

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

December 21, 2006

The Honorable Jay Inslee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Inslee:

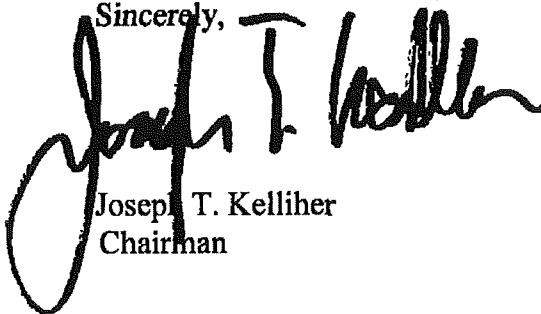
I am writing in response to your December 1, 2006 letter concerning applications for preliminary permits for proposed tidal energy projects filed by the Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (Snohomish).

In June 2006, Snohomish filed seven applications for preliminary permits for sites located in Puget Sound, Washington. These applications are currently pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Public notices for all of the applications have been issued. Comments and motions to intervene have been filed by numerous entities, including federal and state agencies, towns, cities, and counties, potential competitors, and the general public. These entities have raised a variety of policy issues.

The Commission hosted a Technical Conference on Hydroelectric Infrastructure (AD06-13-000) in Washington, DC on December 6, 2006. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the status of ocean-based hydroelectric technologies (wave, tidal, and current) and explore the environmental, financial, and regulatory issues pertaining to the development of these new technologies. During this conference, the Commission gathered information to assist the Commission in evaluating these proposals. We understand the urgency and importance of this energy development and we are working to resolve the issues involved as quickly as possible.

I hope this information is helpful. If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please let me know. Your letter has been placed in the Commission's public file for these projects, which serves to alert the Commission to the concerns of interested individuals and groups.

Sincerely,



Joseph T. Kelliher
Chairman

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