US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE
for PERMIT APPLICATION

Issue Date: November 8, 2004
Expiration Date: December 8, 2004
Corps of Engineers Action ID: 200400523

30-Day Notice

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached plan.

Comments: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers number shown above and should reach this office no later than the above expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CENWP-OP-GP (Ms. Kathryn L. Harris)
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

Applicant: PacifiCorp
825 NE Multnomah, Suite 1500
Portland, Oregon 97232

Location: Condit Dam is located on the White Salmon River and impounds Northwestern Lake in Section 2, Township 3 North, Range 10 East, near White Salmon, Klickitat County, Washington.

Purpose: The project purpose is to restore fish passage and enhance habitat in the White Salmon River, upstream of the Condit Dam.

Project Description: The applicant proposes to remove the Condit Dam and appurtenant features, restoring access to approximately 19 miles of potential river habitat for spawning steelhead and salmon and restoring connectivity to foraging, spawning, rearing, and over-wintering habitat for bull trout in the Lower White Salmon River.

PacifiCorp entered into the Condit Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement (Agreement) in September 1999 to resolve issues associated with the relicensing of the Condit Dam by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The Agreement and the Final Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Study (FSFEIS) completed by FERC in June 2002, concluded that removal of the dam and appurtenant features was the preferred method for restoring fish passage upstream of the structure. As described in the Agreement and FSFEIS, the project would involve removal of the dam structure, cofferdam, wood stave pipeline, wood and steel penstocks, and

concrete surge tank. PacifiCorp proposes to reconfigure the existing Condit to Bald Mountain 69 kV power line and the Condit to Bingen 69 kV power line into one direct line from Bald Mountain to Bingen, Washington. The power line that supplies power from the substation to the dam would be removed. The upper portion of the powerhouse tailrace retaining wall would be removed and the tailrace filled with approximately 2000 cubic yards (cy) of rock. The powerhouse itself would not be removed.

The proposed method of dam breaching would involve excavating a 12-foot by 18-foot tunnel into the downstream dam face. Tunneling would stop within approximately 15 feet from the upstream face of the dam. The remaining 15 feet of concrete would be removed using explosives. Prior to dam breaching, woody debris and sediment in front (upstream) of the tunnel would be removed using a barge-mounted clamshell crane. Woody debris would be stored at the boat ramp area for future placement in the river channel. Sediment would be deposited in the reservoir immediately upstream of the removal area. Dam breaching is expected to result in the discharge of 1.6 to 2.2 million cubic yards (mcy) of sediment and woody debris and 240 cubic yards of concrete rubble. The sediment consists of clay (7.4%), suspendable sediment (diameter size 0.004-0.25 mm, 68.6%), bedload sand (0.25 – 4 mm, 21.7%), and gravel (2.3%). Based on these size ranges and 2.2 mcy of material discharged into the river, approximately 673,500 cy of mostly sand sized sediment would settle out in the In-lieu site (at the mouth of the White Salmon River), 1.24 mcy of silt sized sediment would settle within the Bonneville Pool on the Columbia River, and 286,000 cy of the clay size sediments would remain in suspension to the mouth of the Columbia River. The applicant has identified no immediate plans for the removal of any sediment. The majority of sediments would be discharged within the first week after dam breaching. Sediments are expected to erode during the first year as the new river channel is formed. Additional sediments are expected to erode within the first 5 years after dam removal resulting from runoff of rain and snowmelt over newly exposed sediments. As these areas are revegetated, erosion is expected to decrease.

Sediment testing and analysis will be required to evaluate sediment quality for unconfined aquatic disposal in the Lower Columbia River as defined in the Dredged Material Evaluation Framework, Lower Columbia River Management Area (November 1998).

Approximately 29,000 cy of concrete and 2,500 cy of steel reinforced concrete will be removed from the dam site after the breaching event. After dam breaching, access roads will be constructed below the current lake level to gain access to the dam structure and other structures to be removed. The exact route will be determined after dam breaching to take advantage of the original construction access roads. The estimated volume of fill to be discharged into waters of the United States for the construction of access roads below the current lake level is unknown at this time.

The existing Northwestern Lake Bridge at the upstream end of the reservoir was designed and constructed in 1958 with the assumption of slackwater conditions. Riverine conditions are expected to return after dam breach and removal. Faster moving currents are expected to erode approximately 13 feet of sediment, exposing the piers to different forces and removing sub-grade lateral support to the piers. To provide adequate support to the piers and bridge, PacifiCorp proposes to create two cofferdams by driving steel sheet pile to refusal at bedrock depth around the two central piers in a semi-circular pattern. Concrete wing walls and crib structures would be

constructed to tie the existing bridge abutments to the new sheet pile cofferdams. Reinforced concrete grade ties will be installed to connect the existing concrete pile caps to the new concrete wing walls. The cofferdams will be backfilled with approximately 250 cubic yards of granular structural fill to finish grade elevations. Riprap will be placed along the river revetment slopes on both sides of the bridge near the abutment approaches to protect the bridge structures from high velocity flows. Existing drainage culverts will be redirected to prevent scour at the base of the bridge supports.

Northwestern Lake covers 92 acres, 34.6 acres of which are classified as vegetated shallows. Dam breaching will restore 11,000 feet of the White Salmon River and approximately 4,800 feet of tributary streams. The expected average width of the new river channel is 128 feet based on pre-dam topographic surveys of the project area. Of the 92 acres, 30 acres will be the new free flowing river, 25-30 acres are expected to be capable of revegetation, and 35-40 acres are expected to be rocky substrate, mostly located within 2,000 feet upstream of the dam site. A total of 5.7 acres of wetlands were identified adjacent to Northwestern Lake, 3.8 of which have been determined to be lake fringe wetlands artificially created and maintained by the operation of Condit Dam, while 1.9 acres are riverine and slope wetlands independent of the lake. The lake fringe wetlands are expected to be permanently impacted due to the removal of the main source of hydrology. The existing riverine and slope wetlands are not expected to be impacted by dam removal. Additional acreage of riverine and slope wetlands are expected to develop along the restored tributary channels. Downstream of the Condit Dam, 0.5 acre of riverine wetlands and 0.5 acre of lake fringe wetlands were identified adjacent to the White Salmon River. The 1.0 acre of wetlands downstream of the dam may be temporarily impacted through scouring flows and sedimentation from the dam breach.

Drawing(s): Figures 1-41, labeled Corps No. 200400523

Additional Information: Additional information may be obtained from Ms. Kathryn L. Harris, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (503) 808-4387.

Authority: This permit will be issued or denied under the following:

Section 10, Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), for work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Water Quality Certification: A permit for the described work will not be issued until certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217), has been received or is waived from the certifying state. Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act requires applicants for Federal permits or licenses to provide the Federal agency a water quality certification if the proposed activity may result in a discharge to surface waters. The Washington Department of Ecology is currently reviewing the proposed project for water quality certification.

Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Endangered Species: FERC initiated consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for effects to bull trout and with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) for effects to Middle and Upper Columbia River steelhead; Upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon; Lower Columbia River chinook, coho, and chum salmon; Snake River steelhead; and Snake River sockeye and spring and fall Chinook salmon. The FWS issued a biological opinion with reasonable and prudent measures (RPMs) and terms and conditions (TCs) necessary and appropriate to minimize the impact of incidental take to bull trout. These RPMs and TCs would be made conditions of the Department of the Army permit authorization. The NOAA Fisheries biological opinion for effects to listed fish species has been drafted and is awaiting final review.

Cultural Resources: Review of this project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was completed by FERC as part of the EIS. Results of the review can be found in the FSEIS.

Evaluation: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Additional Requirements: State law requires that leases, easements, or permits be obtained for certain works or activity in the described waters. These State requirements must be met, where applicable, and a Department of the Army permit must be obtained before any work within the applicable Statutory Authority, previously indicated, may be accomplished. Other local governmental agencies may also have ordinances or requirements, which must be satisfied before the work is accomplished.