

**APPENDIX B**  
**INTERIM PROTECTION PLAN**

Proposed Article 106(A) of the Settlement Agreement specifies reliance on an interim operating plan pending the installation of the 2 new turbines required for implementing the long-term flow implementation plan. Until the new turbine/generator units are operational, Puget would operate the project in keeping with the Interim Protection Plan (IPP) analyzed in the Biological Opinion for Endangered Species Act section 7 Consultation for the Baker River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2150), NMFS Consultation No. 2002/01040, or as approved by the Commission. The IPP has two aspects: (1) a Baker River flow reduction rate limitation; and (2) an enhanced storage/split Chinook salmon spawning season flow management plan.

1. Baker River Flow Reduction Rate Limitation. Whenever the total Skagit River flow falls below 18,000 cfs as measured at the Skagit River USGS Gage No. 12194000 near Concrete, WA, operate the Baker Project to limit the average hourly rate of Baker River flow reduction attributable to the Baker Project to a rate not greater than 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).
2. Enhanced Storage/Split Chinook Spawning Season Flow Management Plan. Subject to and so as not to affect the existing Puget/Corps flood control agreement (and absent circumstances beyond Puget's reasonable control), operate the Baker Project during late summer/fall as follows:
  - a. Enhanced Storage:

Create 115,000 acre-feet of flood storage at the Baker Project by October 1. From October 1 through November 15, available flood storage will not, by virtue of fisheries directed operations, exceed 156,000 acre-feet (i.e., Puget will reserve up to 41,000 acre-feet of reservoir storage as a hedge against dry conditions). If the Skagit River flow measured at the USGS gage near Concrete is greater than 40,000 cfs during this period, and Baker Project storage exceeds 74,000 acre-feet, Puget will consult with the Corps regarding the timing of flow releases to reduce peak flow. If the flood peak can be significantly reduced, Puget will shut off all generation and store inflow until the flood crest estimated by the Corps passes the Baker River/Skagit River confluence.
  - b. Early Chinook Spawning Period September 15–October 15:
    - 1) When flow in the Skagit River, measured immediately above the confluence of the Baker River, is greater than 4,200 cfs, and inflow to Baker Lake is less than 2,500 cfs, Puget will store inflow to the Baker Project and avoid generation at the Lower Baker Development unless generation is needed to satisfy the Enhanced Storage measure.
    - 2) During periods of low flow (less than 4,200 cfs measured in the Skagit River immediately above the Baker River confluence), Puget will generate at least 3,200 cfs on a continuous basis not to exceed 156,000 acre-feet of evacuated reservoir storage. If Puget cannot meet the amplitude limitation

without violating storage directives, Puget will still try to release no more water than the volume of the Skagit Project load-following troughs (subject to high flow conditions outlined below).

- 3) During periods of high inflow to Baker Lake (greater than 2,500 cfs), Puget will generate power at the Lower Baker Development to restore available flood storage. Puget will initially generate to fill Skagit Project load-following troughs or generate continuously at the Lower Baker Development if needed to maintain 115,000 acre-feet of total flood storage.
- c. Late Chinook Spawning Period October 16–November 15:
- 1) During the majority of the 31-day late spawning period, Puget will generate power at the Lower Baker Development to restore available flood storage. Depending on the level of available flood storage on October 16, Puget will initially generate into Skagit Project load-following troughs or generate continuously at the Lower Baker Development if needed to restore available flood storage. If available flood storage capacity on October 16 is less than 74,000 acre-feet, Puget will generate continuously to restore flood storage capacity to that level. If the available flood storage capacity is greater than 74,000 acre-feet but less than the target level of 115,000 acre-feet, Puget will evacuate storage through generation at a rate needed to achieve the target storage level by November 15. Flow will preferentially be released during the Skagit Project troughs prior to releasing flows outside of these time periods.
  - 2) During periods of low flow (less than 6,000 cfs measured in the Skagit River immediately above the Baker River confluence), Puget will generate at least 3,200 cfs at the Lower Baker Development into Skagit Project load-following troughs or will generate at 3,200 cfs on a continuous basis not to exceed 156,000 acre-feet of evacuated reservoir storage.
  - 3) During periods of high inflow to Baker Lake (greater than 3,400 cfs), Puget will generate power at the Lower Baker Development to restore available flood storage. Puget will initially generate into Skagit Project load-following troughs or generate continuously at the Lower Baker Development if needed to maintain 115,000 acre-feet of total flood storage.

### **Emergency Exclusion**

Flood control measures required to protect human life and property will override requested releases for fisheries benefits. In the event of an emergency power shortage, all available water stored behind the Baker Project reservoirs may be used to generate power.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

Bi-annually, the licensee shall submit a report to the Commission and NMFS identifying and describing any instances of project operations that deviate from the proposed conservation measures.