PACIFICORP
A MIDAMERICAN ENERGY HOLDINGS COMPANY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lewis River flows below Merwin dam to drop this weekend

Lower flows needed to reserve water for fall fish run, will remain in effect for rest of summer

WOODLAND, Wash. – Flow releases from Merwin dam will drop by about one-third starting Friday, July 31, which will mean lower water levels on the North Fork of the Lewis River for the remainder of the summer and into the fall assuming drought conditions continue.

The Lewis River Flow Coordination Committee, which contains representatives of state and federal agencies, and Tribes, agreed to the reduced river flows to ensure stored water is available to provide critical river flows to support native fish spawning this fall.

PacifiCorp, which operates the Merwin Hydroelectric Project and associated Merwin dam, will reduce project flows from 1,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 800 cfs in two steps on Friday and Saturday mornings. The reduced flows will collectively lower river levels downstream of the dam by about four inches. The company has notified nearby property owners directly of the reduced flows. Boaters should note some boat launches downstream of the dam may not be available depending on size of water craft.

Water coming into Swift, Yale and Merwin reservoirs from upstream sources is about 35 percent of normal for this time of the year and the lowest it has been in 85 years of record keeping due to very low snowpack and spring rains. In response, PacifiCorp has been releasing water typically kept in reservoirs downstream to help fish and aquatic habitats below Merwin dam. This next step to reduce these flow releases from the reservoirs is meant to ensure enough water is retained so that appropriate releases are possible later when fish are spawning.

The drought conditions also have affected boaters during the recreation season this year. Low water has caused the closure of boat ramps on Swift and Yale reservoirs, although ramps at Yale Park, Beaver Bay, Saddle Dam Park, Cresap Bay and Speelyai Bay Park currently are open and anticipated to have enough water to launch through Labor Day unless conditions change.

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About PacifiCorp

PacifiCorp is one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, serving 1.8 million customers in the West. PacifiCorp operates as Pacific Power in Oregon, Washington and California, and as Rocky Mountain Power in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. The company's generating capability of more than 10,620 megawatts includes power from coal, hydro, gas-fired combustion turbines and renewable wind and geothermal facilities. The company works to meet growing energy demand while protecting and enhancing the environment.