

Proposed Hells Canyon Complex Hydroelectric Project Water Quality Certification

DEQ invites the public to provide comment on the proposed water quality certification for the Hells Canyon Complex hydroelectric project.

Summary

DEQ has completed a draft section 401 water quality certification for the Hells Canyon Complex hydroelectric project. The Hells Canyon Complex hydroelectric project is located on the Snake River in the southern part of the Hells Canyon along the border between Oregon and Idaho. The project includes Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon dams, reservoirs, and powerhouses which lie within Malheur, Baker, and Wallowa counties in Oregon and Adams and Washington counties in Idaho. The Hells Canyon Complex includes the Snake River from Farewell Bend, Oregon, downstream approximately 95 river miles to the Hells Canyon Dam.

How do I participate?

To provide comments, which will be part of the public record, send written comments or attend the public hearing. Written and oral comments are accepted during a public hearing. The hearing will be held at Portland State Office Building. You can also submit written comments by mail, fax or email.

Hearing details

When: 2:00 pm

Wednesday January 9, 2019

Where:

*Portland State Office Building
Room 1E
800 NE Oregon Street,
Portland, OR 97232*

People can also call in and provide comments during the hearing via conference line:

- USA Toll-Free: 888-363-4734;
- USA Caller Paid/International Toll: 215-446-3656
- Access Code: 2045600

Send written comments by mail, fax or email to:

Marilyn Fonseca, hydropower program coordinator

700 NE Multnomah, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232

Fax: 503-229-5675

Email: HCC401@deq.state.or.us

All comments are due by 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2019

About the project

Idaho Power Company has applied for a license renewal for the project from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). If approved by FERC, the new license is expected to have a term of 30-50 years. The Clean Water Act and the FERC licensing process require DEQ to determine if the project will comply with state water quality rules. In June 2018, Idaho Power Company filed an application with DEQ for section 401 water quality certification. The facility is a hydroelectric project that impacts dissolved oxygen, total dissolved gas and temperature in the Snake River.

What types of pollutants does the water quality certification address?

The Hells Canyon Complex hydroelectric project discharges to the Snake River. The water quality certification conditions require Idaho Power Company to implement measures to address the project impacts on water quality. The water quality certification also requires monitoring of temperature, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved gas and harmful algal blooms.

How does DEQ determine water quality certification requirements?

DEQ evaluates the potential pollutants produced, the types and amounts of pollutants and the location of the project to determine water quality certification conditions according to federal and state regulations.

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the water quality certification requirements?

This certification would require Idaho Power Company to monitor pollutants using state-approved monitoring practices and standards.

What happens after the meeting?

DEQ considers all comments received and may modify the proposed water quality certification



State of Oregon
**Department of
Environmental
Quality**

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www.oregon.gov/DEQ
Search for "Hells Canyon"

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conditions based on comments. DEQ intends to take state action on the water quality certification before the end of June 2019.

Where can I get more information?

View information about this proposed certification, including the evaluation and findings report online at

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/Section-401-Hydropower.aspx>

Accessibility information

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

