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From: Tony DeFalco [mailto: ]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2002 4:27 PM  
To: comments@nwppc.org  
Subject: Draft Mainstem Amendments

December 11, 2002

Mark Walker  
Public Affairs  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
851 SW 6th Ave., Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204  
comments@nwppc.org

Re: Draft Mainstem Amendments (Document 2002-16)

Dear Mr. Walker,

The Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act specifies that the Northwest Power Planning Council (Council) acts to protect, mitigate and enhance the fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat.

The Council's Draft Mainstem Amendments would reduce water flow for salmon in the crucial spring and summer migration months, and possibly eliminate spill events. These two activities are critical in helping to create a minor mitigation of the immense decimation of anadromous fish runs that the dams have created.

It is abundantly clear in the scientific literature, the policy literature and the long-standing efforts of non-governmental environmental groups that anadromous fish are being pushed to the brink of extinction in the Snake River and severely imperiled in the Columbia River. The dams are the primary cause of this situation. It is far past the time to reverse the situation. If, as proposed, water flow reductions are initiated and spills are eliminated, more damage to anadromous fish may occur. "May occur." You might think that given some level of scientific uncertainty, these words equate to a green light to implement some measure that will serve other interests in the power system. It does not.

Salmon and steelhead and the indigenous people who rely on them have paid the price for far too long. No longer should they pay the price so that industry can have cheap electricity and so that power companies can continue to put off the day of transitioning to truly renewable energy. It is simply wrong. It is time to right the mistakes of the past - the destruction of tribes up and down the river, the flooding of the marvelous archaeological finds along the Columbia, the flooding of the globally unique Celilo Falls, the

destruction of the world's finest salmon fishery. All this destruction for a limited set of special interests (the aluminum industry, the navigation industry, the grain industry and the power companies).

The Council and other players in this game have had chances before and will have chances again to make right what has been made wrong. Seize the chance now - increase or maintain spring and summer flows and increase or maintain spill events.

Sincerely,

Tony DeFalco

Portland, OR