



Request for expiration of grant about hidroelectric power station called Ponte Inferno, in Verdugo river (Ponte Caldelas-Soutomaior; Pontevedra-Spain). A RENTE DO CHAN-PLADEVER association.

The association A Rente do Chan-Pladever, worried about the situation of Verdugo river, as a consequence of the barrier "Ponte Inferno" owned by "Fenosa Wind, Company" but nowadays used by "ELECDEY, Company", which hired the use of the hidroelectric station from "EUFER, Company", reports that this barrier prevents the traffic of wildlife in Verdugo river. That means that interesting species as eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), salmo (*Salmo salar*), sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) ou lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), can't go up the dam, which is 11 meter high. Besides this barrier changes the river morfology because the solid load, up and down the dam, is modified. This fact spoils the bed of the rivers and as a consequence, wildlife which were living there. Moreover, there isn't any device that prevents fish to divert into turbine channel, neither to protect them from the down part of the turbine chamber. Those are reasons why fish will die as an effect of turbines working. There isn't any system of measurable ecologic flows to decrease the impact of flow river reductions.

To join with these environmental reasons, there are some breaches of legal agreements about environmental and river fisheries laws. The Company didn't improve the barrier as required by Galician Government prescription: preventing devices to avoid fish entering through turbines, an effective fishway, dropping the barrier up to 6 m high instead the current 11 m high, and implementing an environmental flows system. On the other hand we have the expiration of the license period to use this dam, that was until 4/3/2017 (date stated in Galician Hidrologic Plan). All these reasons are enough to start the legal process to extinguish this hidroelectric power license. After 115 years of producing, we think that the fluvial system of Verdugo-Oitaven deserves and needs a time to recover. That's the reason why we propose to remove Ponte Inferno dam, after finishing the license expiration procedure. Since XXI century starts there were environmental and legal problems that were not solved, even when Government knew about them. The strange thing was that the diversion of water was not prevented (even when there were legal procedures against the Company that supposed a fine).

Any of the reasons we have told above, could be the reason why a building into de public domain in a river would be removed, after the resolution of the concerned procedure. The payment of the demolition would be done by the Company; in default of that, we would try to promote Government to pay it and ask the Company to recover the money administration would have spent to eliminate the barrier.

To summarize, **A RENTE DO CHAN-PLADEVER requested Government to start the procedure to expire the grant** was given in 1889, to FENOSA Company (currently FENOSA Wind) letting the other companies know, just in case they could have some responsibility. Important to make terms as shorter as posible, because we have a great delay, in a procedure that River Basin Authority could have started in March of 2015, because law allows to do it two years before the expiration date. The concession Company, taking advantage of the Government lack of action , has kept on using the dam and we asked Galician Government to force the Company to come back to law, preventing any diversion of water anymore.