STATED ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Mitigated Determination of Non-significance

Date: November 15, 2019

Description of Proposal:

The proposed Enloe Dam Safety Repair and Maintenance Project (the “Project”) will allow for the District to bypass up to 1,000 cubic feet per second of water around the right bank of Enloe Dam through the replacement of the existing, inoperable gates with new gates and a section of steel penstock. This installation will enable the District to conduct a needed visual inspection of the downstream face of the dam, toe of the dam, and both abutments. These features are normally inaccessible for inspection because they are beneath the flows over the spillway as there are currently no means to divert water around the dam.

In preparing this proposal, District staff assessed several dewatering alternatives at both the left side and right side of Enloe Dam. These included: (i) utilizing flashboards and/or sandbags to partially dewater the dam in sections, (ii) installing temporary siphons to pump water around the dam, (iii) rehabilitating the existing gates system and installing a section of new penstock along the dam’s right bank, and (iv) a combination of a flexible aqua dam and siphon/pumping system. The detailed analysis performed on the alternatives included an assessment of safety, environmental impacts, ability to permit, repeatability, likelihood of success, and overall project costs. Based on the results of the evaluation, the District elected to pursue rehabilitating the existing gates system and installing a section of new penstock along the dam’s right back. The primary factors leading to this alternative being selected as the preferred option was (a) the ability to safely perform the work and (b) the reliability to repeat the dewatering for future inspections.

The District previously coordinated with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and is now consulting with Ecology dam safety staff and other agency partners (including the Bureau of
Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA Fisheries) regarding the implementation of the required dam safety inspection program.

**Location of proposal:**

Enloe Dam is located on the Similkameen River (at river mile 8.8) approximately 3.5 miles northwest of Oroville, Washington. The township, range and section are T40N-R26E-S13.

**Lead Agency and Proponent:** Public Utility District #1 of Okanogan County

**Agency Contact:** Jeri Timm, Director of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs, jerit@okpud.org, 509-422-8425

As lead agency for this proposal, Public Utility District #1 of Okanogan County has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. Pursuant to Washington Administrative Code ("WAC") Section 197-11-350(3), the proposal has been clarified, changed, and conditioned to include necessary mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or compensate for probable significant impacts. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under Revised Code of Washington ("RCW") Section 43.21C.030. The necessary mitigation measures are listed as **Exhibit A**, below.

The District made this determination based on a review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the District (and available to the public upon request), as set forth in WAC 197-11-330 and RCW 43.21C.030. The checklist is also attached to this notice as **Exhibit B**, and available at [https://www.okanaganpud.org/environmental/enloe-dam-project](https://www.okanaganpud.org/environmental/enloe-dam-project) or by contacting the above-listed agency contact.

This Mitigated Determination of Non-significance ("MDNS") is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal for at least 14 days from the date of the newspaper publication on November 21, 2019. Comments must be submitted in writing, or postmarked, to the Public Utility District #1 of Okanogan County, Attn: Jeri Timm, 1331 Second Avenue North (P.O. Box 912), Okanogan, WA 98840, or by email to JeriT@okpud.org no later than 5:00pm on **December 5, 2019**.

The District is re-noticing the SEPA Determination due to an attachment being inadvertently excluded from the Checklist.

**Lead Agency:** Public Utility District #1 of Okanogan County  
**Responsible Official:** Steven N. Taylor  
**Position/Title:** General Manager  
**Phone:** (509) 422-3310  
**Address:** PO Box 912 Okanogan, WA 98840

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 11-15-19

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Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.075, the final determination of the Responsible Official may be appealed. Following public notice of this MDNS, the District may decide to proceed with the Project, in which case the Responsible Official will issue a Notice of Action. Any action to set aside, enjoin, review or otherwise challenge such action or this MDNS on the grounds of noncompliance with the provisions of chapter 43.21C RCW (State Environmental Policy Act) shall be commenced in Okanogan County Superior Court within the time limits further described at RCW 43.21C.080(2)(a). There is no administrative appeal for this determination.
EXHIBIT A

Mitigation Measures:

The following mitigation measures address cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, timing of in-water work, air and water quality, erosion and sediment control, and other appropriate aspects of the environment. Best management practices have been addressed during Project design.

- **Air Quality**
  
a) All construction equipment will meet applicable air quality standards.

  b) Fugitive dust will be contained through measures outlined in the Erosion Sediment Control and Construction Management Plan.

- **Water**
  
a) Work within and adjacent to the Similkameen River:

  i. In-water work will be limited to areas directly adjacent to and within the existing gate intake gate wells. Gate removal and replacement will primarily be done in the dry.

  ii. Accumulated sediment within the intake gate wells will be excavated to the extent feasible from within sheet piles placed at the face of the intake wells. Sediment removed will be tested and disposed of at an approved location per the Spoils Disposal Plan.

  iii. A silt curtain will be used to limit mixing of the sediment with the water behind the dam.

  iv. No fill placement will occur in wetlands.

  v. Runoff (including stormwater) at construction-related disturbed areas will be managed through various erosion control measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs), including stabilization and coverage of any soils exposed during construction. The Project will obtain a Construction Stormwater General Permit and comply with all related conditions.

  vi. The Project’s new gates would be opened annually to allow for periodic dam safety inspections and testing during high flows, so as to not exceed water quality standards.

- **Plants and Animals**
  
a) No listed plants are documented in the vicinity of the proposed Project. Three years of protocol-level surveys for Utes’ ladies tresses were conducted and
accepted by USFWS. No Utes' ladies tresses were identified during the surveys. All disturbed areas will be replanted following completion of the Project with a BLM-approved seed mix.

b) Upper Columbia River (UCR) summer steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) are known to reside downstream of the dam. Construction Best Management Practices will be established and implemented to allow the District to maintain compliance with water quality requirements.

c) No other threatened or endangered species are known in the immediate vicinity of the Project area. Mitigation measures to be employed include:

i. Pre-disturbance avian nest surveys would be conducted prior to any clearing activities.

ii. Erosion control measures to reduce and avoid sediment entering the river.

iii. No in-water work would occur until July, which meets the fish work window for the Similkameen above Enloe Dam per WAC 220-660-300.

iv. Any dewatering activities would occur at lower flows (less than 1,000 cubic feet per second) and outside of any spawning, hatching, and emergence period for listed fish.

• Environmental Health

a) To reduce risks related to accidental leaks and spills of fluids (including petroleum-based products) from equipment and machinery, wet concrete, concrete leachate or particulates, or demolition debris in the construction area, the Project would implement all applicable BMPs outlined in the project specific Erosion & Sediment Control & Construction Sediment Control Plan, and SWPPP and Spill Response Plan.

• Aesthetics

a) After the Project is complete, periodic use of the Project for required Dam safety inspections and maintenance activities will cause temporary and likely unavoidable impacts on some aesthetic features of the existing Dam, because the purpose of the Project is to dewater the downstream face of the dam (in other words, to stop flow over the dam).

b) Even during these temporary dewatering events, water would be released in the tailrace above Similkameen Falls, so flows over the falls would be unlikely to be impacted. The District would notify the public for any long-term maintenance activities.
• Recreation

  a) During construction activities, Public access to the right side of the dam (west side of the river) would be limited and potentially closed during peak construction activities. Closure signs would be installed alerting the public when construction begins.

• Historical and cultural preservation

  a) Enloe Dam and the powerhouse are listed on the National Register of Historic Structures.

  b) The BLM is reviewing the proposed disturbance areas and will conduct any required cultural and historic property surveys. Any findings will be provided to the District and cultural resources will accordingly be avoided during construction. The District will provide mitigation and/or an onsite cultural monitor, if required as part of that review process.

  c) An Inadvertent Discovery Plan will be implemented during any ground disturbing activities.