



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 6th Avenue East
Helena, MT 59620-0701
December 27, 2005

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Mr. Richard Rosenberg
Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Company LLC
3633 Alderwood Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Gibson Reservoir and Sun River Water Quality Monitoring, Revised Draft Study Plan for 2005-2007. Gibson Dam Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 12478.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

We have reviewed the most recent draft study plan for water quality monitoring at the Gibson Dam site. We are particularly concerned that you have ignored the recommendations of both EPA and MDEQ to develop a reservoir operations model that fine tunes and optimizes reservoir operations so that the needs of irrigators are met while at the same time maximizing downstream releases that will improve stream flow and mitigate water quality and quantity impacts associated with operation of the dam.

We cannot support the plan without inclusion of such a study.

Sincerely,

Glenn R. Phillips, Chief
Habitat Protection Bureau

cc: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Energy Projects, 888 First St. NE, Washington, DC 20426

Mr. Steve Potts, USEPA, Missoula, MT (potts.steven@epa.gov)

Dr. Mike Suplee, MDEQ, Helena, MT (msuplee@mt.gov)

Mr. Steve Leathe, MFWP, Great Falls, MT (sleathe@mt.gov)