

**Simple messages about the opportunity and urgent need to stop the Goldendale Pumped Storage proposal.**

- 1** **Overview:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission just released the draft environmental review for the Goldendale Pumped Storage proposal. Rye Development plans to build the largest pumped-storage hydroelectric development in the Pacific Northwest.
- 2** **Why are we opposed?** The project will excavate two massive 60-acre reservoirs, destroying irreplaceable tribal cultural and religious resources, threatening wildlife, plants, and groundwater.
- 3** **Destruction of Tribal Cultural and Religious Resources:** The project would interfere with culturally significant sites of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce Tribe, while also destroying unique water bodies and impacting tribal access.
- 4** **Untrustworthy Company:** Rye Development, the company behind the project can't be trusted. They have misconstrued Tribal opposition to the public. They have also failed to document, disclose, and address contamination at the proposed site, which previously housed an Aluminum Smelter Superfund cleanup site. What else are they failing to mention?
- 5** **FERC's Consultation Failures:** FERC delegated consultation responsibility to Rye, a private company, and Rye hired an outside private consultant, who has repeatedly asked for information and knowledge that the Yakama Nation cannot and will not share regarding cultural resources and practices. This is unacceptable. The exploitation, destruction, and theft of Tribal cultural and religious resources requires the specific location and details to be shared privately in the consultation process and not made publicly accessible in order to protect these resources. FERC has repeatedly denied the Tribe's request to share this information directly and privately with FERC through government to government consultation.
- 6** **Water Quality:** It would also require large quantities of Columbia River water (billions of gallons), threatening designated uses and water quality in an already degraded river.

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**7** **Wildlife and Recreation:** The project will have significant impacts on wildlife, particularly on bats and raptors, and its habitats. Concerns have also been raised on how the project's impacts on threatened, sensitive, or candidate species, and species with intrinsic value, would affect nature-based recreation.

**8** **Economics:** The project's economic viability has also been questioned by a third-party economic analysis that claims it cannot provide renewable energy integration and replacement capacity to support regional decarbonization goals affordably and reliably. It is not clear if the project is necessary to meet that demand, and it is uncertain if the project can operate as intended, for as long as intended. Furthermore, the project proponent's jobs numbers demonstrate that the project would support only a relatively small number of permanent jobs.

**9** **WA Dept. of Ecology's Environmental Review:** Ecology's environmental review concluded that no proposed mitigation "would reduce the level of impact to less than significant" and that "there is no information available about mitigation proposed by or supported by the Tribes." The review also concluded that the Project would have effects on golden eagles, little brown bats, smooth desert parsley and other rare plants without proper mitigation measures.

**10** **Current Status:** The proposed project is still under analysis, and it is essential to consider the environmental and economic costs of increased water withdrawals under current and future climate scenarios, and if the project is necessary to meet the state's deep decarbonization goals.

At the State level, Washington has the power to deny this project a water quality certification, without which the project cannot proceed. At the Federal level, FERC must issue a final environmental review before making a decision to approve or deny a licensing permit for the project.

**To protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean.**