



Nor'wester newsletter

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Letter Opposing American Rivers 4 Lower Snake River Dam Breaching Feasibility Study in Army Corps Section 7001 Report to Congress

Earlier this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers transmitted their [2022 Section 7001 Report](#) to Congress, laying out a range of projects for potential inclusion in a future Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Included in the Report is a proposal from American Rivers/Idaho Rivers United for Congress to authorize a feasibility study of Lower Snake River Dam Breaching at a proposed cost of \$644 million. It is important to note that inclusion of this proposal in the Report is not an endorsement from the Corps, however, PNWA felt it important to highlight this for our Members of Congress and note our opposition as they consider what projects to include in a 2022 WRDA.

PNWA [organized a letter](#), co-led by Northwest RiverPartners, with a total of 50 regional and national organizations signing on to voice their opposition to the proposed study. The letter was sent to the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and the Northwest Congressional delegation on April 26th. We are pleased to report that the draft Senate WRDA bill released on April 29th does not include authorization of this study.

For more information, please contact [Heather Stebbings](#).

ODOE hosting public meeting May 11 for floating offshore wind study



The Oregon Department of Energy will hold a public meeting on May 11 to share preliminary key findings from its study on the benefits and challenges of integrating up to 3 GW of floating offshore wind into Oregon's electric grid by 2030. This is a hybrid meeting: You can join in-person in Coos Bay, OR, or virtually via WebEx.

In person meeting details and agenda

May 11, 2022 | 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Mill Casino – Salmon Room East
3201 Tremont St.
North Bend, OR 97459

Virtual meeting details and agenda (Including WebEx login info)

- Welcome & Logistics
- Oregon FOSW Study – Preliminary Key Findings
- Federal/State Offshore Wind Energy Planning
- Public Comment – Oregon FOSW Study

For more information, please contact Jason Sierman at Jason.Sierman@energy.oregon.gov.

PNWA, AWO, and CRTA submit joint I-5 Bridge comments to Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard issued the Proposed Navigation Clearance Determination (PNCD) for the I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) project which calls for a vertical clearance of 116 feet and horizontal clearance of 300 feet.



In response, PNWA, the American Waterways Operators and Columbia River Towboat Association submitted a joint comment letter outlining several concerns to address as the project continues in the planning process. Broadly, the concerns were:

- The 116 ft. vertical clearance will allow the Corps' dredge to pass under the bridge, however in order for the Corps to properly maintain the 300-foot navigation channel, 400 feet is needed for the horizontal clearance.
- Ensure the bridge functions as part of an integrated multi-modal system with rail and marine transportation systems and considers the current and future needs for a high, wide, and heavy corridor for large cargo transportation.
- Consider the safety impacts to navigation from water level changes as a result of many factors including climate change, seasonal/severe weather events, and

flow changes if the prepaid flood control portion of the Columbia River Treaty expires in 2024 with no new agreement in place.

- Communication regarding changes to the navigation channel alignment will be essential.
- Communication and coordination with river users to ensure safe and efficient navigation continues during bridge demolition and new bridge construction.

Dena Horton of PNWA represents river users on the Citizen Advisory Group for the IBR program. If you have additional thoughts or comments to share, please contact [Dena](#) directly. For more information about the program, [click here](#).

New Marine Highway Project Designation increases funding opportunities for domestic trade between The Northwest Seaport Alliance, Alaska and Hawaii



On April 19, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) announced additions to America's Marine Highway Program (AMHP) including Northwest Connect: Critical Lifelines between Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington. This new designation on the M-5 Marine Highway Route will further support the transport of freight to and from Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington.

Last year, The Northwest Seaport Alliance and the Port of Alaska teamed-up to apply for the AMHP Project Designation. The announcement of the Northwest Connect designation provides new opportunities for federal funding for ports and port customers in Alaska, Washington and Hawaii.

Grant requests for AMHP funding are limited to organizations on a Marine Highway Route with a Project Designation. The recent focus on supply chain resiliency has led to the AMHP receiving record levels of investment by the federal government. Almost \$40 million in grant funding is available for the program this year, with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the FY 2022 Appropriations Act.

[Click here for more info.](#)

PNWA congratulates Lisa Mittelsdorf, incoming Port of Morrow executive director

The Port of Morrow Commission [announced](#) April 27 that it selected Lisa Mittelsdorf as the port's next executive director. Lisa has served the Port of Morrow for over 30 years and is currently the port's Economic Development Director. She begins her new role on May 9, 2022.

Lisa can be reached at LisaM@portofmorrow.com and 541-481-7678.

Congratulations, Lisa—we look forward to continuing to work with you in your new role.

The Port of Morrow is the second largest port in Oregon, employing 135 people and supporting a diverse array of industries. The port conducted an internal executive director search following the passing of Port Director Ryan Neal in January.



Port of Whitman County hiring Finance Director

The Port of Whitman County is seeking an experienced and analytical finance director with strong accounting skills to drive the port's financial operations. Duties include managing general accounting procedures, overseeing internal controls, developing budgets, preparing reports, monitoring expenditures, overseeing annual insurance, monitoring cash flow, and managing compliance. The port desires candidates with a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or business administration.



Visit www.portwhitman.com/careers for more information and to apply.

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