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From: Joe O'Rourke [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2003 1:39 PM

To: comments@nwppc.org

Subject: Document 2002-16; Comment on Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program - Mainstem Amendment Proposal

Joe O'Rourke, Plant Manager

[REDACTED]

Columbia Falls, Montana [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Northwest Power Planning Council
Mark Walker, Director of Public Affairs
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204-1348

Wednesday, January 15, 2003

Re: Draft Amendments for the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program
Document 2002-16

Dear Mr. Walker,

I realize that this comment is a day late, but I hope that you will still be able to add it to the record.

I am the Plant Manager at the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Co. sawmill located in Columbia Falls, Montana. Our mill has been in business in this location over 70 years. We currently employ about 125 employees.

I attended the public hearing that was held in Kalispell Montana on December 4, 2002. I did not offer a comment at that time. My assignment then was to learn about the proposed program. I listened carefully to the public comments that were made by various interested citizens as well as to the statements that were made by John Hines and Ed Bartlett.

I believe that the draft Mainstem Amendments proposal is a reasonable and sound approach. It uses the latest scientific findings to support suggested changes that will benefit the human population as well as fish and wildlife populations.

Most of the verbal comments that were made in the Kalispell meeting supported this same conclusion.

In short, I support the Draft Amendments as proposed.

I also appreciate the underlying premise that I sensed in Mr. Hines and Mr. Bartlett and most of the people in the room on that night. There was a general consensus the humans should be considered as a vital part of the water management decisions that will be made in the future. The system must be managed for the good of all affected entities, fish, wildlife and most importantly humans.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,

Joe O'Rourke