



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Suite 200 - 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6C 3S4

Pièce 200 - 401 rue Burrard
Vancouver (C.-B.)
V6C 3S4

AUG 25 2011

Our File

MECTS 2011-505-00072

Mr. Craig Orr
Watershed Watch Salmon Society
1037 Madore Avenue
Coquitlam, BC V3K 3B7
wwss@telus.net

Dear Mr. Orr:

Subject: Kokish River and DFO's approval of diverting water from anadromous fish habitat.

Thank you for your July 12, 2011 letter outlining concerns that Watershed Watch Salmon Society (WWSC) has with the proposed Kokish River Hydroelectric Project and, in general, with hydroelectric projects proposed in systems with anadromous fish species. DFO shares your interest in protecting wild salmon.

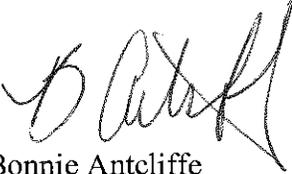
DFO works with the Province of BC and proponents to ensure our responsibilities under the *Fisheries Act*, *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and *Species at Risk Act* are appropriately met during the environmental review of proposed hydroelectric projects.

We recognize the sensitivity of the fisheries resources in the Kokish River watershed and have been working with the proponent, the Province of BC and the Kwagis First Nation on appropriate mitigation measures including redesigning and relocating components of the project and developing instream flow requirements to reduce potential impacts on fish and fish habitat. It is important to note that the environmental assessment process for this project has not yet concluded, and no impacts have been authorized. If such an authorization is granted it would require a stringent monitoring program to ensure that flow requirements are met and that impacts are as predicted.

DFO acknowledges the complexity of proposed hydroelectric facility operations and we share your interest in ensuring fisheries resources are appropriately protected. If WWSC has any technical comments on the potential impacts to fish and fish habitat or the potential mitigation measures on the Kokish River Hydroelectric Project or any other proposed hydroelectric project, we encourage you to submit them to DFO and the BC EAO for consideration in the environmental review process.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please feel free to contact Adam Silverstein at (250) 756-7266 or Adam.Silverstein@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Bonnie Antcliffe
Regional Director
Ecosystem Management Branch

cc:

Sue Farlinger, RDG DFO
Adam Silverstein, DFO
Zoltan Fabian, CEA Agency
Kathy Eichenberger, EAO
Ted Down, Greg Ashcroft, Martha Anslow, John Mazure, Glen Davidson, Prov of BC
Ray Pillman, Mark Angelo, ORC
Paul Kariya, CEBC
Cam Matheson, BC Hydro
Tim Leaden, Ecojustice
Bill Payne, Brookfield Renewable Power