

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20426
December 16, 2008

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 12569-001 - Washington
Enloe Hydroelectric Project
Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan
County

Subject: Scoping Document 1 for the Enloe Hydroelectric Project

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is currently reviewing the license application for the proposed Enloe Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 12569) to be located on the Similkameen River in Okanogan County, Washington. The Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County (Okanogan PUD) filed the application on August 22, 2008, and is seeking an original license for the proposed project. The project would be located on Okanogan PUD's Enloe dam, near the town of Oroville, in Okanogan County, Washington. The proposed project would, in part, occupy federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Commission staff intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the EA is thorough and balanced.

We invite your participation in the scoping process and are circulating the enclosed Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information about the proposed project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA.

We will hold two scoping meetings for the project to receive input on the scope of the EA. An evening meeting will be held on January 14, 2009, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. A daytime meeting will be held on January 15, 2009, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held at The Depot in Oroville, Washington. We also will visit the proposed project site on January 15, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Participants will meet at The Depot. Any participant needing a ride to the proposed site or with questions about the site visit should contact Nick Christoph, (509) 422-8472, e-mail NickC@okpud.org, or Dan Boettger, (509) 422-8425, e-mail Dan_B@okpud.org, with the Okanogan PUD.

We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or all of the above meetings. Further information on our scoping meetings and the site visit is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to all entities on the Commission's official mailing list for this project (see section 9.0 of the enclosed SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written requests must specify your wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: Enloe Hydroelectric Project No. 12569-001.

Please review SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 5.0. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the EA for this project, please contact either Dianne Rodman at (202)-502-6077, e-mail dianne.rodman@ferc.gov or Kim Nguyen at (202)-502-6105, e-mail kim.nguyen@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the proposed Enloe Hydroelectric Project may be obtained from the Commission's website at: <http://www.ferc.gov>.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

cc: Mailing List



**Federal
Energy
Regulatory
Commission**

**Office of
Energy Projects**

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

ENLOE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

WASHINGTON

FERC Project No. 12569-001

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Washington, DC**

December 2008

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
cfs	cubic feet per second
Commission or FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
EA	environmental assessment
Enloe Project or project	Enloe Hydroelectric Project
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FPA	Federal Power Act
GWh	gigawatt-hour
kV	kilovolt
LWD	large woody debris
MMP	mitigation and monitoring plan
msl	mean sea level
MW	megawatt
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NGO	non-governmental organization
Okanogan PUD	Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County
OTID	Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District
PME	protection, mitigation, and enhancement
SD	Scoping Document

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On August 22, 2008, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County (Okanogan PUD) filed an application for an original license with the Commission for the proposed 9-megawatt (MW) Enloe Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 12569 (Enloe Project or project). The project would be located in Okanogan County, near Oroville, Washington, on the Similkameen River (Figure 1). The project would, in part, occupy 35.47 acres of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Enloe Project would consist of: (1) an existing 315-foot-long and 54-foot-high concrete gravity arch dam with an integrated 276-foot-long central overflow spillway with 5-foot-high flashboards; (2) an existing 76.6-acre reservoir (narrow channel of the Similkameen River) with a storage capacity of 775 acre-feet at a surface elevation of 1,049.3 feet above mean sea level (msl); (3) a 190-foot-long intake canal on the east abutment of the dam diverting flows into the penstock intake structure; (4) a 35-foot-long by 30-foot-wide penstock intake structure; (5) two above-ground 8.5-foot-diameter steel penstocks carrying flows from the intake to the powerhouse; (6) a powerhouse containing two vertical Kaplan turbine/generator units with a total installed capacity of 9.0 MW; (7) a 180-foot-long tailrace channel that would convey flows from the powerhouse to the Similkameen River, downstream of the Similkameen Falls; (8) a new substation adjacent to the powerhouse; (9) a new 100-foot-long, 13.2-kilovolt (kV) primary transmission line connecting the substation to an existing distribution line; (10) about 1.5 miles of new and upgraded access roads; and (11) appurtenant facilities.

The project would generate an average of about 45 gigawatt-hours (GWh) annually.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

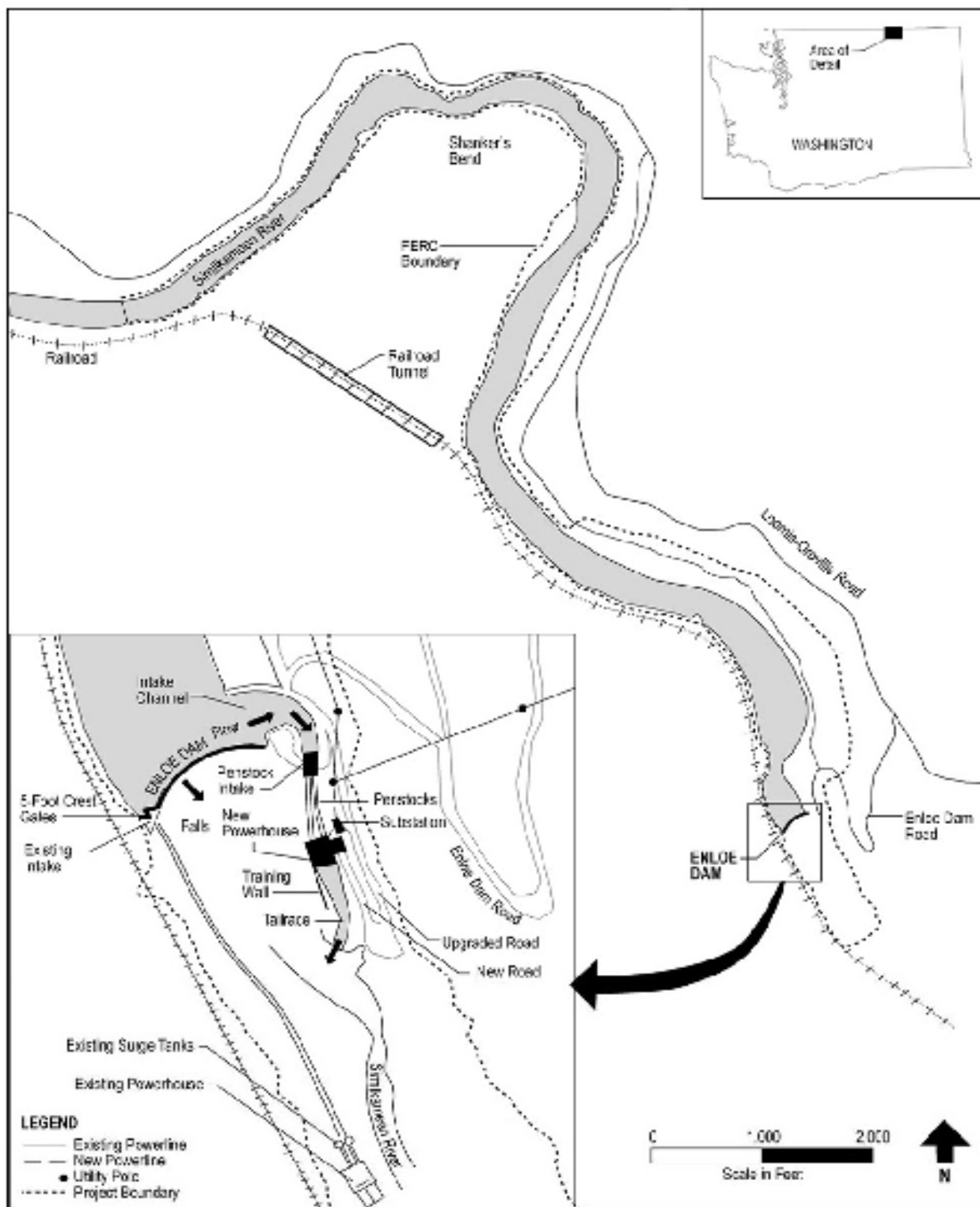


Figure 1. Enloe Hydroelectric Project location and facilities (Source: Okanogan PUD, 2008, as modified by staff).

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA),² the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require us to independently evaluate the environmental effects of issuing an original license for the Enloe Project and to consider reasonable alternatives to the applicant's proposal. We intend to prepare a draft environmental assessment (EA) for this project and request comments and then prepare a final EA. The EA will describe and evaluate the probable effects, including any site-specific and cumulative effects, of the proposed action and alternatives.

2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the EA and to seek information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and a schedule for developing the EA; (2) a description of the proposed action and alternatives; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues; (4) a request for comments and information; (5) a proposed EA outline; and (6) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans applicable to the project.

2.1 PURPOSE OF SCOPING

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. According to NEPA, the process should be conducted early in the planning stages of a project. The purposes of scoping are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state, and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the depth of analysis and significance of issues to be addressed in the EA;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects in the project area;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the project that we should evaluate in the EA;
- solicit available information on resources from participants; and

²National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (Pub. L. 91-190. 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Pub. L. 94-52, July 3, 1975, Pub. L. 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Pub. L. 97-258, Section 4 (b), Sept. 13, 1982).

- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during project review.

2.2 COMMENTS AND SCOPING MEETINGS

During the preparation of the EA, there are several opportunities for resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during scoping when we solicit oral and written comments on the scope of analysis and issues to be addressed;
- after issuance of the Commission's ready for environmental analysis notice when we solicit comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and fishway prescriptions for the project; and
- after issuance of the draft EA when we solicit written comments on the draft EA.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will provide an opportunity for oral testimony at two public scoping meetings that we will conduct in the project vicinity. We invite all interested resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of these meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and locations of these meetings are:

Evening Scoping Meeting

When: Wednesday, January 14, 2009
7:00–9:00 p.m.

Where: The Depot
1210 Ironwood Street
Oroville, WA 98844

Daytime Scoping Meeting

When: Thursday, January 15, 2009
2:00–4:00 p.m.

Where: The Depot
1210 Ironwood Street
Oroville, WA 98844

Scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those individuals who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 5.0. The date and time of our scoping meetings will also be posted on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx>.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and concerns. We recommend that all participants review the license application and this SD1 before attending the scoping meetings. Copies of the application are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number "P-12569" to access documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Okanogan PUD and Commission staff will visit the site of the proposed project on Thursday, January 15, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. To attend the site visit, participants should meet at 9:00 a.m. at The Depot, 1210 Ironwood Street, Oroville, WA. Access to the site will require 4-wheel drive vehicles. Anyone needing a ride to the site or with questions about the site visit should contact Nick Christoph, (509) 422-8472, E-mail: NickC@okpud.org; or Dan Boettger, (509) 422-8425, Dan_B@okpud.org, at the Okanogan PUD.

After scoping, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made on the level of analysis needed in the EA. If our preliminary analysis indicates that many issues presented in SD1 have little potential for causing significant effects, these issues will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be provided in the EA.

We will revise SD1, if necessary, to reflect comments received during the comment period and issue SD2. If we receive no substantive comments and no revisions to the SD1 are necessary, we will notify the participants by letter.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the EA will consider the following alternatives:

- (1) Okanogan PUD's proposed action, (2) Commission staff's alternative,
- (3) Commission staff's alternative with any mandatory conditions, and (4) the no-action alternative.

3.1 OKANOGAN PUD'S PROPOSED ACTION

3.1.1 Existing Facilities

The existing Enloe dam and reservoir are located on the Similkameen River in northern Washington, near the town of Oroville and 5 miles south of Osoyoos, British Columbia, Canada. The applicant owns and operates the dam.

Enloe dam is a concrete gravity arch dam that was constructed from 1919 to 1923 as part of the second power development constructed at Similkameen Falls. The dam is 315 feet long with an arch radius of 200 feet and a maximum hydraulic height of 54 feet. The central overflow spillway crest that occupies most of the dam has a length of 276 feet and a crest elevation of 1,044.3 feet above msl. The dam structure is 40 feet thick at the base of the spillway, tapering to a 6-foot-thick ogee at the crest of the spillway. The spillway has provision for installing 5-foot-high flashboards, which would increase the spillway crest elevation to 1,049.3 feet above msl.

Hydraulic energy in the reservoir outflow, which plunges about 54 vertical feet down the spillway chute, dissipates in a stilling zone downstream of the spillway in the river channel between the dam and Similkameen Falls. About 340 feet downstream of the dam crest, the river plunges 22 feet over the Similkameen Falls into a narrow, deep plunge pool that has been eroded in bedrock at the toe of the falls. The elevation of the pool's water surface varies with river stage, but is normally at an elevation of 966 feet above msl under average flow.

The east abutment of the dam has a deck elevation of 1,049.3 feet. The west abutment of the dam has a deck elevation of 1,053.3 feet and a 4-foot-high parapet wall on the downstream side of the crest. A gated intake structure in the abutment block formally controlled flow from the impoundment into two above-ground woodstave penstocks that once delivered water to the now decommissioned Enloe powerhouse on the west side of the river. One of these old penstocks remains in place. The old intake gates appear to be partially covered with sediment, and a small amount of gate leakage is visible downstream of the dam. However, the leakage is not sufficient to inundate the area and has not created any new wetlands. Under their proposal, the Okanogan PUD intends to decommission the old intake by filling the conduits through the dam with concrete.

3.1.2 Proposed Project Facilities

The Enloe Project would consist of: (1) an existing 315-foot-long and 54-foot-high concrete gravity arch dam with an integrated 276-foot-long central overflow spillway with 5-foot-high flashboards; (2) an existing 76.6-acre reservoir (narrow channel of the Similkameen River) with a storage capacity of 775 acre-feet at a surface elevation of 1,049.3 feet above msl; (3) a new 190-foot-long intake canal on the east abutment of

the dam; (4) a new 35-foot-long by 30-foot-wide penstock intake structure; (5) two new above-ground 8.5-foot-diameter steel penstocks carrying flows from the intake to the powerhouse; (6) a new powerhouse containing two vertical Kaplan turbine/generator units with a total installed capacity of 9.0 MW; (7) a new 180-foot-long tailrace channel that would convey flows from the powerhouse to the Similkameen River, downstream of the Similkameen Falls; (8) a new substation adjacent to the powerhouse; (9) a new 100-foot-long, 13.2-kV primary transmission line connecting the substation with an existing distribution line; (10) about 1.5 miles of new and upgraded access roads; and (11) appurtenant facilities.

3.1.3 Proposed Project Operation

The Enloe Project would operate automatically in a run-of-river mode, regardless of water year type (whether wet, dry, or average). Under a run-of-river mode of operation, all project outflows would approximate all project inflows at any point in time, such that there would be minimal fluctuation of the reservoir surface elevation.³

The proposed project would have an installed capacity of 9.0 MW, with an average annual generation of 45 GWh.

3.2 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

We will consider and analyze all recommendations for operation or facility modifications, as well as for protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by Commission staff, resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public. To the extent any modifications reduce the amount of power produced by the proposed project, we will evaluate costs and contributions to airborne pollution related to the generation of replacement power by fossil-fueled stations.

3.3 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no-action alternative, the Commission would deny a license for the proposed Enloe Hydroelectric Project. There would be no change to the existing environment. We use this alternative to establish baseline environmental conditions for comparison with other alternatives.

³ A perfectly constant water level would be difficult to achieve because natural events, such as wave action, would likely cause slight fluctuations in the reservoir surface elevation regardless of operational controls.

4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND RESOURCE ISSUE

4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (50 CFR §1508.7), cumulative effects are the effects on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

After reviewing the license application, agency comments, other filings related to the project, and preliminary staff analysis, we have not identified any resources that could be cumulatively affected by the proposed project.

4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the EA. We identified the issues, which are listed by environmental resource area, through our review of the license application and the Commission's record for the Enloe Project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but it is an initial listing of issues that have been raised and could be significant. After the scoping process is complete, we will review the list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue.

4.2.1 Geology and Soils

- Effects of land-disturbing activities associated with the construction of the proposed intake canal, penstocks, powerhouse, and other proposed project facilities.

4.2.2 Water Resources

- Effects of project construction activities on state turbidity standards of the Similkameen River and what measures could be implemented to avoid adverse effects.
- Effects of construction on the potential release of contaminants (e.g., fuel, lubricant, and other wastes) into project waters, and what measures could be implemented to avoid adverse effects.

- Effects of project operations on temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) downstream of Enloe dam, and what measures could be implemented to prevent or limit any adverse effects.

4.2.3 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- Project construction and operation effects on state sensitive species (e.g., Pacific lamprey, western ridged mussel, western pearlshell mussel, western floater mussel, and California floater mussel) in the Similkameen River below Enloe dam.
- Effects of project construction activities on fish (e.g., disruption of spawning) and their habitats (e.g., sedimentation, temperature, DO levels) below Similkameen Falls and Okanogan River.
- Effects of project operations on prespawn mortality of summer Chinook and sockeye salmon associated with lethal water temperatures in the Similkameen and Okanogan Rivers.
- Effects of project operation on upstream migrating fish, including potential for false attraction and entrance into the powerhouse tailrace and subsequent injury or mortality by turbine strikes.
- Effects of retention of spawning gravel and large woody debris (LWD) in Enloe reservoir on the Similkameen and Okanogan Rivers downstream of Enloe dam.
- The effects of project operations on aquatic resources due to dewatering the Similkameen River between Enloe dam and the confluence of the powerhouse tailrace during non-spill periods.

4.2.4 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on wetland, riparian, and littoral habitats and associated wildlife within the project boundary.
- Effects of inundation of approximately 0.4 mile of riverine and riparian habitat upstream of the reservoir pool (at Shanker's Bend).
- Effects of project construction and operation, including road and transmission line maintenance and recreation activities, on the establishment, spread, and control of noxious weeds and exotic plants of concern around project facilities.

- Effects of removal and disturbance of vegetation due to project construction and maintenance on aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Effects of disturbance from noise and other construction activity on wildlife, including waterfowl, aquatic furbearers, and amphibians.
- Effects of modified flows in the tailrace and increased surface water elevation of the reservoir on wildlife and vegetation.
- Effects of new public access on wildlife (including waterfowl, bald eagles, and other water-dependent species) and vegetation.
- Effects of project construction, operation, and maintenance on state wildlife and plant species of concern within the project area including the state threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), state endangered sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), state endangered Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), and state sensitive Snake River cryptantha (*Cryptantha spiculifera*).

4.2.5 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of project construction and operation on federally listed threatened and endangered fish, wildlife, and botanical species and their habitats that may occur within the project boundary including: threatened bull trout, threatened Columbia River steelhead, and threatened Ute ladies'-tresses.

4.2.6 Recreation and Land Use

- Effects of the project construction and operation on public access to project waters (including, but not limited to, trails to provide access to the river below the dam for fishing, hiking and the portaging of car-top boats).
- The ability of recreational facilities and opportunities to meet current and future (over the term of an original license) recreational demand, including barrier-free access and the need for and benefit of interpretive opportunities (such as interpretive signs) at the project.
- Effects of the project operation (reservoir level fluctuations) on recreation resources (including, but not limited to, a shift in recreational use of boaters taking out farther upstream at Miner's Flat, and closure of an informal boat launch and dispersed campsite).

- Effects of the proposed project on nearby recreational opportunities, such as the proposed Greater Columbia Water Trail and the proposed Nighthawk Oroville Rail Trail.
- Effects of developing a river crossing (possibly restoring a historic foot bridge near Similkameen Falls) to provide public access across from the east shore of the Similkameen River and connect with the Pacific Northwest Trail on the opposite shore.
- Effects of project construction and operation on three BLM grazing allotments located within the project area.
- Effects of possibly turning abandoned road segments into trails for recreational use.
- Effects of project construction and operation on fishery resources as it relates to the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission tribes and other fishers and the fishing industry.

4.2.7 Aesthetic Resources

- Effects of project operation (flow releases over the Enloe dam and Similkameen Falls) and project construction on aesthetic resources (demolition of the historic powerhouse on the west bank).
- Effects of maintaining the historic powerhouse for at least 5 years; determine if another entity would be interested in partnering to maintain and restore it.
- Effects of the noise level from the proposed new powerhouse on visitors to the project area.

4.2.8 Cultural Resources

- Effects of the project construction and operation on historic and archaeological resources that are listed or considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Effects of project construction and operation on properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe.
- Effects of project operation on archaeological resources located along the reservoir shoreline.

4.2.9 Developmental Resources

- Effects of the proposed project and alternatives, including any recommended environmental measures, on project generation and economics.

4.3 PROPOSED PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

Okanogan PUD proposes certain protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measures to avoid, minimize, or offset the environmental effects of the proposed project. These proposed environmental measures include the following:

4.3.1 Geology and Soil Resources

- Develop a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
- Develop a Construction Sediment Management Program.

4.3.2 Water Resources

- Monitor water temperatures at three locations for a period of 5 years following construction.
- Locate the powerhouse tailrace such that it provides circulation and prevents stagnation.
- Install aeration vents in flow tubes to maximize DO levels during low flow periods.
- Monitor total dissolved gas concentrations below the falls to determine effect of project operations on total dissolved gas concentrations.
- Design and construct the intake so that it would minimize the disturbance of reservoir sediments.
- Develop a Spill Prevention, Containment, and Cleanup Plan to reduce potential effects from accidental spills.

4.3.3 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- Implement a blasting plan and best management practices to avoid and minimize the potential effects from blasting on aquatic resources, including federally listed or sensitive species.

- Place two clusters of 1-ton to 2-ton boulders in riffles or in the low-gradient sections of the Similkameen River upstream of the reservoir to increase structural diversity and improve the quality of habitat.
- Allow logs and other LWD to pass over the spillway during annual floods and continue downstream naturally to prevent the loss of LWD from downstream habitats. If needed, transport some LWD around the dam and place it in the river downstream of the dam.
- Modify the intake trashrack so that smaller fish can pass safely through the racks without becoming impinged and larger fish would be discouraged or prevented from passing through the turbines.
- Study entrainment and monitor fish by (1) examining seasonal variation in entrainment susceptibility, (2) observing trauma and mortality associated with placement of fish species in the power canal, and (3) sampling fish in the reservoir to relate the entrainment observations with the fish distribution and abundance in the reservoir.
- Use tailrace net barriers to prevent fish in the tailrace from swimming upstream into the draft tubes during periods of low flows.
- Conduct tailrace video monitoring to document that adult salmonids are not entering the nets at the downstream end of the barriers, or if some individuals do enter the nets, establish that they are able to safely exit the barrier.
- Locate the tailrace to provide improved circulation and water exchange in the pool, thereby protecting water quality for fish.
- Provide a fisheries enhancement project to mitigate for affected aquatic resources where other environmental measures are not practical on a site-specific basis and address effects, such as mortality associated with entrainment of fish in the turbines and decreased production in the Similkameen River between the dam and the tailrace.
- Develop a biological review process to provide for ongoing refinement and measure of effectiveness of the PME measures and establish a Technical Review Group to (1) consult with the resource agencies in the design of management and monitoring plans, (2) review and evaluate data, and (3) develop resource management proposals or other recommendations.

4.3.4 Terrestrial Resources

- Prepare a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP) to mitigate the effects of increasing reservoir surface water elevation that would inundate vegetation and wetlands along the shore of the current impoundment.
- Plant riparian vegetation at previously identified sites along the west and east banks of the reservoir to mitigate for the temporary loss of habitat while fringe riparian vegetation establishes along the new low water line.
- Abandon and restore existing unimproved shoreline road along Enloe reservoir to mitigate the effects of project construction noise and habitat fragmentation.
- Plant riparian vegetation along the corridor to mitigate the effects of abandoned shoreline road.
- Plant riparian species on east and west banks downstream from Shanker's Bend.
- Install grazing control measures, including fencing, to protect riparian plantings and other sensitive areas from cattle grazing.
- Monitor restored areas and replant if necessary in accordance with the performance criteria in the MMP.
- Employ best management practices to protect riparian and wetland vegetation to reduce or avoid effects associated with construction activities.
- Provide an Environmental Training Program to inform employees, including contractors and subcontractors, of the sensitive biological resources associated with the project area.
- Provide a biological construction monitor to ensure project compliance with environmental measures associated with construction activities.
- Implement a noxious weed control program to control noxious weeds along roads and construction sites.
- Relocate or modify transmission line pole located within the project boundary to prevent raptor electrocutions.
- Time construction activity to minimize effects on over-wintering birds and bald eagles, as much as possible.

4.3.5 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Install conical net barriers in the draft tubes to prevent fish from swimming upstream into the draft tubes for the protection of Columbia River steelhead.
- Employ best management practices to limit vegetation maintenance in sensitive habitats to the extent possible for the protection of the threatened Ute ladies'-tresses.

4.3.6 Recreation and Land Use

- Abandon the existing shoreline road (Segment B of the Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District (OTID) Ditch Road) and restore the existing road (Segment C of OTID Ditch Road) located at a higher elevation to improve public access to project lands.
- Install barricades and fencing on the east side of the dam to prevent unauthorized access to the power generating facilities and the area below the dam, and to prevent vehicle and livestock access to the riparian woodland above the dam and adjacent to the impoundment.
- Provide public access below Enloe dam on the east bank by allowing foot traffic to bypass new fencing.
- Transfer to Okanogan County ownership rights to the trestle bridge that is located on the west side of the river with certain conditions (first phase of the non-motorized public access trail would not run adjacent to the project area and Okanogan PUD would retain the rights needed to use the bridge to access the dam site).
- Improve an existing informal boat ramp located on the east bank upstream of the dam.
- Develop an interpretive publication, in collaboration with Okanogan County, the Greater Columbia Water Trail Steering Committee, and other interested parties, that would include a map illustrating public access and recreation sites.
- Remove existing trash and conduct annual cleanup activities within the wooded area on the east bank and along the OTID Ditch Road leading from the Loomis-Oroville Road to the dam site.
- Develop a parking area and install a vault toilet, accessible to persons with disabilities, on the east bank and upstream of Enloe dam.

- Install picnic tables and develop primitive campsites near the parking area taking advantage of existing trees for shading.
- At a minimum, install one interpretive sign near the parking and picnic area and one sign near the abutment of the old powerhouse access bridge, below Similkameen Falls.
- Place an information board near Enloe dam to depict public access areas and information concerning visitor use of the project area.
- Develop, in consultation with stakeholders, and implement a recreation management plan to address proposed facilities, layout, design, access, implementation, use, consultation, wetlands mitigation, monitoring, maintenance, and management strategies.

4.3.7 Aesthetic Resources

- Use visually compatible colors and building materials for construction occurring on the east bank.
- Grade and repair all slopes where buildings are removed and plant native grasses and other riparian vegetation.
- Use non-reflective surfaces where possible during construction.
- Install interpretive panels (considered under the cultural resources and recreational resources sections) that describe historic operations of the dam with historic images of water flowing over the dam to enhance visitor experience.

4.3.8 Cultural Resources

- Implement the final Draft Historic Properties Management Plan (Demuth et al., 2008).
- Consult with the Colville Confederated Tribes during project-related activities as there are known properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to the tribe within the project's Area of Potential Effects.

4.3.9 Socioeconomics

- No proposed measures

5.0 INFORMATION REQUESTED

The Commission staff requests federal, state, and local resource agencies; Indian tribes; NGOs; and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist it in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative effects associated with the Enloe Project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Information, quantified data, or professional opinion that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues.
- Identification of, and information from, any other EA or similar environmental study (previous, ongoing, or planned) relevant to the proposed Enloe Project.
- Existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources.
- Information that would help characterize existing environmental conditions and habitats.
- Identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreational areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs) along with any implementation schedules.
- Documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal, state, and local agencies.
- Documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration.

Any additional information, comments on SD1, and additional study requests should be submitted in writing to the Commission no later than **Monday, February 16, 2009**. All correspondence must clearly show at the top of the first page: “Enloe Project, FERC No. 12569-001.” File all comments and any other information about the project with:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

All filings sent to the Secretary of the Commission should contain an original and eight copies. Failure to file an original and eight copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001 (a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "e-Filing" link. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY (202) 502-8659. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support.

Intervenors - those on the Commission's service list for this proceeding - are reminded that if they file comments with the Commission, they must also serve a copy of their filing on each person whose name appears on the official service list. Note that the list is periodically updated. The official service list can be obtained on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) - scroll down to Documents and Filing and right click on service list - or call the Office of the Secretary, Dockets Branch at (202) 502-8715. In addition, if any party files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of that document on the resource agency.

Any questions concerning the scoping meetings, site visit, or how to file information, comments, or study requests with the Commission should be directed to Dianne Rodman at (202) 502-6077, e-mail dianne.rodman@ferc.gov or Kim Nguyen at (202) 502-6105, e-mail kim.nguyen@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Enloe Project may be obtained from the Commission's website www.ferc.gov.

6.0 EA PREPARATION SCHEDULE

At this time, we intend to prepare draft and final EAs for the project. The draft EA will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the project. The EA will include our recommendations for the proposed project, as well as for any PME measures that should be included in any license issued by the Commission. All recipients of the EA will have 30 days to review the draft EA and file written comments with the Commission. All comments on the draft EA filed with the Commission will be considered in preparation of the final EA.

The major milestones, including those for preparing the EA, are as follows:

<u>Major Milestone</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
Issue SD1	December 2008
Scoping Meetings and Site Visit	January 2009
Comments on SD1 due	February 2009
Issue Scoping Document 2 (if necessary)	March 2009
Ready for Environmental Analysis Notice issued	March 2009
Deadline for Filing Comments, Recommendations and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions	May 2009
Issue draft EA	November 2009
Deadline for Filing Modified Comments, Recommendations and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions	January 2010
Issue final EA	June 2010

7.0 PROPOSED EA OUTLINE

The preliminary outline for the Enloe Hydroelectric Project EA is as follows:

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6.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (OR OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACT)

7.0 LITERATURE CITED

8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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8.0 CONSISTENCY WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal or state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. Commission staff have preliminarily identified 21 plans potentially relevant to the proposed Enloe Hydroelectric Project (see below). Staff requests agencies and others to review this list and provide us with any comments or changes. If there are any comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed with the Commission according to 18 CFR section 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf>.

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Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. 1988. Scenic rivers program—report. Olympia, Washington. January 29, 1988.

9.0 FERC OFFICIAL MAILING LIST

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