



Nor'wester newsletter

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Presidential Memorandum addresses Columbia Snake River System BiOp

Today, the White House released a [Presidential Memorandum](#) regarding water resources in the western United States. The announcement includes language requiring the federal agencies to move up the court ordered deadline for the [Federal Columbia River Power System \(FCRPS\) Biological Opinion](#). As *Nor'wester* readers will recall, a May 2016 ruling by Judge Michael Simon left the agencies' 2014 BiOp in place, but required an updated EIS and new BiOp by September 2021. The memorandum would shift that deadline to 2020 in an effort to provide more certainty to river system users.

PNWA manages the [Inland Ports and Navigation Group \(IPNG\)](#), an intervenor in the BiOp lawsuit supporting the work of the federal agencies. IPNG represents the views of the ports and navigation sector, and strongly supports robust salmon recovery efforts that preserve the multiple uses of the river system. We are currently reviewing the memorandum and will provide additional information as it is available.

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PNWA joins Secretary James for tour of Ice Harbor Dam

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PNWA members and staff were honored to accompany The Honorable R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army - Civil Works for a tour of Ice Harbor Lock and Dam. Secretary James visited a number of projects in the region, and took time to view the powerhouse, fish passage facilities and navigation lock at Ice Harbor Dam near Burbank WA on Tuesday, October 16th.

PNWA President Rob Rich and Executive Director Kristin Meira were joined by PNWA members Dan Hart of Almota Elevator and "Genesee" Joe Anderson of Idaho Wheat Commission for the tour. Numerous Corps officials from the region were also present, including Northwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. D. Peter Helmlinger and Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Christian N. Dietz and their teams.

[Secretary James](#) was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on January 30th to become the 12th Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, succeeding Jo-Ellen Darcy in that position. Secretary James has significant farming experience, having managed cotton gins and grain elevators. The Secretary also has a deep appreciation for navigation and inland river systems, serving on the Mississippi River Commission since 1981. Secretary James also has a degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky, which he obtained during his time at the Kentucky Department of Water Resources.

PNWA was pleased to help welcome Secretary James to our region, and looks forward to working with his office during his tenure.



PNWA members and staff join Secretary James for tour of Ice Harbor Dam



PNWA President Rob Rich visits with Secretary James at Ice Harbor Dam

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Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, 4224 NE Halsey Street,
Suite 325, Portland, OR 97213

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