



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Klamath Basin Area Office
6600 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, OR 97603-9365

IN REPLY REFER TO:

KO-100
4.4.15 (ADM-13.00)

APR 21 2020

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mark Sturtevant
Vice President, Renewable Resources
PacifiCorp
825 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1800
Portland, Oregon 97232

Subject: Operation of Link River Dam – Klamath Project, Oregon-California

Dear Mr. Sturtevant:

This letter is in response to PacifiCorp's letter of April 21, 2020. As the letter correctly notes, the letter agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and PacifiCorp, dated April 13, 2006, expired by the terms of the agreement on April 16, 2008. Reclamation is, however, willing to discuss entering into a new agreement for PacifiCorp's temporary continued operation and maintenance of Link River Dam. We understand that review and approvals would be involved on both our ends and look forward to following up and moving ahead at the earliest opportunity.

With respect to the upcoming surface flushing flow, the underlying obligations are established pursuant to consultation under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.). Reclamation understands that PacifiCorp, under its Interim Operations Habitat Conservation Plan, dated February 16, 2012, is obligated to meet flow releases from Iron Gate Dam (IGD) consistent with the requirements for Reclamation's operation of the Klamath Project in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. Consistent with ESA obligations, Reclamation is directing that PacifiCorp increase releases from Link River Dam to achieve a surface flushing flow, as analyzed in the biological opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on April 10, 2020, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on March 29, 2019, as confirmed in NMFS' letter of April 13, 2020.

Specifically, Reclamation is directing that PacifiCorp increase releases from Link River Dam on April 22, 2020, as necessary to achieve a flow of 6,030 cubic feet per second (cfs) at IGD. Reclamation's estimate is that releases at Link River Dam need to be increased to approximately 5,600 cfs, which coupled with the expected increases in Keno to IGD accretions, should allow IGD releases to be at or exceeding 6,030 cfs by 7 p.m.

Reclamation is further directing that PacifiCorp maintain flows of at least 5,030 cfs for 24 hours, followed by flows of 4,500 cfs for 24 hours. After these flows have been achieved, PacifiCorp will ramp down, at the rates further described below, to flows in accordance with the formulaic approach provided for in the NMFS 2019 Biological Opinion.

INTERIOR REGION 10 • CALIFORNIA-GREAT BASIN

CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*, OREGON*

* PARTIAL

The ramp rates proposed below are as measured at the USGS gaging station located immediately downstream of IGD (USGS Station No. 11516530). The target ramp down rates at IGD, when operationally feasible, are as follows:

- When IGD flows are greater than 4,600 cfs: decreases in flows of no more than 2,000 cfs per 24-hour period, and no more than 500 cfs per six-hour period.
- When IGD flows are greater than 3,600 cfs but equal to or less than 4,600 cfs: decreases in flows of 1,000 cfs or less per 24-hour period, and no more than 250 cfs per six-hour period.
- When IGD flows are greater than 3,000 cfs but equal to or less than 3,600 cfs: decreases in flows of 600 cfs or less per 24-hour period, and no more than 150 cfs per six-hour period.
- When IGD flows are above 1,750 cfs but equal to or less than 3,000 cfs: decreases in flows of 300 cfs or less per 24-hour period, and no more than 125 cfs per four-hour period.
- When IGD flows are 1,750 cfs or less: decreases in flows of 150 cfs or less per 24-hour period and no more than 50 cfs per two-hour period.

Reclamation will coordinate with PacifiCorp on implementing the surface flushing flow described here, but ultimately defers to PacifiCorp's discretion in operating its hydropower facilities to meet these requirements.

If you have further questions on this matter, please contact Dave Felstul, Water Operations Division Chief, at (541) 880-2550 or at dfelstul@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Nettleton
Area Manager