20001999 Total Dissolved Gas Management Plan

(3/27/004/30/99)

1. Introduction

High total dissolved gas (TDG) saturation levels are observed in various parts of the Columbia and Snake Rivers system where spill occurs, sometimes creating conditions that may adversely affect fish survival. Therefore, a plan to control TDG is developed annually along with a water management plan, based on the runoff and the resulting spill for that year. This document outlines the TDG management plan adopted by the Technical Management Team (TMT) for 1999. It includes a review of voluntary and involuntary spill, applicable management options, expected flow and spill conditions, and a detailed TDG management plan, with spill priority list and spill caps. This plan reflects relevant provisions of the 1998 Supplemental Biological Opinion (1998 Supplemental BiOp).

2. Voluntary and Involuntary Spill

2.1 Voluntary Spill

Voluntary spill, as the terms imply, is not a physical constraint in that project operators have the means and capability to turn it off if needed. Spill for-fish-passage is a voluntary spill that will be adjusted by the action agencies so that the resulting TDG levels do not exceed the state standards waivers. The planning dates for voluntary spill for spring/summer chinook migration as called for in the 1998 Supplemental BiOp (Page III-5) are April 3 - June 20 in the Snake River and April 20 - June 30 in the Columbia River. For fall chinook migration, the planning dates for spill are June 21 - August 31 in the Snake River and July 1 - August 31 in the Columbia River (Page III-11). The 1998 Supplemental BiOp (Pages III-11 through III-17) calls for spilling up to the 120% TDG spill caps at the lower Columbia and lower Snake Rivers Corps projects. A summary of the general guidance on spill requirements and other considerations is listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of BiOp Spill Requirements and Other Considerations

Project	Flow trigger	Spill Duration	Recommended Min/Max Powerhouse Capacity (1)	Spill Cap for 120% TDG (2) at the start of the spring season	Other Considerations (per 1998 Suppl. BiOp Appendix C) to prevent eddy formation, improve fish passage, etc.
	Kcfs	Hours	Kcfs	kcfs	% of flow or kcfs
LWG	85	12 (4)	11.5/123	45	
LGS	85	12 (4)	11.5/123	60	35% max(3), page C-11
LMN	85	12 (4)	11.5/123	40	50% max (3) page C-11
IHR		24	7.5/94	75	
MCN		12 (4)	50/175	120-160	
JDA		12(5)	50/	180	60% max (for flows up to 250-300) or TDG cap (whichever is less) 25% min (due to eddy) See page C-13
TDA (6)		24	50/	230 (5)	(6)64% max 30% min (test).

					See page C-14
BON		24	30 min. (BPA); see page C-14. 60 min. (FPP)	120	50 kcfs min. spill (tailrace hydraulics); 75 kcfs max. daylight hours (adult fallback) See page C-14

1. Max. value is for powerhouse with units operating within 1% peak efficiency
2. Starting value subject to in-season adjustments based on real-time information
3. Levels provided in the 1998 BiOp to prevent eddy formation and maintain good adult passage conditions. May be adjusted in-season by TMT
4. Normally between 1800-0600 hours
5. From 1900 to 0600 from May 15 to July 31 and from 1800-0600 in August at John Day.
6. Spill at TDA is limited to the 1995 BiOp level of 64% (rather than spilling to the TDG cap). Limit to 30% spill for approximately 50% of the 1998 fish passage season (based on additional tests). See below for 1999 changes.

2.2 Involuntary Spill

Involuntary spill, on the other hand, is caused by project and/or system physical limitations. In general, there are two basic causes for involuntary spill:

1. When an above average water supply results in flows which exceed the hydraulic capacity of power generation facilities, and
2. When potential power generation from above average water supplies exceeds the available market, especially during light market hours at night and on weekends. Others causes are subsets of the first basic case.

For example, the water supply forecast may underestimate the seasonal streamflows and causes the project operators to leave too little space in the reservoirs to catch the water. In other instances, unusually high winter precipitation may force the operators to store water in the reservoirs above the flood control elevations, causing involuntary spill to occur later as the water is evacuated to get to the reservoir flood control elevations.

Isolated instances of involuntary spill are likely to occur in 1999, prompted by scheduled or unscheduled turbine unit outages of various durations.

The (March~~Apri~~l Final) January-July runoff volume forecasts indicate that 2000~~1999~~ will be an ~~above~~ average runoff year (99~~121~~ percent of normal at The Dalles) and a below average year (93~~123~~ percent of normal) at Lower Granite. As a result, it is anticipated that spill, both voluntary and involuntary, will prevail throughout the system.

2.3 Distinction Between Voluntary and Involuntary Spill

In some cases, the distinction between voluntary and involuntary spill may not be as straightforward as described above. A voluntary spill could become involuntary when the nature and extent of the circumstances causing the spill to occur in the first place change. For example, spill caused by service and maintenance schedules is normally voluntary when those schedules could have been postponed. The spill can become involuntary when turbine conditions demand that the service and maintenance work be done immediately, for public safety or other compelling reasons. Such an occurrence in any given year is theoretically always a possibility, but can never be accurately

3. Management Options

As defined above, voluntary spill for-fish-passage needs no further control other than making spill adjustments to keep the TDG within the allowable standards. In the 1998 Supplemental BiOp, John Day will spill up to the 120% TDG cap or up to 60% of the flow, whichever is lower; and The Dalles will spill up to 120% TDG cap or up to 64% of the flow (30% of the flow on alternate days), whichever is lower. However, For 20001999 [To Be Determined], the NMFS made a decision in mid-April to proceed with a within season test of alternative spill levels at The Dalles Dam beginning April 19. Spill will vary between 64% (the BiOp level) and 30% in three day blocks at the Dalles this spring. A study at John Day will evaluate daytime spill at a 30% level on the days when the Dalles is spilling at 30%. At Bonneville, nighttime spill will be up to the 115/120% TDG level, and daytime spill will be 75 kcfs. As in previous years, summer spill will only occur at non-collector projects (John Day, The Dalles and Bonneville). Summer spill levels will be the same as spring spill levels, except for possible minor adjustments needed for test purposes.

Spill caps will be assigned to each project, and will be adjusted in-season based on actual TDG readings. In this case, there is no spill priority list to follow except for minor adjustments to take best advantage of the 120% TDG limits (115% TDG limit measured at Camas-Washougal is applied to the spill for-fish-passage at Bonneville). For example, to account for cumulative impacts, some spill reduction may be needed at upstream projects so that some meaningful spill can still occur in the lower river within the stated 120% TDG limits. The decision on where to cut or increase spill is highly fish-dependent, and will be based on salmon managers' recommendations.

Management options are limited to the following:

- More water can be stored in the reservoirs behind the dams;
- The quantity of spill can be shifted to various periods within the day;
- More water can be put through the turbines;
- Spill can be shifted within the system to avoid excessive local concentrations;
- Spill can be transferred outside the system; and
- Spill bays can be used more effectively.

Changing the spill from a crown to an uniform pattern, avoiding the use of spillway bays without deflectors, and allowing turbine units to operate outside their 1% peak efficiency flow range are additional management options. Proper scheduling of service and maintenance time tables, identifying additional energy loads to serve, and displacing available thermal projects that are serving the same loads also help relieve the need for spill. Some of these mitigation measures have potential impacts on the environment, fish survival and other reservoir regulation requirements. Further, they must be implemented early enough in the season to be fully effective.

To maintain uniformly low TDG conditions or to avoid spill in river reaches where the greatest number of fish are actively migrating, spill may be distributed to various other projects in a pre-planned sequence. This requires starting with projects with the least propensity for developing high TDG level or those located outside the fish migration corridor. A spill priority list will establish the order in which projects will start spilling and the maximum amount of water these projects are allowed to spill.

In general spill will first occur at projects with assigned spill for-fish-passage levels; any other spill will be distributed to other projects in the system as conceptually illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. The two periods shown are April 3-April 20 (voluntary spill at lower Snake projects only) and April 20-August 31 (voluntary spill at both lower Snake and lower Columbia River projects). The TMT will recommend adjustments to the spill priority based on real-time TDG and fish migration conditions and/or other relevant considerations.

4. Projected High Spill/High TDG Periods

Pertinent water supply forecasts issued by the River Forecast Center are summarized in Table 2 for key locations on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The (MarchApril Final) January - July forecast for the Columbia River at The Dalles is 105.9128 million acre-feet (maf), 99121% of normal. Runoff forecasts for Reclamation reservoirs above Brownlee are in the 78123-124 percent of normal range.

Table 2. 20001999 Runoff Volume Forecasts To Be Determined

Location	April Final '99	% of Normal April Fin. '99
	Maf	%
Libby (Jan-Jul) *	**7.13**	**111**
Libby (Apr-Aug) *	**7.09**	**111**
Libby (Apr-Sep) *	**7.53**	**111**
Hungry Horse (Jan-Jul)	**2.44**	**108**
Hungry Horse (Apr-Sep)	**2.35**	**108**
Grand Coulee (Jan-Jul)	**73.8**	**117**
Dworshak (Apr-Jul) *	**3.40**	**126**
Lower Granite (Jan-Jul)	**36.5**	**123**
Lower Granite (Apr-Jul)	**26.2**	**121**
Lower Granite (Apr-Aug)		
Lower Granite (Apr-Sep)		
The Dalles (Jan-Jul)	**128.0**	**121**
The Dalles (Apr-Sep)	**120.0**	**121**
The Dalles (Apr-Aug)		
Brownlee (Jan-Jul)	**12.9**	**132**
Brownlee (Apr-Jul)	**7.36**	**127**
Brownlee (Apr-Aug)		
Brownlee (Apr-Sep)		

(*) COE official Forecast

The COE Power Branch made a 59-year (1929-1987) monthly flow computer simulation based on the March Final 1999 runoff forecasts at Lower Granite and The Dalles. The model simulation provides an estimate of the expected flows at Lower Granite and McNary for any of the 59 years having the January--July runoff volume as the water supply volume forecasted for 20001999. When more reliable information becomes available, the results of the 59-year monthly study will be superceded by weekly spreadsheet flow projections made more specifically for 1999.

The Power Branch's analysis produced a wide range of flow and spill conditions as a result of meeting relevant 20001999 system requirements for flood control, power, Libby sturgeon operation, and the BiOp seasonal flow objectives. Using the monthly simulation output from this power model run, a more detailed analysis was performed to provide expected ranges of TDG levels. Three years with different timing for peak runoff were selected and used in a more detailed simulation of the spill operation on an hourly basis. The first two water years (1934 and 1957) had their peak runoff in April and in May respectively. Runoff in the third water year (1951) was more normally distributed. Shown in Table 3 are the projected spill and TDG levels for the three years at Lower Granite, Ice Harbor and McNary.

Table 3. To Be Determined Projected Flow, Spill and Max. TDG at Lower Granite, Ice Harbor and McNary

Projects/ Characteristics	1934 (Early Runoff)	1951 (Normal Runoff)	1957 (Late Runoff)
ICE HARBOR Peak Runoff Period High Flow, kcfs High Spill, kcfs Max TDG, %	 April 11–25 250-310 150-220 130	 April 25 – May 19 230-240 140-150 129	 May 19 – 30 220-300 130-210 130
McNARY Peak Runoff Period High Flow, kcfs High Spill, kcfs Max TDG, %	 April 24– 28 500-580 330-410 136	 May 30 – June 10 450-460 270-290 131	 May 30 – June 17 550-590 370-410 136
JOHN DAY Peak Runoff Period High Flow, kcfs High Spill, kcfs Max TDG, %	 April 20 – 28 510-600 210-300 123	 May 31 – June 11 438-464 137-163 122	 May 18 – June 18 540-570 240-270 123

The regression equations used to predict TDG are based only on the spill level. At Ice Harbor and John Day these equations reflect the performance of the new deflectors installed at those two projects during 1997-1998. The spill caps shown are also equation-predicted spill values that yield 120% TDG.

Table 4 summarizes periods with TDG in excess of the 120% saturation levels, assuming a 1999 runoff distribution similar to that of the three years analyzed.

Table 4. To Be Determined Projected Spill Periods with TDG > 120% TDG

Projects/ Characteristics	High TDG Periods in 1934 (Early Runoff)	High TDG Periods in 1951 (Normal Runoff)	High TDG Periods in 1957 (Late High Runoff)
ICE HARBOR Pwh Cap=94 Spill Cap = 73 kcfs Days > 120%	April 9 - 29 May 17 - 20 20	April 11 - 14 April 24 - 26 l May 17 - 21 12	May 14 - June 14 27
McNARY Pwh. Cap.=94 kcfs Spill Cap = 130 kcfs Days > 120%	April 1 - June 19 92	April 11 - June 29 83	April 24 - June 27 69
JOHN DAY Pwh. Cap.=301 kcfs	April 10 - 30	June 8 - 18	May 1 - June 20

Spill Cap = 120 kcfs Days > 120%	20	13	31

Based on these projections, TDG below McNary would exceed the 120% saturation level for extended periods (two to three months). By comparison, TDG below Ice Harbor and John Day would stay at that level only for about one month or less.

The results shown above are for planning purposes and are indicative of the extent and magnitude of the spill conditions that may be expected for 20001999. More reliable flow projections will be made starting in late March, using the results of the SSARR run adjusted as needed to meet the seasonal flow objectives at Lower Granite, Priest Rapids and McNary. The projected seasonal average flows derived from the weekly flow projection spreadsheet will be shown in the following format:

Lower Granite: 4/03 - 6/20: X1 kcfs; 6/21 - 7/31: X2 kcfs
Priest Rapids: 4/10 - 6/30: Y1 kcfs
McNary: 4/20 - 6/30: Z1 kcfs 7/01 - 7/31: Z2 kcfs

5. 1999 TDG Management Plan

The 20001999 TDG Management Plan is similar in many respects to previous years' plans. Storage reservoirs will be operated to flood control rule curves and are projected to provide some cushion that will minimize incidences of involuntary spill. No pre-emptive reservoir drafting below flood control elevation will be attempted, as the Salmon Managers are also concerned about reservoir refill. Flows will be regulated to try to keep TDG at or below 120% as long as possible without jeopardizing flood control objectives. When TDG cannot be managed to 120%, the river will be managed in the best interest of listed and proposed salmon stocks. It is recognized that measures designed to physically reduce TDG could have significant impact on migrating salmon. Therefore, input from state and tribal salmon managers and DGT will be sought when attempting to use those TDG control measures.

The essence of the 20001999 TDG Management Plan (see Figures 1 and 2), which may be modified in-season by the TMT if necessary, is as follows:

- Implement spill for-fish-passage at all mainstem Federal dams as specified in the 1998 Supplemental BiOp up to the spill caps for 120% TDG given in Attachment. Adjust spill as needed, based on real-time TDG data, and fish movement and biological conditions in that order.
- Operate unit operation within 1% of peak efficiency,
- To Be Determined. [Limit daytime spill at Bonneville to 75 kcfs to avoid adult fallback]
- Accommodate special spill requirements/restrictions for research, adult passage, etc. that have the full endorsement of all concerned parties. Also, continue to implement fish transportation program as agreed to and using calculation method endorsed by NMFS (or an equivalent method agreed to at TMT),
- If systemwide TDG exceed 120%, update and implement the spill priority outlined in Attachment 1, with incremental system TDG control objectives. Unless and until a different reach priority is recommended by the TMT, spill will start from the lower river and work its way upstream,
- Discontinue or postpone field research and non-critical unit service and maintenance schedules that create (or have potential for creating) high localized TDG levels, especially when and where high numbers of listed fish are present,

- To Be Determined [Operate turbines outside their respective 1% peak efficiency flow range at projects where measurable reduction in TDG (at least 3%, given the accuracy range of the instrumentation) and no intolerable adverse fish impacts can be expected,]
- Store water at lower Snake reservoirs above MOP, if this would result in a measurable (3% or more, based on instrumentation accuracy) reduction in TDG levels,
- Experiment with promising, new spill patterns,
- Implement other operations or measures recommended by the TMT or the IT. This may include appropriate changes in transportation targets when TDG exceeds levels that are universally recognized as lethal (130% more for one week or longer, per NMFS) or when obvious in-river lethal conditions exist.

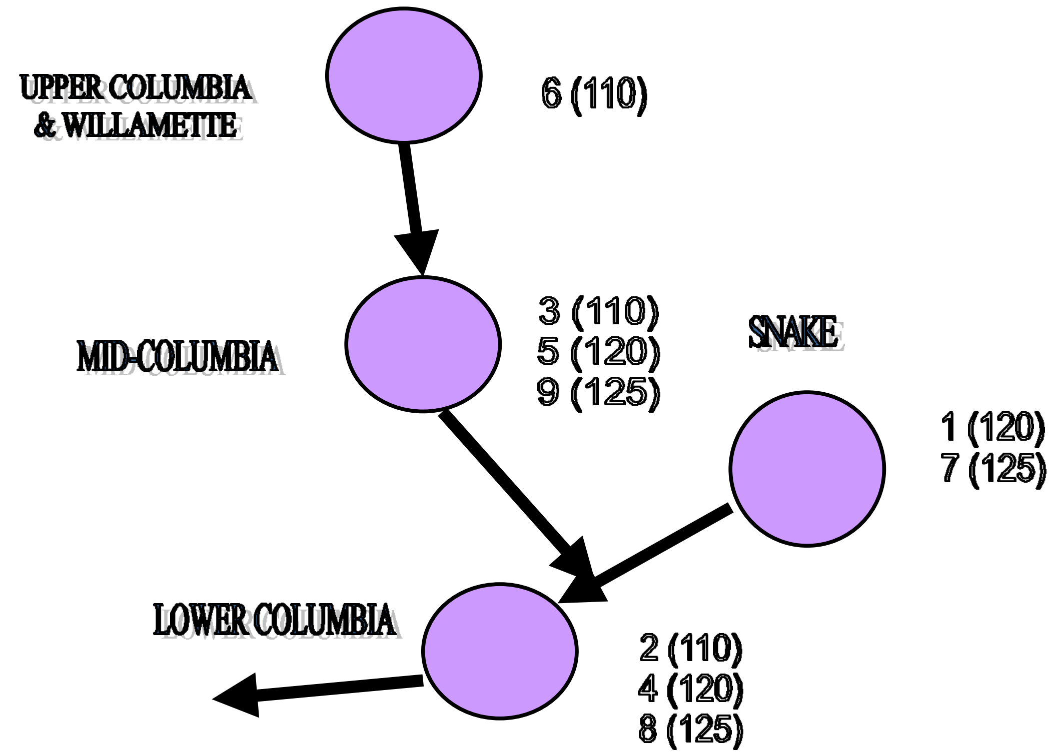

FIGURE 3
SPILL PRIORITY FOR APRIL 3 - APRIL 20
Priority (% TDG)

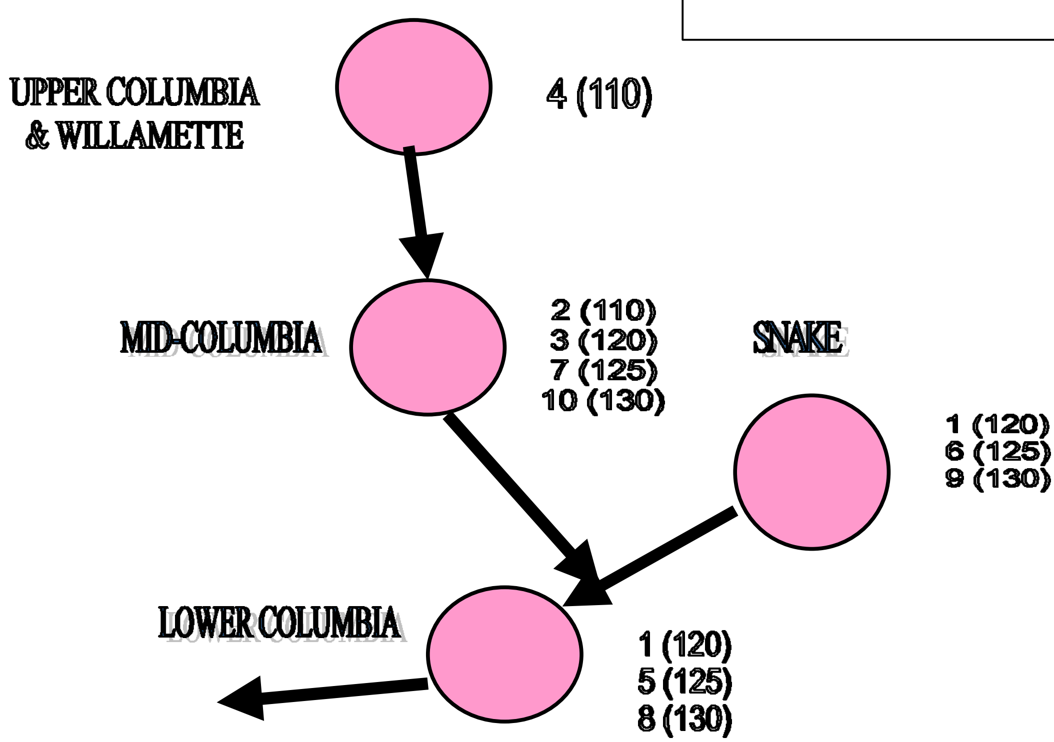

FIGURE 4. SPILL PRIORITY FOR APRIL 14~~20~~-AUGUST 31
Priority (% TDG)

Attachment

SPILL PRIORITY LIST and SPILL CAPS (April 20 - August 31)

1. This attachment provides project priority for spill and allowable spill levels to be used in an attempt to control total dissolved gas (TDG) to 120%, 125%, 130% and 135%. Projects are listed in a sequential order, placing first priority on spilling at mainstem Columbia projects before spilling at projects outside the fish migration corridor (HGH, Willamette, etc). See also Figure 1.

2. When system-wide TDG is at or below 120%, provide the spill for-fish-passage up to the 120% TDG spill caps in the following order:

- Spill up to the 120% TDG spill caps at Bonneville (BON), The Dalles (TDA), John Day (JDA), McNary (MCN), Ice Harbor (IHR), Lower Monumental (LMN), Little Goose (LGS), and Lower Granite (LWG);
- Spill up to the 110% TDG spill caps at projects outside the lower river fish migration corridor: Priest Rapids (PRD), Rocky Reach (RRH), Wells (WEL), Rock Island (RIS), Wanapum (WAN), Chief Joseph (CHJ), Grand Coulee (GCL), Dworshak (DWR) in that order. The priority order for the mid-Columbia projects is as recommended for the period beyond 15 April by the Mid-Columbia Coordinating Committee
- Spill up to the 120% TDG spill caps at projects where State standards waivers have been granted: PRD, RRH, WEL, RIS, and WAN in that order;
- Spill up to the 120% TDG spill caps at DWR if release from DWR is for use in maintaining 100 kcfs flow at LWG;
- Spill up to the 110% TDG spill caps at Hungry Horse (HGH) and Willamette Projects.

3. When systemwide TDG exceeds 120% TDG, then try to control systemwide TDG to 125%, then to 130% and so on by spilling up to the spill caps indicated for those TDG levels, at lower Columbia, Snake, mid-Columbia, HGH, and Willamette Projects in that order. To accommodate the 64/30 tests, the spill priority for The Dalles will be such that spill at this project can follow the 64/30 alternating percent requirement as much as possible. The spill level at John Day may also be dictated by the test at The Dalles.

4. Spill caps for various applicable TDG levels are provided below. They will be updated, as needed based on real-time TDG information.

Table A-1. Spill caps (in kcfs) corresponding to 110-135 % TDG Levels

PROJECT	TDG%	TDG%	TDG%	TDG%	TDG%	TDG%	REMARKS
	110	115	120	125	130	135	
BON(1)	70	80	120	210	230	300	
TDA	90	170	230	400	500	600	
JDA	50	100	130	190	220	250	(NEW DATA)
MCN	50	80	145	200	250	340	
IHR	30	50	80	105	120	140	(NEW DATA)
LMN	10	20	35	55	100	120	

LGS	30	40	50	80	100	130	
LWG	20	30	55	65	90	110	
DWR	04	7	7	7	7	7	
WAN	10	15	20	50	100	200	
PRD	25	30	40	100	210	350	
RIS	05	10	20	30	150(2)	300	(LIMITED DATA)
RRH	05	10	20	30	150(2)	300	(LIMITED DATA)
WEL	10	15	25	45	130(2)	250	(LIMITED DATA)
CHJ	05	10	15	25	45	65	(LIMITED DATA)
GCL(3)	0 20	5 25	10 30	20 75	35 120	55 170	
HGH	03	3	3	3	3	3	
HCR	04	4	6	6	6	6	
LOP/DEX	05	5	5	5	5	5	
GPR	02	2	2	2	2	2	
DET/BCL	07	7	7	7	7	7	
TDG %	110	115	120	125	130	130	

1. BON: spill 75 kcfs during daytime and spill up to 120% TDG nighttime. Daytime is between one hour before sunrise and half an hour before sunset.
2. Limit daytime spill to 100 kcfs
3. Assume forebay TDG at 120% (1st row=outlet El<1260'), 2nd row=spillway (El>1260')
4. HGH spill to 3 kcfs (110% TDG) until further notice