



News Release
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U.S. withholds Treaty environmental analysis from public
[New blog](#) covers Columbia River Treaty developments

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Spokane -- Today the United States government announced it would withhold long-awaited environmental analysis on changes to the Columbia River Treaty, citing a need to avoid releasing the information to Canada. Conservation groups have been asking for the analysis as part of the U.S. Treaty review process. The U.S. Entity (comprised of the Army Corps of Engineers and Bonneville Power Administration) overseeing the treaty review process released their preliminary draft recommendations for Treaty negotiations without the environmental analysis. August 16 is the deadline for public comment on that document, and the next draft of recommendations will issue on September 6.

The Columbia River Treaty determines the joint management of the Columbia River by the United States and Canada. The Treaty was ratified in 1964 with two purposes only: hydropower generation and flood control. U.S. utilities have recently advocated terminating the Treaty (Chelan PUD hired former BPA-chief Steve Wright, and former 18-term Congressman Norm Dicks is lobbying for the U.S. Utilities). Tribes, First Nations, and conservationists have been advocating the Treaty restore the Columbia as a river, and returning salmon to Canada and elsewhere dams have blocked the return of salmon.

The U.S. letter can be viewed at <http://naiads.wordpress.com/>

Reporters and the public in the United States and Canada can follow the fascinating developments with the Columbia River Treaty by signing up for a new blog authored by Rachael Paschal Osborn: <http://naiads.wordpress.com/> Osborn is Policy Director for the Columbia Institute for Water Policy, author of [Climate Change and the Columbia](#)

[River Treaty](#), and adjunct faculty at Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane where she teaches water law and environmental law.