



# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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The Honorable Magalie R. Salas, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington D.C. 20426

FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

July 20, 2006

REGARDING: COMMENTS Project No. 12687-000, Competing Preliminary Permit Application of Snohomish County P.U.D. No. 1, Deception Pass Tidal Energy Hydroelectric Project

Dear Secretary Salas:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the hydroelectric application for a competing preliminary permit for Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County, Washington. Our concerns remain the same. Deception Pass is a heavily used boating passage, with extremely strong tidal and current activity. The area also supports extensive wildlife, with bald eagle nesting and roosting sites and an osprey nest in the area. It is also a popular fishing area. The Deception Pass State Park is a destination facility with millions of visitors each year.

The application is preliminary, but should not be approved without extensive study of the existing conditions of the area. The existing application detail is insufficient to effectively evaluate the project. Prior to the applicant conducting studies in the area, Skagit County would respectfully request that they contact the local, state and federal government agencies with jurisdiction in order to clarify the proposal and address concerns over potential conflicts with existing users and potential significant adverse environmental impacts. The issue of developing the project in the Island and Skagit County area and transmitting the power generated outside of the existing, local system should also be addressed and considered.

The proposed location of the actual TISEC devices, anchoring systems and upland transmission lines are of interest to us in order to better determine potential impacts to the area. Prior to placement of such devices, even if just for research and development purposes, the applicant would need to obtain permits from the local government(s).

Please add Skagit County Planning and Development Services to the project notification/ mailing list of interested parties.

Thank you for your consideration,

Betsy Stevenson  
Senior Planner