



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548
Phone: (707) 482-1350 • Fax: (707) 482-1377

October 4, 2007

Magalie Salas
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capital Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Subject: Klamath Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2082-027), Toxic Blue-green algae Health Advisory Posting

Dear Ms. Salas,

We write this letter to draw your attention to dangerous levels of toxic blue-green algae in the Klamath River below Iron Gate Dam to the mouth of the river that are directly linked to the Klamath River Hydroelectric Project (P-2082). The Yurok Tribe in conjunction with the State of California and Del Norte and Humboldt Counties recently posted a Health Advisory on the Klamath River on September 26, 2007 due to the presence of a toxic blue-green algae known as *Microcystis aeruginosa* which is present in concentrations that exceed the State of California's recommended posting levels of 40,000 cells/ml for recreational waters. In fact, cell concentrations have exceeded 90,000 cells/ml, which is over twice that of no-contact levels.

Water quality monitoring efforts by the Karuk and Yurok Tribes in the Klamath River Hydroelectric Project reservoirs and in the river reach upstream and downstream of the hydroelectric project clearly show that Copco Lake and Iron Gate Reservoir are the source of the toxic blue-green algae that is entering the Lower Klamath River. Enclosed are copies of memos that describe the toxic blue-green algae conditions above, within and below the Klamath Hydroelectric Project reservoirs that prompted the posting response from the State of CA, Yurok Tribe and Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. These documents are part of the FERC record, but are provided again for your convenience.

In addition to the two memos are copies of the two health advisories that the Yurok Tribe and the State of California's North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board posted at river access locations are enclosed.

The attached data clearly shows that the source of this blue-green algae human health threat is the Klamath River Hydroelectric Project. To our knowledge, no mitigations have been proposed to reduce the concentration of algae, other than the possible application of toxic algaecides above Chinook and coho salmon habitat, which is unacceptable to the Yurok Tribe. We believe that this data points to the need for the project decommissioning alternative to be selected as the preferred alternative in the FERC Final EIS.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kevin McKernan at 707-482-1350.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Tripp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Maria Tripp
Chairperson, Yurok Tribe

KF

CC: FERC Klamath Service List

Enclosure