

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) evaluates the potential effects on the environment associated with the relicensing of the five hydroelectric developments that make up the 137.65-megawatt Spokane River Hydroelectric Project No. 2545. Currently, the licensed Project consists of these five hydroelectric developments, with one located in Kootenai and Benewah counties, Idaho, and the other four located in Spokane, Lincoln, and Stevens counties, Washington. The current license will expire on August 1, 2007.

On July 28, 2006, Avista Corporation (Avista) filed two separate applications with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the Commission or FERC) for new licenses for the five hydroelectric developments. One application was filed for the upstream Idaho development, the 14.75-megawatt Post Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 12606. The other application was filed for the four Washington hydroelectric developments, the 122.9-megawatt Spokane Hydroelectric Project No. 2545 (referred to as the “Spokane River Developments,” with both collectively referred to as “the Projects”).

This DEIS has been prepared by the staff of the Commission to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the Commission’s implementing regulations under Title 18, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 380; and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of this document is to inform the Commission, the public, and the various federal and state agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations about the potential adverse and beneficial environmental effects of the proposed Project and of reasonable alternatives.

The principal issues that we address for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project include the influence of Project operations on Coeur d’Alene Lake levels; water quality both in Coeur d’Alene Lake and downstream of Post Falls Dam; fishery resources below the dam and in the Coeur d’Alene Lake drainage; cultural resources in and around Coeur d’Alene Lake; and shoreline erosion, wetlands, and riparian areas in the backwater areas of Coeur d’Alene Lake. The principal issues that we address for the Spokane River Developments include the influence of Project operations on total dissolved gas levels, dissolved oxygen levels, sediment transport, fish habitat, and wetlands. Other issues involve determining the appropriate level of enhancements for aesthetic flows in downtown Spokane, protection of bald eagles, and control of noxious and exotic weeds in the reservoirs and on the shorelands.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, the Projects would continue to operate under the terms and conditions of the existing license, and no new environmental protection or enhancement measures would be implemented. We use this alternative to establish baseline conditions against which we evaluate other alternatives and judge the benefits and costs of any measures that might be required under new licenses.

AVISTA'S PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would involve no changes to Project facilities other than replacing the flashboards at Nine Mile Development with a more permanent feature such as a pneumatically operated spillway gate (rubber dam). Any other facility changes would consist of generally minor and independent elements identified and constructed pursuant to specific protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measures. Replacing the flashboards with a rubber dam would not change the pool level, nor would operations change at Nine Mile Development except that the flashboards would no longer be released downstream and Avista would have the ability to restore the pool elevation somewhat more quickly after spill events. Periodic maintenance of the entire facility would continue through the term of a new license.

The existing Project boundary encompassing the Post Falls Project is defined by the 2,128-foot elevation contour, as shown in a 1980 FERC license amendment. Recent fieldwork led Avista to make corrections to the 2,128-foot contour maps. Avista therefore is proposing to amend the Project boundary maps to correspond with the more recent data, consistent with retaining the current 2,128-foot boundary. Other proposed changes to the Project boundary include the following:

Post Falls Project

- At the Post Falls Project, adding 2,352 acres (now within the 2,128-foot contour) and removing 0.5 acre east of the abandoned Corbin Ditch.

Spokane River Developments

- At Upper Falls and Monroe Street Developments, removing 2.8 acres that serve no Project purpose;
- At Nine Mile Development, removing 66 acres that serve no Project purpose; and

- At Long Lake Development, adding 350.1 acres associated with a proposed shoreline buffer, the Nine Mile Resort, and two short sections of primary transmission line.

Avista proposes to operate the Projects in a manner similar to past operations with a set of comprehensive environmental measures. These primary measures are:

Post Falls Project

- Maintaining a 600-cubic-foot-per-second (cfs) minimum discharge flow at Post Falls Dam, with the option to maintain a 500-cfs flow under low-flow conditions.
- Maintaining a maximum downramping flow rate of no more than a 4-inch drop per hour.
- Equipping the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage no. 12419000 on the Spokane River downstream of Post Falls Dam to provide real-time flow information.
- Providing flows in the spring to protect rainbow trout spawning and fry emergence.
- Implementing Total Dissolved Gas Control and Mitigation Programs along with other water quality monitoring provisions.
- Implementing a Fish Population and Habitat Protection and Enhancement Plan for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout in the Coeur d'Alene Lake Basin and native rainbow trout in the free-flowing reach of the Spokane River.
- Implementing aquatic weed management measures in Coeur d'Alene Lake.
- Implementing a comprehensive Erosion Control and Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement Program for Coeur d'Alene Lake and its tributaries.
- Providing aesthetic flows through the north channel at Post Falls Dam during summer.
- Preparing and implementing a recreation plan for the Post Falls Project.
- Developing, enhancing, and providing operational assistance at 12 different existing recreation developments.

- Implementing a Historic Properties Management Plan.
- Monitoring bald eagles, surveying for new eagle nests, and developing Bald Eagle Nest Management Plans on Project lands.

Spokane River Developments

- Limiting the drawdown of Lake Spokane to no more than 14 feet except to periodically expose lake bottom to freezing temperatures to help control aquatic weeds.
- Providing year-round aesthetic flows at Monroe Street Development and summer season flows at Upper Falls Development.
- Implementing Total Dissolved Gas Control and Mitigation Programs along with other water quality monitoring provisions.
- Implementing a Fish Population and Habitat Protection and Enhancement Program for the Spokane River.
- Implementing aquatic weed management measures Nine Mile Development and Lake Spokane.
- Implementing a comprehensive Riparian and Wetland Habitat Protection and Enhancement Program at Lake Spokane and Nine Mile Reservoir.
- Preparing and implementing a recreation plan for the Spokane River Developments.
- Developing and providing operation assistance at 10 different existing recreation developments and developed trails.
- Implementing a Historic Properties Management Plan.
- Managing Project transmission lines to minimize injuries/mortality and to control vegetation using non-chemical approaches.
- Monitoring bald eagles, surveying for new eagle nests, and developing Bald Eagle Nest Management Plans for Project lands.

STAFF ALTERNATIVE

The Staff Alternative generally consists of the Proposed Action with additional or modified environmental measures recommended by the staff to be performed by Avista. These measures include agency recommendations made

pursuant to sections 4(e), 10(j), and 10(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA). The staff recommendations include:

Post Falls Project

- Adding water quality parameters to the Water Quality Monitoring Programs.
- Undertaking the Minimum Instream Flow Release Program at Post Falls using a 5-year adaptive management approach.
- Adding water quality parameters to the Water Quality Monitoring Programs.
- Developing and implementing a plan to monitor water temperature and dissolved oxygen in Coeur d'Alene Lake.
- Developing and implementing a plan to monitor water temperature and dissolved oxygen from Post Falls Dam to river mile 84.
- Using more restrictive ramping control mechanisms at Post Falls Dam.
- Using annual meetings with agencies and interested parties to determine priorities and projects slated for fisheries and aquatic habitat enhancement.
- Modifying Avista's Comprehensive Erosion Control and Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement Program for Coeur d'Alene Lake and its tributaries.
- Preparing a separate Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation Erosion Control Plan.
- Developing and implementing plans for identifying and protecting bald eagle nests.
- Adding a Noxious Weed Management Plan in the proposed Land Use Management Plan for the Post Falls Project.
- Developing and implementing a Coeur d'Alene Lake Aquatic Weed Management Plan.
- Adding a Bald Eagle Educational and Interpretive Program to the Post Falls Public Outreach Plan.
- Developing a final Post Falls Project recreation plan.

- Addressing potential indirect effects of the Proposed Action on traditional cultural properties that may not be located within the predefined area of potential effects (APE).
- Providing a schedule in the Historic Properties Management Plan to evaluate all remaining cultural resources for National Register eligibility and resolve all adverse effects to historic properties.
- Including a program in the Historic Properties Management Plan to monitor tribally sensitive cultural sites.

Spokane River Developments

- Developing and implementing a Long Lake Oxygen Monitoring and Enhancement Plan.
- Stocking 6,000 catchable-sized sterile trout (6 to 8 inches) in Upper Falls Reservoir, 9,000 catchable-sized sterile trout in Nine Mile Reservoir, and 20,000 catchable-sized sterile trout in Lake Spokane (Long Lake Reservoir).
- Preparing a Sediment Management Plan for Lake Spokane and Nine Mile Reservoir.
- Developing a final Spokane River Developments Recreation Plan
- Adding a Noxious Weed Management Plan in the proposed Land Use Management Plan for the Spokane River Developments.
- Developing and implementing a Lake Spokane Aquatic Weed Management Plan.
- Adding a Bald Eagle Educational and Interpretive Program to the Spokane River Public Outreach Plan.
- Monitoring wetlands in Lake Spokane after installation of a rubber dam and mitigating any net loss of wetlands.
- Providing a schedule in the Historic Properties Management Plan to evaluate all remaining cultural resources for National Register eligibility and resolve all adverse effects to historic properties.
- Including a program in the Historic Properties Management Plan to monitor tribally sensitive cultural sites.

STAFF ALTERNATIVE WITH MANDATORY CONDITIONS

Section 4(e) of the FPA gives the Secretary of Interior (the U.S. Department of the Interior [DOI]) authority to impose conditions on a license issued by the Commission for hydropower projects located on “reservations” under the Secretary’s supervision (16 U.S.C §§796[2], 797[e]). In a July 18, 2006, filing with the Commission, DOI submitted 15 preliminary section 4(e) conditions on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); on July 14, 2006, and August 21, 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service submitted four preliminary section 4(e) conditions. Avista filed alternative section 4(e) conditions to most of the measures specified by Interior by letter dated August 17, 2006, in accordance with section 241 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The alternative conditions, in general, either eliminated the 4(e) condition or reduced the scope of the measure described in the 4(e) condition.

Pursuant to section 18 of the FPA, DOI also included in its July 18, 2006, filing its proposal, on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to reserve the authority to prescribe the construction, operation, and maintenance of fishways in the future during the term of the license.

When finalized, the 4(e) conditions and the reserved authority for fishway prescriptions must be included in any new license that may be issued for this Project. Incorporation of these mandatory conditions into a new license would cause us to modify or eliminate some of the environmental measures that we include in the Staff Alternative. The measures that would be replaced by DOI 4(e) conditions include the staff-adopted Avista alternative measures for Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation water quality monitoring, cultural resources, and erosion control.

PROJECT EFFECTS AND CONCLUSION

Table ES-1 summarizes the substantive differences between Avista’s Proposal, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions. Based on our detailed analysis of the environmental benefits and costs associated with the four alternatives considered in detail in this DEIS, we conclude that the best alternative for the Projects would be to issue new licenses consistent with the environmental measures specified in the Staff Alternative.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
POST FALLS PROJECT			
Annual generation (MWh)	76,855	76,855	76,855
Net annual power benefits	-\$2,779,300	-\$1,952,000	-\$2,596,200
Hydrologic Resources			
Instream Flows	Minimum instream flow releases of 600 cfs year-round from Post Falls Dam, with ability to lower releases to 500 cfs between July 1 and September 15 of each year if the level of Coeur d’Alene Lake drops 3 inches or more below full-pool elevation 2,128 feet (PF-AR-1, Part 1). Upgrade USGS gage no. 12419000 to real-time capability (PF-REC-3).	Adopt Avista’s proposal.	No specific condition proposed.
Ramping Rates	Follow a downramping rate that corresponds to no more than a 4-inch drop per hour in downstream water levels (PF-AR-1, Part 3).	Adopt Avista’s proposal.	No specific condition proposed.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Water Quality			
Water Quality Monitoring	Develop and implement a plan to monitor discharge and water temperature in the Spokane River from Post Falls Dam to the Idaho/Washington state line. Fund water quality monitoring in Coeur d’Alene Lake and fund the purchase and installation of two meteorological stations (PF-WQ-2).	Develop and implement a plan to monitor water temperature and dissolved oxygen in Coeur d’Alene Lake. Develop and implement a plan to monitor water temperature and dissolved oxygen from the Post Falls Dam to river mile 84.	Require licensee to operate the Project so it does not contribute to exceedance of applicable federal, state, and tribal water quality standards. Require licensee to implement a comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program in Coeur d’Alene Lake, which includes sampling phytoplankton and benthos. Also includes water quality modeling efforts every 5 years. No specific condition proposed.
Total Dissolved Gas	Monitor, evaluate, and control the production of elevated total dissolved gas levels in discharges from Post Falls Project (PF-WQ-1).	Adopt Avista’s proposed measures.	

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Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Geologic Resources			
Erosion Control	As a component of the Coeur d’Alene Lake and Tributary Erosion and Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement measure, implement an Erosion Control Program by allocating \$100,000 to erosion projects (PF-TR-1).	Modify the Erosion Control Program to include BIA’s recommendation to identify, map, describe, and prepare designs for existing high-priority erosion sites on lands of the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation located within the Project boundary. File the plan within 9 months of license and annually instead of every 5 years.	Same as the Staff Alternative with the exception of addressing erosion occurring on “trust lands within the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation up to and including the 2,128-foot elevation and any uplands contiguous thereto.”

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Aquatic Resources			
Fisheries Enhancement	<p>Provide for a Population and Habitat Protection Program for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout in the Coeur d’Alene Lake Basin. Include rainbow trout spawning and fry emergence protection, and provide for assessments and monitoring of native salmonids. Additionally, include assistance and support for a Public Information and Education Program specific to bull trout and westlope cutthroat trout in the Coeur d’Alene Lake Basin (PF-AR-1, Parts 4, 5 and 6). Provide spring flows for upper Spokane River rainbow trout for spawning and fry emergence protection (PF-AR-1, Part 2).</p>	<p>No comparable fish population and aquatic habitat protection and enhancement efforts recommended.</p> <p>Adopt Avista’s proposed measure.</p>	<p>Develop a Salmonid Fisheries Plan for Coeur d’Alene Lake and tributaries that includes monitoring escapement levels on tributaries; conducting restoration projects for native salmonids, including removal of barriers; purchasing land; conducting instream and riparian restoration projects; controlling exotic species; and supplementation.</p>

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Aquatic Resources (cont)			
Aquatic Weeds	Provide assistance and financial support for public education, monitoring, and weed management measures associated with exotic/noxious weeds in Coeur d’Alene Lake (PF-AR-2).	Adopt Avista’s proposed measures but require Avista to be fully responsible for lake weed management by filing a plan for Commission approval.	Add to Avista and Staff Alternative measures (as scaled back to not include duplicative enhancements on Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation lands) to develop and implement an Aquatic Weed Management Plan to eradicate exotic and noxious aquatic weeds in the waters affected by the Project that are within the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Terrestrial Resources			
Bald Eagles	Prepare a monitoring plan and annually conduct surveys and conduct monitoring of existing and potentially new nests during the bald eagle nesting season in areas where the bald eagle nesting territory extends onto Project lands within the Project boundary.	In addition to Avista’s proposals, add a requirement to develop a Bald Eagle Educational and Interpretive Program for the Projects.	No specific condition proposed.
Wetland and Riparian Area Enhancement	Identify, prioritize, and acquire high-quality wetlands associated with or in close proximity to Coeur d’Alene Lake and identify, restore, or enhance degraded wetlands (PF-TR-1).	Adopt Avista’s proposed measures.	Add to Avista’s proposed measures a separate plan to mitigate for all wetlands lost on the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation between elevations 2,120 and 2,128 feet.

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Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Terrestrial Resources (cont)			
Noxious Weeds	Manage noxious weeds on its lands through land use management and educate the public about eradicating noxious weeds through its public outreach measure (PF-LU-1 and PF-REC-4).	In addition to Avista’s proposed measures, implement a Noxious Weed Management Program that includes surveys.	No specific condition proposed.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Recreation Resources			
Recreation Plan	<p>Implement substantial recreational enhancements in accordance with a proposed Recreation Resources Management Plan. Several modifications to existing facilities would be constructed at USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) existing day use and overnight facilities. Programmatic elements of the plan would also be implemented, including provisions for plan updates, coordination with agencies regarding shared operation and maintenance responsibilities, monitoring, project patrol, and an Interpretation and Education Program (PF-REC-1 and PF-REC-2).</p>	<p>Adopt in part; develop final recreation plan..</p>	<p>USDA Forest Service provided preliminary 4(e) conditions related to administration and legal aspects; otherwise, fully endorse the improvements in Avista’s proposed plan.</p>

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Recreation Resources (cont)			
Whitewater Boating	Coordinate late spring and fall flow releases to extend whitewater play boating opportunities and provide open-water boating flows during one or two weekends in August. Includes provisions for improving downstream access (PF-REC-3).	Adopt Avista’s proposed measures.	No specific condition proposed.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
<p>Cultural Resources Cultural Resources Management</p>	<p>Develop and implement the Historic Properties Management Plan. The plan would include treatment and management recommendations for National Register of Historic Places-eligible archaeological sites located along the shorelines of Coeur d’Alene Lake and its tributaries and would address ongoing cultural resources protection and management (PF-CR-1). Additionally, develop a specific plan for cultural resources located on the reservation and develop treatment options for National Register-eligible resources located on the Reservation that have not already been completed by previous studies.</p>	<p>Similar to Avista’s proposal, except the Historic Properties Management Plan should also include (1) a detailed schedule to evaluate all remaining cultural resources for National Register eligibility and resolve all adverse effects to historic properties, and (2) a program to monitor tribally sensitive cultural sites.</p>	<p>Add to Avista and Staff Alternative measures (as scaled back to not include duplicative enhancements on Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation lands) to include further analysis, protection, and treatment of cultural resource sites on the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation within the Project boundary and on lands beyond 100 feet of the Project boundary. Include provisions for law enforcement to prevent unauthorized looting. Also provide for monitoring, traditional cultural property inventory and evaluation, resurveys, education programs, development of an emergency recovery plan for inadvertent discovery of cultural sites, and management of material remains and records recovered from the reservation.</p>

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
SPOKANE RIVER DEVELOPMENTS			
Annual generation (MWh)	795,960	795,960	795,960
Net annual power benefits	\$17,704,700	\$18,227,200	\$18,227,200
Hydrologic Resources			
Instream Flows	<p>Provide a 200-cfs minimum daily aesthetic flow through Upper Falls Development bypass reach (north and middle channels) from 10 a.m. to one-half hour after sunset, Memorial Day weekend through September 30 (SRP-AES-1).</p> <p>Continue the current 200-cfs minimum daily aesthetic flow from 10 a.m. to one-half hour after sunset daily, year-round, at Monroe Street Development (SRP-AES-1).</p>	Adopt Avista’s proposed measures.	No mandatory conditions.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Hydrologic Resources (cont)			
Lake Levels	Limit the drawdown of Lake Spokane to 14 feet, except under certain emergency conditions. Periodically lower Lake Spokane during the winter to expose the lake bed to freezing temperatures to reduce the occurrence of aquatic weeds such as Eurasian watermilfoil.	Adopt Avista’s proposed measures.	No mandatory conditions.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Water Quality			
Total Dissolved Gas	Develop and implement a Total Dissolved Gas Control and Mitigation Program, including spill gate operating protocols, monitoring, and a comprehensive Long Lake Development Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan (SRP-WQ-1).	Adopt Avista’s proposed measures.	No mandatory conditions.
Water Quality Monitoring	Develop and implement a Water Quality Monitoring Program upstream of the Spokane River Developments and initiate and implement a Long Lake Dissolved Oxygen Enhancement Plan (SRP-WQ-2).	Develop and implement a Long Lake Oxygen Monitoring and Enhancement Plan.	No mandatory conditions

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Geologic Resources			
Sediment Management	Support regional efforts to reduce erosion and downstream sedimentation in the Hangman Creek watershed (SRP-TR-1).	In addition to Avista’s erosion control measure (SRP-TR-1), include the preparation and implementation of a Sediment Management Plan for Nine Mile and Long Lake Developments.	No mandatory conditions.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Aquatic Resources			
Fish Protection	Provide for fish population and aquatic habitat protection and enhancement efforts on the Spokane River and Lake Spokane. Also support the development and implementation of enhanced fish population and related aquatic habitat assessments and monitoring programs associated with the Upper Falls, Monroe Street, Nine Mile, and Long Lake Developments (SRP-AR-1).	No comparable fish population and aquatic habitat protection and enhancement efforts recommended.	No mandatory conditions.
Aquatic Weeds	Implement site-specific and general weed control measures in Lake Spokane, including potential use of bottom barriers to maintain public access sites (SRP-AR-2).	Adopt Avista’s measure but require Avista to be fully responsible for lake weed management by filing a plan for Commission approval.	No mandatory conditions.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Terrestrial Resources			
Wetland and Riparian Area Enhancement	Secure property protection for, and implement, new wetland enhancement or restoration efforts adjacent to or near the Nine Mile or Long Lake Developments (SRP-TR-1)	In addition to Avista’s proposal, add a requirement to monitor wetlands affected by a new rubber dam at Nine Mile Development and mitigate any net loss of wetlands at the Project.	No mandatory conditions.
Transmission Line Corridor	Provide raptor protection and non-chemical vegetation management, as appropriate, on approximately 2.1 miles of existing Project transmission lines, as well as any new transmission lines that may become part of the Project in the future (SRP-TR-2).	Adopt Avista’s measures.	No mandatory conditions.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Terrestrial Resources (cont)			
Noxious Weeds	Manage noxious weeds on its lands through Land Use Management and Transmission Line Management Plans (SRP-LU-1 and SRP-TR-2).	In addition to Avista’s proposed measures, implement a Noxious Weed Management Program that includes surveys.	No mandatory conditions.
Bald Eagles	Prepare a monitoring plan and annually conduct surveys and monitoring of existing and potentially new nests during the bald eagle nesting season in areas where the bald eagle nesting territory extends onto Project lands within the Project boundary.	In addition to Avista’s proposals, add a requirement to develop a Bald Eagle Educational and Interpretive Program for the Projects.	No mandatory conditions.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Recreation Resources			
Recreation Plan	Implement substantial recreational enhancements in accordance with a proposed Recreation Resources Management Plan (SRP-REC-1).	Adopt in part; develop final recreation plan.	No mandatory conditions.
Aesthetic Resources			
Aesthetic Flows	Provide 200-cfs minimum daily flow through Upper Falls bypass reach (north and middle channels) from 10 a.m. to one-half hour before sunset from Memorial Day through September 30 and continue year-round 200-cfs flow over Monroe Street Dam.	Adopt Avista’s measures.	No mandatory conditions.

Table ES-1. Summary of key differences and components of Avista’s Proposed Action, the Staff Alternative, and the Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project and Spokane River Developments (continued)

Resource	Avista’s Proposal	Staff Alternative	Staff Alternative with All Preliminary Mandatory Conditions
Cultural Resources Cultural Resources Management	Develop and implement the Historic Properties Management Plan.	Adopt Avista’s measures.	No mandatory conditions.

Source: Staff