

L7619(PNR-RP)
Nooksack River, WA-FERC
FERC No. 10824

October 23, 1992

Jeffrey E. Twitchell, P.E.
STS Hydropower, Limited
7311 Greenhaven Drive
Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95831

Dear Mr. Twitchell:

Based on recent conversations with the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), it appears that the site of the proposed Heisler's Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 10824) might be suitable for recreational boating. During a recent site visit, Jeff Marti of the DOE discussed with your consultant the issues of a watercraft evaluation study and public access for the bypass reach of the proposed project. Although the only access road to the diversion point is blocked by a locked gate, the gorge below the diversion is a dramatic setting and might provide an outstanding kayaking experience if access was made available.

We understand that you are not necessarily opposed to conducting a boating evaluation study, but that there is some concern that providing public access to the diversion site raises liability issues. We do not believe that concerns over liability rule out the need to evaluate recreation opportunities in the project reach. Therefore, we support the DOE's request for a whitewater evaluation, and we also ask that you perform the study.

We would be willing to meet with you and offer our assistance in addressing the study scope, public access issues, and other aspects of the relationship of your project to both current and potential recreation activities. We suggest a site visit be conducted with the DOE, yourself and other interested parties to further discuss these issues.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions concerning this letter, or if we can be of assistance, please contact Dan Haas at (206) 553-5366.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Karotko, Chief
Recreation Programs Division

cc:
Lois Cashell, FERC
Jeff Marti, WA-DOE
Sam Stokes, NPS-WASO