

**WASHINGTON STATE  
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. 290  
CHEHALIS GENERATION FACILITY RIVER GAUGE**

**BACKGROUND:** On March 4, 1997, Governor Locke signed the Site Certification Agreement (SCA) authorizing Chehalis Power, Inc. to construct and operate the Chehalis Generation Facility, a combustion turbine project near Chehalis, Washington. Article VI.A.5 requires Chehalis Power to submit a report discussing how best to gauge flow in the Chehalis River Reach (the Reach) during low flow periods. The report was to be submitted to the Council by September 4, 1997 (within six months of execution of the SCA), after consultation with the City of Chehalis, the Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The purpose of the report was to assist the Council in formulating a requirement for monitoring the flow rate in the Reach to achieve compliance with the withdrawal requirements in the SCA.

By letter dated July 11, 1997, Chehalis Power summarized its consultations and requested a two-month extension of the deadline in order to continue consultations with Ecology and USGS. In question was whether a formula developed by Ecology (the Pickett formula) could be used to determine flow *as* accurately or *more* accurately than the installation of a gauge in the Reach. The Pickett formula calculates flow in the Reach using data from existing flow gauges above and below the Reach.

At its August 11, 1997 meeting, the Council heard testimony on the issue. Ecology recommended that the Council not use the Pickett formula, but was amendable to extending the deadline to allow further consultation. Mr. John Mudge, representing the Critical Issues Council, testified that the use of a formula was inappropriate and that a flow gauge was the most accurate method to measure flow. The Council extended the deadline to November 4, 1997.

On November 3, 1997, Chehalis Power submitted its report, dated October 31. On November 10, 1997, after further consultation with Ecology and USGS, Chehalis Power submitted a revised report, dated November 6. The report concluded that a new formula (the USGS Frasl formula) appeared to be a reliable predictor but that water conditions during the summer/fall of 1997 had not allowed it to be tested fully before the deadline. The report proposed continued testing to validate the Frasl formula according to specified terms.

**RESOLUTION:** The Council concludes that Chehalis Power's report of November 6, 1997, satisfies the Article VI.A.5 requirement for consultation and reporting on the best means of gauging the Centralia Reach of the Chehalis River.

Having considered Chehalis Power's recommendations, public testimony, and the recommendation of Council staff, the Council adopts the recommendations in the Report to Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, Chehalis River Flow Monitoring, dated November 6, 1997, with minor modifications.

**RESOLUTION NO. 290 (continued)**

- For the next three years, the USGS or another qualified entity will take the necessary low flow measurements in the Reach according to USGS standards. The measurements will be taken at Alexander's Bridge and/or other locations deemed appropriate to develop the most reliable formula.
- The measurements will be used by USGS to calibrate the formula and determine its accuracy.
- The USGS and Council will review the formula annually and may make changes in consultation with Ecology.
- The Certificate Holder will provide funding for the development of the formula, including the cost of all measurements and the staff time required for consultation and development.<sup>1</sup> Staff involved may include representatives of Ecology, USGS, and EFSEC.
- The Council will review the information, data, and recommendations, and will decide whether low flow in the Centralia Reach shall be determined by formula or by installation of a flow gauge.
- If a formula is approved and used, the Council will require installation of telemetry capability at the Bucoda gauge on the Skookumchuck River to provide real time data. This will allow the formula to be applied in real time when the Chehalis Generation Facility is in operation. Installation will be required at the start of construction.
- After this testing, if Ecology and USGS do not agree that the formula can provide sufficient accuracy to determine low flow, a flow gauge will be required in the Reach
- If Chehalis Power decides to begin construction prior to the conclusion of the three-year testing period, the Council will require the installation of a gauge prior to construction and establish the appropriate terms of installation and operation.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 1997.

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

By:

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C. Robert Wallis, Acting EFSEC Chair

Attest:

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Allen J. Fiksdal, Acting EFSEC Manager

Attachment  
Chehalis Power November 6, 1997 Report

<sup>1</sup> The condition in Article VI.A.5 remains in full effect: "The Council may then take whatever action it deems appropriate to require Chehalis Power to provide funds for the construction and operation of a flow gauge."