

Enloe Dam- Background



Background

In 2005, we decided to renew efforts to obtain a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Hydroelectric Project located 3.5 miles (6.4 km) northwest of Oroville, WA. The history of hydropower in this area dates back to the late 19th century. The previous 3.2MW power plant sited on the west bank of the Similkameen River, ceased operation in 1958.

The application proposes relocating the site for hydropower development to the opposite (east) bank of the river and offers environmental and construction advantages. The 9.0MW facility would have a footprint of approximately 10 acres while providing nearly three times the generating capacity of the old decommissioned plant and output.

We began the licensing process when a request for a preliminary permit was approved under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on February 22, 2008, the PUD submitted the Final License Application for the Enloe Dam Hydroelectric Facility to the FERC. There will be hard copies available for public viewing at the Oroville, Tonasket, Omak, and Pateros Public Library. The FLA has 4 volumes. Volume 1, 2, and 3 are available to the public, with volume 4 containing Critical Information and is not available for public viewing. There will also be a hard copy of the FLA at the Okanogan PUD Office. In addition, a limited number of electronic copies on CD are available upon request. To view this website, click here.

On June 8, 2010 we submitted four water right applications associated with our Enloe Dam Hydroelectric Project. Two of the applications propose to change existing water rights, and two applications propose to add new water rights.

Change Application No. CS4-CV1P243(A) and CS4-CV1P243(B), propose to change Similkameen River water rights and request to add a point of diversion and change the place of use under both water rights. The proposed diversion of 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), from the Similkameen River for hydropower purposes. The point of diversion and place of use are on the west bank of the Similkameen River in Government Lots 5, 6, and 7, Section 13, Township 40N, Range 26 E.W.M.

The proposed additional point of diversion is located on the east bank of the Similkameen River in Government Lots 13, Township 40 N, Range 26 E.W.M. The proposed place of use includes Government Lots 5, 6, and 7, Section 13, Township 40N, Range 26 E.W.M. These change applications, if approved, would allow the Okanogan PUD to divert and use water for hydropower purposes.

New Application No. S4-35342 was filed by Okanogan PUD requesting to divert an additional 60 cfs for hydropower purposes with Enloe Dam. The proposed points of diversion and place of use are located on the Similkameen River in Government Lots 5, 6, and 7 (west bank) of Section 13, Township 40N, Range 26 E.W.M.

New Application No. G4-35343 was filed by Okanogan PUD requesting to withdraw 2 cfs for fish passage in the Similkameen River. The proposed place of use and the proposed well will be located in the NW 1/4 of Section 13, Township 40N, Range 27 E.W.M., Okanogan County.

The Applications are provided in the Document Library in the quick links menu to the left. The following are cumulative exhibits for ease of viewing.

In January, 2009, FERC initiated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by holding a public hearing. During the hearing, FERC found gaps in the information submitted in the FLA and Environmental Assessment process, the FERC issued a Request for Information (RFI) to the PUD. In December, 2009, FERC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for Environmental Analysis public notice. The ROD includes requested Comments, Recommendations and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions.

On May 9, 2011 FERC issued the Draft Environmental Assessment.

The PUD, along with agencies, tribes and interested parties, reviewed the EA and provided comments. FERC issued notice to both the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service of the EA/Biological Assessment (BA) for the Enloe Project. The PUD has also submitted two Biological Assessments (BA) for the Enloe Project.