

FACT SHEET

Klamath River Dams Removal Federal and State Agency Reports

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service recommends that removing the Klamath dams would be “the best alternative.”¹
- California Energy Commission response to PacifiCorp economic critique concludes: “It would generally be more cost effective to decommission rather than relicense the Klamath Hydro project.”²
- The California Energy Commission concludes, “Replacing electricity from the Klamath project can be done without increasing greenhouse gas emissions.”³
- The California Energy Commission economic analysis concludes that removal of dams would save PacifiCorp over \$100 million.⁴
- National Marine Fisheries and Interior Department ordered PacifiCorp to build fish ladders, screen turbines and devote a smaller proportion of the river to power production in order to secure a 50-year license renewal from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Estimates put the cost of building fish ladders at \$3-\$400 million.⁵
- FERC estimates that the federal fish mandates would leave PacifiCorp with an annual loss of \$28.7 million if it continues to operate the dams.⁶
- The California Energy Commission concludes, “Because of the small (electricity) capacity of the Klamath hydro units... removal of these units will not have a significant reliability impact on a larger regional scale.”⁷
- According to the FERC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), dam removal is cheaper than installing the fish ladders prescribed by federal agencies. Therefore dam removal is the cheapest alternative for ratepayers.⁸

¹ Roman Salas, Magalie. “Comments, Recommended Terms and Conditions, and Preliminary Prescriptions for the Klamath Hydroelectric Project,” Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service. March 24, 2006 (Page A-4). <http://www.pcffa.org/NMFS-REAKlamRecommendations03-24-06.pdf>

² “Economic Modeling of Relicensing and Decommissioning Options for the Klamath Basin Hydroelectric Project, California Energy Commission,” California Energy Commission, November 2006 (4-5). <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2006publications/CEC-700-2006-010/CEC-700-2006-010.PDF>

³ “Economic Modeling of Relicensing and Decommissioning Options for the Klamath Basin Hydroelectric Project,” California Energy Commission, April 19, 2007 (Page 9-10). <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2007publications/CEC-700-2007-004/CEC-700-2007-004-REV1.PDF>

⁴ Economic Modeling of Relicensing and Decommissioning Options for the Klamath Basin Hydroelectric Project,” California Energy Commission, April 19, 2007 (Page 9-10). <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2007publications/CEC-700-2007-004/CEC-700-2007-004-REV1.PDF>

⁵ Harden, Blaine. “U.S. Orders Modification of Klamath River Dams, Removal May Prove More Cost Effective.” *Washington Post* Staff (January 31, 2007; Page A03) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/30/AR2007013001757.html?nav=emailpage>

⁶ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. “Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Relicensing of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project No. 2082-027, (September 25, 2006) <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/enviro/eis/2006/09-25-06.asp#skipnavsub>

⁷ Ibid.

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- Removing the dams would cost \$101 million less than modifying them as ordered by federal agencies, according to a recent report written for the California Energy Commission.⁹
- The four dams produce electricity for about 70,000 customers. The power is worth about \$29 million a year, according to the California Energy Commission.¹⁰
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued by FERC- FERC includes a two dam removal alternative and concludes that removal of the two largest dams would be less expensive than implementation of agency terms and conditions.¹¹
- Judge's ruling upholds agencies' terms and conditions ruling that the fish passage requirements sought by federal fishery agencies for the relicensing of PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams were "legally sound and based on solid facts."¹²
- California Coastal Commission performed an economic study which concluded that removal of the four lower Klamath dams would save PacifiCorp over \$100 million.¹³
- In 2002, an estimated 70,000 returning adult salmon were killed due to a disease outbreak caused by warm water temperatures and low summer flows. Large die-offs of migrating juvenile salmon have also been observed in recent years.¹⁴ The *KPAAM Consultant Report* and the revised addendum based on the new inputs and assumptions has determined that decommissioning the project, rather than relicensing, **increases** the economic benefits to PacifiCorp's ratepayers ranging from \$32 million to \$286 million.¹⁵
- The California Coastal Commission performed a sediment study and concluded that the dams provide little if any flood control value, the sediment behind the dams is non-toxic, and the river could transport sediment to the sea with minimal impacts.¹⁶

⁸ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Relicensing of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project No. 2082-027, (September 25, 2006)

<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/enviro/eis/2006/09-25-06.asp#skipnavsub>

⁹ Harden, Blaine . "U.S. Orders Modification of Klamath River Dams Removal May Prove More Cost-Effective." *Washington Post* Staff (January 31, 2007; Page A03)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/30/AR2007013001757.html?nav=emailpage>

¹⁰ Ibid. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/Klamath>

¹¹ <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/enviro/eis/2006/09-25-06.asp>

¹² Bacher, Dan. "Judge's Ruling Paves Way for Klamath Dam Removal." *The Fish Sniffer* (October 8, 2006) <http://www.fishsniffer.com/dbachere/061008klamath.html> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Findings of Fact Support Department of Interior and Commerce Proposed Prescriptions"

<http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=F5AF9657-EA1F-639B-EA87807F99989A1A>

¹³ <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2007publications/CEC-700-2007-004/CEC-700-2007-004.PDF>

¹⁴ "Economic Modeling of Relicensing and Decommissioning Options for the Klamath Basin Hydroelectric Project, California Energy Commission," California Energy Commission, November 2006 (Page 14)

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2006publications/CEC-700-2006-010/CEC-700-2006-010.PDF>

¹⁵ <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2007publications/CEC-700-2007-004/CEC-700-2007-004.PDF>

¹⁶ http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20060926-5075