

# EFFECTIVENESS OF FISH PASSAGE FACILITIES AT FERC LICENSED PROJECTS

## FERC FISH PASSAGE WORKSHOP

Good Morning and welcome to the **FERC Fish Passage Workshop**. The focus of today's workshop is on the effectiveness of fish passage facilities at FERC licensed projects. My name is **John Novak** and I am with the DC office of FERC, **Office of Energy Projects, Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance**. Also here today from the compliance division are the **director Joe Morgan, George Taylor, Robert Grieve** and **Joe Enrico** from the NYRO and one of today's speakers. The **Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance (DHAC)** in the Office of Energy Projects is responsible in part for the administration and processing of post licensing filings that include fish passage requirements, .e.g., functional design drawings of passage facilities, passage plans, monitoring and effectiveness reports.

Before I go further I would like to thank **Ned Taft** and **Steve Amaral**, for allowing us to have this workshop here today and the Alden support staff for their assistance in setting up this workshop. Also, I want to **thank you all for coming today** (some of you have traveled far) and **a special thanks to today's speakers** who have taken time away from their busy schedules to prepare and make presentations as part of this workshop.

Now for a few comments on why we are here today having this fish passage workshop. Back during the summer of 2000 we started an initiative in the Office of Energy Projects to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures that were required in licenses issued by the Commission. This effort was undertaken to comply with the **Government Performance and Results Act**. From licenses issued between **1987 and 2001** which includes most of the class of '93 relicenses we selected **water quality, shoreline management, fish passage, and recreation** as resource areas to be evaluated for effectiveness of required mitigation measures. We have completed our evaluation of water quality and shoreline management license requirements which involved a series of outreach meetings and reports. The final water quality report was issued earlier this year and I believe copies are still available. Recreation is currently being worked on in cooperation with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

We have already had some **outreach meetings on fish passage**. Staff gave a presentation at the **American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Baltimore in August 2002 as part of the Bioengineering Symposium**. This presentation was an **overview of our efforts to date to evaluate the effectiveness license required fish passage measures**. Also, at the **Waterpower conference this past summer** staff gave a presentation that addressed both water quality and fish passage measures.

For **preparation of the draft fish passage report we contracted with the ORNL** to review the license requirements and post license filings for those **licenses issued between 1987 and 2001** and prepare a report on the findings. The **ORNL was given a set of parameters** to assist in the evaluation. The draft fish passage report **was mailed out on September 30<sup>th</sup>**. This **report was sent** to those **licensees** that had licenses issued **between 1987 and 2001 with fish passage requirements**. Since most of the projects evaluated in the draft report for **effectiveness are in the northeast**, the report was also sent to federal and state resource agencies and non-governmental organizations in this region. **(If anyone here today did not get a copy of the draft report, please see me some time today as I have a few copies.)** Also, there are copies of today's agenda in the back of the room—maybe you are already have a copy.

Today, a presentation will be given by **Jim Loar of ORNL on the draft fish passage report** and we will entertain any comments or suggestions for consideration in the final report which we will issue **sometime in 2004**. We have invited speakers **experienced in fish passage** issues to present some of their **findings and experiences regarding effectiveness of fish passage facilities at FERC licensed projects**. It is hoped that these **presentations and discussions will provide some guidance and assistance to licensees, resource agencies and others in the future development of effective fish passage measures at FERC licensed hydropower projects**.

This **concludes my introductory remarks**. Now I'll turn the program over to **Bob Grieve who will introduce our speakers**.