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July 14, 2008

For Immediate Release

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PACIFICORP STALLS CLEAN WATER DECISION, HALTING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON DAMS' WATER QUALITY

PacifiCorp has officially withdrawn a 401 Clean Water Permit for its dams on the Klamath River, delaying a key regulatory process that could have resulted in a recommendation for Klamath dam removal.

"We are disappointed but not surprised that PacifiCorp has once again shirked its responsibility to clean water on the Klamath. These are stalling tactics that allow PacifiCorp to continue breaking environmental laws with impunity, with nothing less than the future of Klamath salmon at stake." Said Malena Marvin with Klamath Riverkeeper.

Clean water hearings on the dams were set to begin July 22nd in Sacramento and continue into August in northern California. PacifiCorp filed an official withdrawal of their application for water quality certification through the state of California July 11th.

Legal action from Klamath Riverkeeper this spring forced California's State Water Board to consider issuing a Waste Discharge Permit for toxic algae produced in PacifiCorp's reservoirs. This action followed another court victory in which Klamath Riverkeeper forced the US EPA to list PacifiCorp's toxic algae as a pollutant on the Klamath River under the Clean Water Act. Both court decisions increased the likelihood that the State Water Board would have to deny PacifiCorp's 401 clean water permit application for the dams targeted for removal.

Without water quality certification from the State of California, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) cannot issue a new operating license for the dams.

Many of the people whose livelihoods are affected by PacifiCorp's pollution were planning to travel to these hearings and make official comments. "These sorts of delays cause confusion and hardship for the working public who would like to comment on PacifiCorp's dams and clean water on the Klamath River. PacifiCorp is showing its true colors as a huge corporation that cares little about the Klamath or the people who depend on its clean water and fisheries," added Marvin.

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