

FERC approves PacifiCorp dam removal

PORTLAND (AP) — PacifiCorp said Monday the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved plans to remove a dam on the Hood River.

FERC issued a "surrender order" that allows a licensed dam operator to halt operations at a hydroelectric facility.

The order approved for the PacifiCorp Powerdale hydro project confirms a settlement reached in 2003 to decommission the dam in 2010.

The FERC approval was welcomed Monday by Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who signed the settlement with the utility, state

and federal agencies, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, American Rivers and the Hood River Watershed Group.

The Democratic governor said the order "will bring significant improvement to the Hood River watershed and will bring real benefits to migratory salmon and steelhead."

Ron Suppah, chairman of the Warm Springs Tribal Council also praised the settlement and the FERC action.

"The agreement to remove the project, protect hatchery operations and improve fish habitat, while at the same time

mitigating impacts on PacifiCorp's customers, is a fair solution for all involved," Suppah said.

The Powerdale dam produces six megawatts — just a fraction of PacifiCorp's total generating capacity of 8,400 megawatts.

In 2010, PacifiCorp will begin to remove the Powerdale diversion dam, which is located on Hood River approximately 4.5 miles upstream of the Columbia River.

PacifiCorp, based in Portland, serves 1.6 million customers in six western states as Pacific Power and Utah Power.

Experts say bird flu not an 'imminent threat' to Oregon

(AP) — The deadly strain of bird flu that appeared in Asia and has already spread to other parts of the world does not pose an imminent threat to the Oregon poultry industry or consumers, according to Oregon State University researchers.

There are many strains of avian influenza — bird flu — that do not usually infect humans. But one strain, called H5N1, has been transmitted from chickens to humans and is blamed for more than 60 deaths caused by respiratory infections, mostly in Asia.

International disease control experts are concerned about a bird flu pandemic, or a worldwide outbreak of the disease, raising concerns such as whether it is safe to eat poultry.

But Oregon State University researchers say there is no evidence that the virus can be transmitted to humans by eating cooked poultry products.

"Consumers needn't be overly concerned about bird flu," said Jim Hermes, OSU Extension Service poultry specialist.

But he urged consumers to follow standard food safety practices in preparing poultry — including washing hands while preparing food, proper cleaning of cutting boards, avoiding cross-contamination of uncooked poultry juices with other food items, and proper cooking of poultry meat and eggs.

The poultry industry in Oregon is well-prepared to respond to bird flu if it is identified in

the state, Hermes said. "Recent disease issues have helped the industry plan careful safeguards that can be put into effect quickly," Hermes said.

He noted that a 2003 outbreak of another deadly bird virus called "exotic Newcastle disease" caused much damage to commercial poultry operations in California but did not get into Oregon because of federal and industry safeguards.

The \$83 million Oregon poultry industry has strict sanitation procedures for employees who work directly with poultry, Hermes said.

He also noted that poultry producers have had to deal with outbreaks of various strains of avian influenza for years, mostly without any risk to humans.

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Workshop on Foundations in Entrepreneurship

Connecting Oregon for Rural Entrepreneurship (CORE) is a new project funded by the Kellogg Foundation to build entrepreneurial development systems in five target areas of rural Oregon.

There will be a workshop in Warm Springs on this project from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Family Resource Center.

CORE is designed to help community and business leaders understand the role that entrepreneurs play in rural Oregon, and to begin thinking strategically about how best to support them.

Discussion topics include what has been learned about tribal enterprise and private small business development. Also: What is the difference between a social enterprise and a private enterprise? And, do we need them?

Objectives:

To help community leaders gain a common understanding of entrepreneurship.

To understand the elements of an entrepreneurial development system.

To begin thinking strategically about how best to support tribal enterprise and small business.

Schedule of meeting:

9 a.m. Welcome and introductions.

9:10: An Overview of entre-

preneurship.

Entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship defined. Am I an Entrepreneur? Stretching our notions. Many faces of entrepreneurs.

9:55: The Case for Entrepreneurship.

10:15: Break.

10:30: Segmenting the market with entrepreneurial talent.

11 a.m.: Looking at policy responses. Elements of an en-

trepreneurial development system.

Entrepreneurship support organizations, community successes, gauging our community readiness

12: Lunch and open discussion. 1 p.m.: Adjourn.

For more information contact Jolene Atencio at the Small Business Development Center, 553-2229.

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