



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

**January 25, 2013**

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as lead agency under NEPA, encloses for your review a Draft Environmental Assessment: *ISSUANCE OF AN ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 10(a)(1)(A) PERMIT TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PACIFICORP FOR ACTIVITIES AT THE IRON GATE FISH HATCHERY.*

The Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NMFS proceeding with the issuance of a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and PacifiCorp Energy (PacifiCorp), under the authorities of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The permit issued by NMFS would allow for the take of one species of anadromous salmon during the implementation of a Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) for coho salmon at Iron Gate Hatchery, for a ten year period. The requested permit area occurs in the state of California. The listed species for which incidental take authorization is sought is the federally threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU). The duration of the permit is proposed for 10 years from the date of permit issuance.

Additional copies of the DEA and proposed HGMP may be obtained by contacting Mr. Jim Simondet of NMFS at (707) 825-5171. The documents are also accessible electronically through the NMFS Southwest Region website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/nepa.htm>.

Written comments should be submitted through mail, facsimile (fax), or e-mail to the individual identified below. Written comments submitted during the 30-day public comment period must be received by February 26, 2013. When submitting fax or e-mail comments, include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: PacifiCorp HGMP. Comments submitted by e-mail should be sent to the following address: [NMFS.SWR.NCO.IronGateHGMP@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.SWR.NCO.IronGateHGMP@noaa.gov).

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Sincerely,

for Rodney R. McInnis  
Regional Administrator



Enclosures

1. *Draft Environmental Assessment: Issuance of an Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(A) Permit to the California Department of Fish and Game and PacifiCorp for Activities at the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery, January 24, 2013.*
2. *Draft Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan for Iron Gate Hatchery Coho Salmon, January 24 2013.*