



Port of Seattle

October 24, 2001

Ms. Ann Kenny  
Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

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DEPT OF ECOLOGY

RE: Low Streamflow Analysis and Summer Low Flow Impact Offset Facility  
Proposal, Water Quality Certification #1996-4-02325 (Amended-1)

Dear Ms. Kenny:

The Port of Seattle is working to finalize the Low Streamflow Analysis and Summer Low Flow Impact Offset Facility Proposal required by the referenced Water Quality Certification for the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Master Plan Update. In order to meet the 45-day schedule set forth in Section I.1 of the certification, the report needs to be submitted to Ecology on or before November 5, 2001.

While revising the HSPF/Hydrus/Slice models to implement the changes required in section I.1.c.i of the certification, an error was discovered in how the data is transferred between the Slice and HSPF models. Specifically, the HSPF model has a default function that assumes the input is in daily units, and automatically converts the input to hourly units. When the output from the Slice modeling was transferred to HSPF, the modeler manually applied the conversion. Therefore, the conversion was applied twice, and the effect was that the modeled embankment flow was 1/24 of what it should have been. The results of this error are that the impacts to Miller and Walker Creeks were overestimated. The actual impacts to summer low flow will be less than previously thought, and the facilities proposed to offset the impacts can be reduced in size. It is important to note that the error is limited to data handling between the models. The basic modeling approach, the calibration, and the underlying assumptions are still valid and will not be changed as this error is corrected.

In order to assure that the Low Streamflow Analysis and Summer Low Flow Impact Offset Facility Proposal accurately predicts the impacts and proposes appropriate facilities to offset the impacts, we need to re-work the analysis to correct the error. If other errors or inconsistencies in the modeling are detected, we will bring them to your

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attention for possible resolution. This work will require additional time beyond the current submittal date of November 5, 2001. Therefore, pursuant to Section C.4 of the Water Quality Certification, the Port is requesting an extension of the specified submittal deadline for the Low Streamflow Analysis and Summer Low Flow Impact Offset Facility Proposal. We request that the date be extended to November 21, 2001.

Please call me at 206/988-5528 if you would like to discuss this request.

Sincerely,



Keith R. Smith  
Water Resources Manager

xc: Elizabeth Leavitt, Traci Goodwin, Laurie Havercroft, POS  
Paul Fendt, Parametrix  
Kate Snider, Floyd Snider McCarthy  
Jay Manning, Marten Brown

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