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### **Judge Refuses to Stop PSE Snoqualmie Falls Project**

Citizens group to consider appeal on need for moratorium on river projects  
*“Legal setback won’t stop efforts to save the valley”*

Carnation, Wash. – The Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA) announced today that they plan to seriously consider an appeal on the ruling of U.S. District Court Judge Coughenour to allow Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to continue a river-widening project above the Snoqualmie Falls. In the case SVPA vs. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), a group of farmers and valley residents sued the Corps in July 2010 over the agency’s permitting process in hopes of stopping the PSE project until a basin-wide study can be conducted on the cumulative flood impact of upstream projects on the lower valley.

While disappointed that Judge Coughenour did not order a halt to the PSE project and a moratorium on future river projects, Geary Epley, SVPA president, says, “The court rejected the Corps and PSE’s requests to confirm that downstream flooding impacts were properly studied. Instead, the court made a narrow ruling that the Corps followed the proper permit procedure. We disagree with that conclusion because the Corps’ shortcut permit process failed to fully consider the interests of the people and businesses in the lower Snoqualmie Valley.”

Epley added that SVPA will seriously consider an appeal to the ruling for that reason. “The ruling does not change the need for answers about why the floods are getting worse, and the Corps and PSE should still provide those answers. This legal setback won’t stop efforts to save valley from flooding impacts,” Epley says.

Erick Haakenson, owner of Jubilee Farm and SVPA board member, added, “For those of us who have lived through three of the worst floods on-record in the last few years, there’s little comfort in knowing more river widening will continue. Without a halt to these projects, only PSE benefits, with frightening long-term consequences for the rest of us.”

The Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA) is a nonprofit organization committed to the safety of residents and businesses impacted by flooding and to the preservation of rural life in the Snoqualmie River Valley. The SVPA members represent farming, recreation, business, and citizens living within the Snoqualmie Valley.

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