

Public Notice

Proposed Removal of J.C. Boyle Dam: Public Hearing in Klamath Falls, June 12

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to comment on the proposed section 401 water quality certification for the removal of the J.C. Boyle Dam, reservoir, powerhouse and all other infrastructure related to the existing Lower Klamath Project.

The J.C. Boyle hydroelectric development is part of the Lower Klamath Project that includes the Copco No.1, Copco No.2, and Iron Gate facilities in Siskiyou County, California. The removal of the project's California developments will be addressed under a separate water quality certification administered by the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Summary

On Sept. 23, 2016, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation applied to DEQ for Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the removal of the J.C. Boyle hydroelectric development. The Klamath River Renewal Corporation proposes to remove all physical features of the hydroelectric facility, revegetate the reservoir embankment, mitigate for impacts to affected resources, and monitor the effects on water quality.

DEQ expects dam removal to temporarily reduce water quality below established criteria during and following reservoir drawdown. However, DEQ also expects dam removal will result in a net ecological benefit and improved long-term water quality. For this reason, DEQ has completed a draft Section 401 Water Quality Certification that includes a time schedule for compliance. The certification establishes a time compliance schedule of 24 months after which DEQ expects project will no longer cause violations of water quality standards. To verify this expectation, DEQ will require the Klamath River Renewal Corporation to monitor water quality, consult with resource agencies, and perform corrective actions if impacts persist beyond the compliance time schedule.

How do I participate?

Attend the meeting to learn about the water quality certification, provide comments, and ask any questions you might have. DEQ will accept written and oral comments during the public hearing. You can also submit written comments by mail, fax, or email. The comments you provide will become part of the public record.

Meeting details

When: 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Tuesday, June 12

Where: Oregon Institute of Technology
College Union, Auditorium
3201 Campus Drive
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Can I make written comments?

E-mail, fax or mail your comments to:

Chris Stine, Hydroelectric Specialist
165 E 7th Ave, Suite 100
Eugene, OR 97401

Fax: 541-686-7551

Email: Klamath401@deq.state.or.us

Comments due: 5 p.m., Friday, July 6, 2018.

About the Project

PacifiCorp Energy currently owns and operates the Klamath Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission No. 2082), a project that includes hydroelectric facilities on Link River and J.C. Boyle Dams in Oregon and on Fall Creek, Copco No.1, Copco No.2, and Iron Gate Dams in California. On September 23, 2016, PacifiCorp and the Klamath River Renewal Corporation jointly applied to FERC to designate the J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2, and Iron Gate developments as a new FERC project (the "Lower Klamath Project," FERC No.14803) and transfer this license to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation. The Klamath River Renewal Corporation simultaneously filed with FERC an application for license surrender and request to decommission the project.

Before FERC can issue a license authorizing removal of J.C. Boyle Dam, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation must first receive a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from DEQ. The Clean Water Act allows the states to determine if the activity will comply with state water quality rules and authorizes states to include conditions, as necessary, to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

Removal of the dams will improve long-term water quality and restore habitat range for migrating salmon. Although dam removal will cause short duration water quality impacts, DEQ believes the project will yield a net ecological benefit and, for this reason, DEQ will allow short-term exceedances



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Environmental
Quality

Hydro Certification

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to water quality standards. Certain measures will be taken to minimize impacts such as scheduling reservoir drawdown during periods of high seasonal flows and revegetating embankments to reduce erosion.

What water pollutants would the water quality certification regulate?

Decommissioning of the J.C. Boyle Development will result in discharges to the Klamath River. The certification conditions will require Klamath River Renewal Corporation to implement measures to protect fish and other aquatic life, to minimize sediment runoff during decommissioning, and to re-plant and restore the reservoir area. The certification will also require Klamath River Renewal Corporation to monitor temperature, conductance, pH, dissolved oxygen and oxygen saturation, turbidity, nitrogen, phosphorus, carbon, Chlorophyll-a, and total suspended sediment.

How does DEQ determine water quality certification requirements?

DEQ evaluates the potential pollutants, the effect of the proposed activity on the environment, and the location of the project to determine water quality certification conditions. DEQ may also rely on output from models to evaluate the effect of the action on water quality.

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?

This certification would require Klamath River Renewal Corporation to monitor pollutants using state-approved monitoring practices and standards,

and submit annual water quality monitoring reports to DEQ.

What happens after the meeting?

DEQ will consider all comments received and may modify the proposed water quality certification conditions based on comments. DEQ intends to take state action on the water quality certification by September 2018.

Where can I get more information?

View the draft certification and evaluation report at <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/Section-401-Hydropower.aspx>, or contact Chris Stine, Hydroelectric Specialist

Phone: 541-686-7810 or 800-844-8467

Fax: 541-686-7551

Email: stine.chris@deq.state.or.us

Accessibility information

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.