



April 16, 2015

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Northwest Congressional delegation asks President Obama for action on Columbia River Treaty

Members of Congress from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana sent a letter to President Obama on April 14 requesting an immediate update from the Administration on the status of the Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) review of the U.S. Entity's Columbia River Treaty regional recommendation. The letter, which was spearheaded by Senators Patty Murray and Ron Wyden and Representatives Peter DeFazio and Greg Walden, comes on the one year anniversary of a letter sent to the Administration asking for the same update and expresses, "consternation with how the process has unfolded thus far."

It has been over fifteen months since the Regional Recommendation was transmitted to the Administration. The U.S. Entity, comprised of Bonneville Power Administration Administrator Elliot Mainzer and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division Commander, Brigadier General John Kem, recommended nine proposals for evaluation and was part of an extensive, multi-year review that included stakeholders from across the Pacific Northwest. PNWA was an active part of this process, ensuring that the navigation perspective was included in a final regional recommendation to the U.S. State Department.

Since 2013, the recommendation has been under review by the IPC, made up of staff from the National Security Council, Council on Environmental Quality, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Departments of State, Energy, Interior and others.

[The 2015 letter](#) underscores the delegation's support of the U.S. Entity's Recommendation and calls for the State Department to begin negotiations with Canada this year while also being open to continued input from regional stakeholders throughout the process. The letter also calls for the administration to submit a schedule of regular Congressional briefings and a status update on the process by the end of April.

PNWA staff will be in Washington, DC next week to conduct meetings on the Columbia River Treaty and highlight potential impacts to navigation. PNWA supports continued dialogue regarding the Treaty and will continue to represent our membership in these discussions. For more information, contact [Kristin Meira](#).

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