

WA Dept. of Ecology's Draft EIS and Short-Term Modification to Total Dissolved Gas Criteria  
for WAC 173-201A

Oral Testimony from Jim Waddell  
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This is Jim Waddell again. Civil engineer, retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Yeah, my -- my point is this: When these dams were first built in the '60s and '70s, (inaudible). When the last dam was built, it was seen the spill was killing enormous amounts of salmon in the river because of high dissolved gas levels and that's the sole reason that the other 12 (inaudible) were put in. Now here we are 25 or 30 years later or longer and we are talking about more spill.

Now, the CSS studies, the comparative survival studies, is based on a lot of data for multiple assumptions (inaudible) and stuff like that. That is really -- even with all of those assumptions, we are only seeing very marginal improvements in increased salmon numbers. Now, none of that is sufficient enough to recover orca in short-term or actually recover Chinook in any kind of timeframe.

So -- so the spill that is going on right now and documented in 2018 is not going to have any positive effect on orca recovery. The other thing about 2018 spill is that we are now seeing damage (inaudible) through skin embolisms and what is happening is that these adults when they approach the high-spill regimens and the spillways are losing facial tissue and then become, you know, casualties later on.

We are also seeing a lot more fallback on the dams with adults like we haven't seen since the '90s. And so this, too, is making it impossible for some. We don't -- I don't think the number has been calculated, but some or many adults are not making it back to their hatcheries or native springs.

So the -- the upshot of all of this is that spill is having no positive effect. And, yes, it is costing BPA money in terms of (inaudible) production, but I think the most important thing to remember here is that this -- this idea that this is buying us time is really not accurate. We are out of (inaudible). The only one thing that can make a difference is immediate breaching of the dams this year. And so the point is is that as much as we would think that spill is a solution here, it is not even a short-term solution of anything, much less a long-term solution. That's my comment.