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July 22, 2003

Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Powerdale Hydroelectric Project, Project No. 2659-011 and -016

Dear Secretary Salas:

Enclosed for filing in the above referenced proceeding are American Rivers' MOTION TO INTERVENE and COMMENTS on the Powerdale Hydroelectric Project Offer of Settlement and Surrender of License. Copies of this filing have been served on all parties of record to this proceeding.

Thank you for your assistance. Please call if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Brett Swift

**NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE • 320 SW STARK ST., SUITE 418 • PORTLAND, OR 97204
503-827-8648 • 503-827-8654 (FAX)**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PacifiCorp	)	Project No. 2659-011 and -016
	)	Powerdale Hydroelectric Project
	)	
_____	)	

AMERICAN RIVERS' MOTION TO INTERVENE AND COMMENTS
ON THE POWERDALE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

I. Introduction

On June 16, 2003 PacifiCorp filed an Offer of Settlement and Surrender of License with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) for the Powerdale Hydroelectric Project. On June 26, 2003 the Commission issued a Notice of Offer of Settlement, Application for Surrender of License, and Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Protests.

American Rivers hereby moves to intervene in this proceeding pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.214. Additionally, American Rivers appreciates the opportunity to comment on the various documents. We have reviewed them and offer the following comments.

Service of process and other communications should be made to:

Brett M. Swift
American Rivers
320 SW Stark, Suite 418
Portland, OR 97204

II. Motion to Intervene

A. Interest of the Intervenor

American Rivers is a national, non-profit, 501(c)(3) conservation organization, with a Northwest regional office in Portland, Oregon. It serves approximately 1,500 members in the region and approximately 800 members in Oregon. American Rivers is dedicated to protecting and restoring America's river systems and to fostering a river stewardship ethic. Additionally, American Rivers promotes public awareness about the importance of healthy rivers and the threats that face them. American Rivers' programs address flood control and hydropower policy reform, endangered aquatic and riparian species protection, western instream flow, clean water and urban rivers. One of its principal programs is the protection of rivers from unwise hydroelectric development that fails to take into account the needs of fish and other aquatic organisms, and the other natural, recreational, and cultural values of North American rivers. Our members have an interest in the protection and restoration of the Hood River, in particular the fish populations, including Lower Columbia River chinook salmon, Lower Columbia River steelhead, and bull trout, all of which are listed as threatened under the federal ESA.

B. Grounds for Intervention

Intervention by American Rivers is in the public interest as required by 18 C.F.R. § 385.214(b)(2)(iii). American Rivers has significant undeniable interests in the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the Hood Rivers' natural resources. No other party to the proceeding will be able to adequately represent those interests.

Accordingly, American Rivers has a direct and substantial interest in the outcome of this process.

C. Background

American Rivers has been involved in this proceeding since the outset when PacifiCorp initiated the relicensing process. We previously filed comments on FERC's environmental analysis documents and intervened in the relicensing proceeding. In our intervention, dated July 9, 1998, we identified numerous resource issues of particular concern, including water quality and anadromous fish populations. American Rivers actively participated in the settlement negotiations for the decommissioning of the Powerdale Hydroelectric Project that PacifiCorp initiated during the summer of 2002. These negotiations led to the recently filed Offer of Settlement and Surrender of License, both of which American Rivers supports.

III. Comments

American Rivers strongly supports the Offer of Settlement and Surrender of License filed by PacifiCorp. It is the result of much analysis and input by PacifiCorp, federal, tribal, and state fish and wildlife agency professionals, and non-governmental organizations. In the short-term, the agreement will provide for increased flows, improved water quality, limited project cessation to ensure safe juvenile downstream passage, and an opportunity to conclude ongoing research. In the long-term, removal of the Powerdale dam will result in unimpeded upstream and downstream fish passage in the Hood River, improved instream flows in the Hood River, and improved water quality. The settlement agreement concerning the interim operation and decommissioning of the Powerdale Hydroelectric Project clearly represents the alternative for the Project and the

Hood River that best serves the public interest and it is supported by a diverse range of stakeholders, including the licensee, tribes, federal and state agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Accordingly, we urge FERC to approve the Offer of Settlement and Surrender of License in their entirety.

IV. Conclusion

American Rivers represents interests not represented by any other party to the proceeding. Our intervention is in the public interest as required by 18 C.F.R. § 385.214(b)(2)(iii). Therefore, we respectfully request that the Commission grant this timely motion for intervention.

In addition, for the foregoing reasons, it is our view that FERC should approve the Offer of Settlement and Surrender of License for the Powerdale Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2659-011 and -016 on the Hood River. The Settlement and Surrender represent the best alternative as determined by state and federal resource professionals as well as non-governmental organizations and the public.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of July, 2003.

Brett M. Swift
American Rivers
320 SW Stark, Suite 418
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 827-8648

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PacifiCorp

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Project No. 2659-011 and -016
Powerdale Hydroelectric Project

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon each
person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2003.

Brett Swift
American Rivers

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