

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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AUG 29 2013

Mr. Victor Mendez
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Columbia River Crossing

There is no question that CRC bridge permit application is among the most complex and unusual cases we have handled. The Coast Guard continues to work hard to assure the short turn application processing times. We have tried to do that in an open and transparent manner, and we greatly appreciate your assistance and support. We must advise you, however, of a potential delay in the process that will affect the Dashboard goal for a CG decision on the CRC permit.

The Dashboard shows a Coast Guard permit decision on 30 September, 2013. After numerous efforts to work around and adjust to changes in facts, we have identified a number of critical documents which must be delivered as scheduled on 31 August 2013 in order to achieve the already compressed goal date. As we approach our goal date, additional information or events, to include clarification of responses provided in the extensive comment matrix, may also be required causing further adjustment to the schedule. The current list of documents that need to be provided no later than 31 August in order for us to meet the Dashboard timeline includes:

1. The final water quality certification (WQC) from both states;
2. The Biological Opinion resolving obligations under Section 7 of the ESA;
3. Coastal Zone Management consistency certification from Washington State;
4. Complete plan sheets for the proposed bridge, including the approach dimensions; and
5. Final mitigation agreement status.

We have determined that the aforementioned information is critical to the timely processing of the permit. If we do not receive these items by the end of August, the Federal Consultation Group must adjust the timeline, on a day for day basis, until necessary documents are provided. We require this adjustment to meet our statutory requirements. We simply cannot absorb any additional compression of our review time. See paragraph 6 of the *USCG/FHWA/FTA Statement of Protocols of Cooperation During the Permit Review Process for the Columbia River Crossing Project (Protocols)*.

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We note that P.L. 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) also contains provisions if permit decisions are delayed. We will work with your attorneys concerning any issues that may arise, and courses of action that may be necessary, should our decision date be adjusted beyond October 7, 2013.

We appreciate the efforts of CRC, The State of Washington and The State of Oregon to continue to provide information in response to our requests during this most challenging process. We look forward to continued cooperation and certainly hope that any time adjustment will be minimal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. A. Servidio", written over a horizontal line.

J. A. SERVIDIO
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

Copy:

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