STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Northwest Regional Office, 3190 - 160th Ave S.E. • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (206) 649-7000

December 13, 1991

RECEIVED
DEC 20 1991
Environmental Affairs Division

Ms. Kirvil Skinnarland, Director
Environmental Affairs Division
Seattle City Light
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Skagit River Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 553
Request for Water Quality Certification

Dear Ms. Skinnarland:

The Department of Ecology does not wish to delay your progress on relicensing the project and waives its action on the Federal Cleanwater Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification as the 1-year timeline passes December 17, 1991.

Ecology had anticipated adoption of extensively revised State Water Quality Standards, including a special temperature condition for the Skagit River Gorge Bypass Reach. However, the rule adoption has been postponed by issues totally unrelated to the Skagit River conditions. Since the revised rule is not in effect, it has limited our actions on the 401 Certification of the project at this time.

Public notice of the proposed 401 Certification was conducted in October, 1991, using established procedures of local newspaper publications and direct mailings to interested parties on Ecology's mailing list. No comments were received in response to the detailed announcement.

Ecology supports the water quality conditions for the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project as delineated or proposed by Seattle City Light in the Settlement Agreements and Section 4 - Gorge Bypass Fisheries Report.

Sincerely,

Stewart A. Messman
Supervisor Non-Point Group
Water Quality Program
Northwest Regional Office

SAM:cs

cc: Michele Lynn, Seattle City Light
Rod Sakrison, Department of Ecology