

Before dam removal can proceed the state has to determine if state water quality standards will be met. American Whitewater has been involved through the process. Check out the following article for some background: <[  
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/4/>  
>] <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/4/>>. We will be filing comments but for those interested in seeing a new piece of river this is a chance to show your support for dam removal to keep this process moving. Attending the meeting would be great and if you would like to provide input on written comments please let me know. I will post more details sometime next week on the American Whitewater website. For now here's the official press release:

Department of Ecology Press Release -October 3, 2005  
05-244

Public comment invited on Condit environmental report

YAKIMA - The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is accepting comments on a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) that looks at what affects removing Condit Dam might have on the ecology of the White Salmon River in Klickitat County.

The document primarily addresses water quality concerns and is a supplement to environmental impact studies on the proposal by PacifiCorp to remove the hydroelectric project, prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The additional information is needed before the state can make a decision on whether the proposal to remove the dam will meet state water-quality and other environmental mandates. The state must approve water-quality certification and a state construction stormwater permit before the dam can be removed. Ecology hired URS Corporation, a Seattle consulting firm, to independently evaluate the FERC document to determine whether it met state environmental regulations.

"While the FERC document covered most of the issues, more information was needed on both long-term and short-term water-quality concerns surrounding dam removal,"

explained Derek Sandison, central region director for Ecology. "Concerns included how backed-up sediments and debris would be managed, as well as what effects dam removal would have on wetlands, endangered fish and fish passage."

An open house will be held on Oct. 25, during which both verbal and written comments will be accepted on the draft SEIS. The open house will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Park Center Building, 170 NW Lincoln St., in White Salmon.

Written comments may be sent to Ecology's Derek Sandison at 15 W. Yakima Ave., Suite 200, Yakima, WA 98902, or may be emailed to <mailto:ConditDam@ecy.wa.gov> [mailto:ConditDam@ecy.wa.gov] ConditDam@ecy.wa.gov, no later than 5 p.m. on Nov.

15.

The Portland, Ore., energy company PacifiCorp owns the dam, which has produced hydroelectric power on the White Salmon River since 1913. The company is seeking to decommission and remove the dam.

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Contact: Joye Redfield-Wilder, public information manager, (509) 575-2610

You can read the document here:

[ <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0506022.pdf>  
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