



# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
North Cascades National Park Service Complex  
810 State Route 20  
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Debbie-Anne Reese, Acting Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Acting Secretary Reese:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed decommissioning of the Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2705-037) (hereafter referred to as the Project), dated March 29, 2024. The 30-day comment period ends on April 29, 2024.

The NPS requests an extension of 14 days or until May 13, 2024. This extension is requested to provide adequate time to consult with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and area tribes and accommodate an unusually high workload associated with participating in the Skagit (P-553) relicensing negotiations, addressing issues associated with the Skagit (P-553) license implementation (including the likelihood of not filling Ross reservoir again this year), processing and onboarding seasonal staff, and issuing the record of decision for the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, the review period has also fallen during a period when key staff had leave planned to address urgent family matters.

We thank you for considering our current circumstances and the importance of the Newhalem Creek Hydroelectric Project to the NPS when evaluating this request. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Rawhouser, [ashley\\_rawhouser@nps.gov](mailto:ashley_rawhouser@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

**DONALD**  
**STRIKER**

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Don Striker  
Superintendent  
North Cascades National Park Service Complex

cc: Ashley Rawhouser, Chief of Resource Management

Document Content(s)

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