



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT
PO BOX 2946
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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Programs, Planning and
Project Management Division

Mr. Peter Huhtala
Executive Director
Columbia Deepening Opposition Group
P.O. Box 682
Astoria, Oregon 97103

Dear Mr. Huhtala:

This letter is in response to your February 28, 2003 comment letter with regards to the Final Supplemental Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project (Final SEIS).

As noted in your letter, your comments largely restate comments you and others have previously submitted on the project, and which the Corps has addressed through the Final SEIS and responses to earlier comments. The substance of many of your comments has also been addressed through the conditions of the 401 Water Quality Certifications and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determinations issued by the states of Washington and Oregon, as well as through project modifications made as a result of those state approvals (e.g., deletion of Miller-Pillar ecosystem restoration feature) and implementation of programs identified in those approvals (e.g., Adaptive Management Program).

With regards to your concerns about river lamprey, discussion of Pacific and River lamprey was added to the Final SEIS (see pages 6-23, 6-29 and 6-30). Impacts to the lamprey are expected to be minimal since they do not occur in the deep water areas of the navigation channel as ammocoetes. As cited in the Petition for listing, ammocoetes bury in the bottom in the shallower margins of creeks and rivers. In addition, no lamprey were collected during the extensive entrainment studies done at the Mouth of the Columbia River in the 1980's.

With regards to your August 2, 2002 letter, because the letter addressed the public hearing process itself – not the substance of the SEIS – the Corps responded directly to you on the letter rather than including your letter and the Corps' response in the Final SEIS comment response section. A copy of the Corps' August 12, 2002 response to you is attached for your records.

Thank you for taking the time to comment on the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project.

Robert E. Willis
Chief, Environmental Resources
Branch

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