

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County is submitting a Preliminary Permit Application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a water storage and hydroelectric project located on the Similkameen River in Okanogan County, Washington. The Dam and associated facilities would be located upstream of Enloe Dam at approximately river mile 7.3 in what is commonly referred to as Shankers Bend.

The Shankers Bend Project is being proposed for study in coordination with the State of Washington, Columbia River Water Management Program. The 2006 Washington State Legislature overwhelmingly supported legislation to develop new water supplies and improve water management, which included a commitment of \$216 million.

The Shankers Bend Project would meet or exceed the stated goals of the Columbia River Water Management Program by:

- Addressing the needs of all water users
- Provide supplies for economic development and population growth
- Be used to preserve biological integrity of our watersheds including fisheries
- Enhance recreational activities
- Provide protection from destructive floods

Additionally, the Shankers Bend Project will provide power generation benefits. The project would provide clean, renewable energy to serve the growing population of Okanogan County. The project would be located within the county, eliminating the need for additional transmission associated with new resources outside the county.

Regionally and nationally, concerns for Global Climate Change have turned attention away from some resources that potentially contribute to greenhouse gases. Hydropower is a logical choice for reducing those impacts.

The northwest is continuing to develop wind generation. Wind generation requires supplemental generation sources to provide backup during times of unpredictable or inadequate wind. Hydropower projects like Shanker's Bend potentially provide this type of backup to both Okanogan County PUD's Nine Canyon wind project and other regional projects.

The Shanker's Bend Project will study various alternatives including dam heights ranging from 90 to 260 feet. At 260 feet the dam will be approximately 1,200 feet long and impound an 18,000 acre reservoir with a storage capacity of 1.7 million acre-feet.

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