovery - all of which is passed on in our rates to retail customers. These increased costs have a dramatic impact on the regional economy. There is a limit to what the region can invest in salmon recovery, particularly when there are questions as to whether we are investing in the most cost-effective options available. We owe it to our customers to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely.

BPA's and the Power Council's ongoing efforts to improve the salmon recovery process will benefit the region's salmon resources and help to ensure that the program can be sustained in the long term. We fully support the current effort by BPA in this regard.

I thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of our region.

Sincerely,

Doug Smith
Assistant General Manager
Grays Harbor Public Utility District