

## Key elements of service identified by FERC licensees at the 2010 Water Power License Fee payers meeting

- **Agency Involvement**
  - Early involvement from the participating agencies increases collaboration during the relicensing process.
- **Skilled Staff**
  - It is important to have staff with knowledge about the project area during relicensing and throughout the implementation of 401 certification conditions.
  - Having a consistent, dedicated group of staff throughout the process helps with the transfer of institutional knowledge.
  - Staff availability for site visits supports informed discussions of the projects attainment of 401 conditions.
  - It is important to have key agency staff knowledgeable about their hydro projects and the ability to communicate and collaborate with the licensees.
- **Interest-Based Negotiations**
  - Communications based on common interests (outside of formal negotiations) helps to make forward progress on issues of relicensing and implementation of the 401 certification.
- **Timeliness**
  - Staff funded by fees dedicated to the fee payers helps timely responses and sustain the momentum of the process.
- **Flexibility**
  - Recognize that each hydropower project is unique and maintain knowledge of each project.
  - Acknowledge the economic feasibility of implementation of 401 certification conditions and work with hydropower operators to meet WQ Standards, including dam compliance schedules and WQ standard modification (rulemaking) where necessary.

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### Future state agency services to fee payers

- Review and preparation of comments/approvals of water quality management plans or natural resource study plans, quality assurance project plans, and other environmental documents related to compliance with water quality.
- Implementation of 401 WQ certification conditions that protect, address impacts, and enhance water quality, flow, and habitat issues, with the assistance of Ecology's WR Program and WDFW. Includes continuing discussion of adaptive management tasks within 401 certifications.
- Amendments to current 401 certifications as needed for continuing compliance and development projects.
- Continued communication with FERC, the licensee, tribes, state and federal resource management agencies (including USFWS), and stakeholders on issues associated with conditions in the 401 WQ certification.
- Assistance with pre-application studies and materials necessary for upcoming relicensing efforts.
  - Meyers Falls project
  - Seattle City Light – Skagit River projects; Gorge dam, Diablo Dam, Ross Dam
  - Newhalem Creek project
  - Rock Island Dam
- Issuance of new dam compliance schedules or changes to WQ standards where compliance issues exist. Can include rulemaking via Use Attainability Analysis and site specific criteria where necessary.