



Northwest Resource Information Center

208.939.0714 ▪ edchaney@nwr.org ▪ nwr.org ▪ lastsalmonceremony.org

December 11, 2023

TO: Linsay Slater

FR: Ed Chaney

RE: December 12, 2023 testimony

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Picked up on unguarded comment from which I inferred that you may have been invited to testify tomorrow before the House Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries.

I'm sure it will be a real circus. Thankfully, the clowns will put it on YouTube. It can be used to haunt them come reelection.

I thought the information in the attached documents might be more useful to you than the hopes and prayers of the political ring kissers singing hosannas over the purportedly "leaked" partial draft so-called settlement agreement that has the region all atwitter.

The draft agreement appears to surrender the President's authority to order—without Congressional interference—breaching the fraudulently authorized, illegally constructed, illegally operated dams on the lower Snake River.

These words will live in infamy:

[the agreement does] "not constitute a decision by the USG to support legislation to authorize dam breaching. But [the] USG continues to be committed to exploring restoration of the Lower Snake River, including dam breach."

The tribes and states would, as usual, be showered with more regional ratepayer and US Treasury dollars to go along.

Snake River salmon would get a new, improved smallpox blanket of indefinite delay; likely the death knell for Snake River salmon and Southern Resident Orca teetering on the brink of extinction.

This the best they can do? *Forty-three years* after the Congress, calling it an “urgent matter” when the four lower Snake River dams threatened extinction of Snake River salmon, enacted what is commonly called the Northwest Power Act of 1980. The Act mandated that *within one year, using existing information* a plan be developed to restore the salmon.

Are rational people really expected to buy this kind of bullshit? Only the most cognitively impaired couldn't see where this is headed. I've seen this movie many times during my 50 plus years of professional experience immersed in this issue. I never liked the ending.

The draft agreement falsely gives credence to the odious Murray/Inslee con that claims breaching the dams and mitigating the effects would cost \$10 -27 billion dollars.

The audacity of this craven lie stuns even the most jaded observer. In plain fact, breaching the dams and spreading a relatively tiny bit more pork on those affected would stop billions of dollars in waste of taxpayer and ratepayer dollars, end untold hundreds of millions more in ongoing damage, and produce profits of hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the region and nation.

The record is clear and incontrovertible. The dams were fraudulently authorized, illegally constructed and illegally operated for a half century. The damage they cause stretches across multiple federal laws designed to protect Snake River salmon.

See end notes in attached CEQ and Pelosi letters re the treaties and laws being violated. It's all happening in plain sight.

The ecological, economic and social damage extends 700 miles inland and thousands of miles along the Pacific Coast from northern California to southeast Alaska. Untold numbers of small businesses destroyed; jobs lost.

The energy these illegal zombie dams produce was already replaced many times over decades ago by conservation and non-carbon producing renewables as envisioned by the Northwest Power Act of 1980.

It would take a few months outside the irrigation season to extend irrigation pipes of the 13 or so irrigators pumping out of Ice Harbor pool. Free of charge to irrigators with taxpayer dollars

Waterway shippers could interruptedly use existing infrastructure in the short term till a little bit more taxpayer pork was spent on upgrades to improve efficiency. In the interim, just give them a little more taxpayer-paid welfare to mitigate any increased cost.

The cost of keeping everybody whole and more would be infinitesimally small pocket change compared to the enormous economic benefits that would flow from breaching these zombie dams, which don't even pay their own O&M costs.

To not do this—to not do it on an emergency basis—is madness.

That's why it's so difficult for rational, decent people to change the current trajectory toward extinction of Snake River salmon and Southern Resident Orca. End the social, ecological and economic costs which compound beyond comprehension and which, unless the dams are breached, soon, will continue to compound in perpetuity.

The stench of government rotten to the core sickens.

Stay tuned. It's going to get worse.

The region again, for so many times I've lost count, breathlessly waits to see if *this time* maybe pigs can be made to fly.

NRIC is not waiting. It has initiated a nationwide search for legal counsel with enough spine and respect for the rule of law to strike the corrupt/scofflaw Bonneville Power Administration and Corps of Engineers with lightning Boldt lawsuits—after the federal district court judge that decided U.S v. Washington.

These lawsuits will avoid the legal morass of endless remands to the guilty. They will seek declaratory judgments that drive the Bonneville Power Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers to their knees and force them to respect the rule of law and the public interest.

In effect, they will seek legal declarations of death for these corrupt agencies and life for Snake River salmon and Southern Resident Orca.

Meanwhile, the Bonneville political hegemon, its political enablers, shills and sycophants will continue to sacrifice the region's ratepayers and the nation's taxpayers on the altar of Lord Pork. Desperately seeking to cling to power and maintain political hegemony over the Pacific Northwest.

No matter what the cost now and in perpetuity.

So much evil, so little time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Ed Chaney". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ed Chaney

Director