



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific West Area
909 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-1060

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Mr. John Savage
Director
Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Mr. Savage:

I understand the State of Oregon's role in energy facility siting is under review, particularly as it relates to energy facilities proposed on federal lands. We would like to offer these perspectives on our experience with the State of Oregon's involvement in proposed energy development next to Crater Lake National Park.

A few years ago a large geothermal power plant was proposed within sight of Crater Lake National Park and within one mile of the Park boundary. The National Park Service (NPS) was particularly concerned about potential adverse impacts geothermal development could have on the hydrothermal resources which flow into Crater Lake. We were also very concerned about potential air and noise pollution and adverse consequences this project could have on scenic values of the Park.

Because of similar state concerns over these potential adverse consequences, Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt expressed strong opposition to geothermal development near Crater Lake National Park. Members of your staff met frequently with NPS staff to review technical information as it became available from the independent research we were funding on the presence of hydrothermal resources in the Lake.

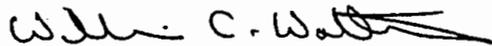
The State of Oregon played a very important role in assuring that an energy project which could have harmed a national park did not go forward. The State provided careful and neutral evaluation of information and then provided reasoned opposition to the project. In the event the project had gone forward, review by Oregon's Energy Facility Siting Council would have been required prior to project approval.

In short, we believe Oregon's energy facility siting process is of value because it requires a review and evaluation of all potential effects on the environment before projects are approved. We support Oregon's licensing

process as serving an essential role in balancing the need for new energy facilities and protection of the environment.

Please contact us if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



William C. Walters
Deputy Field Director