

COLUMBIA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP

I. Purpose.

The Columbia River Water Management Group will act as a committee to consider problems relating to operation and management of water control facilities. Upon review and discussion of the problems the group will make tentative recommendations for consideration of the individual agencies having primary responsibilities in these areas. Particular emphasis will be placed on coordination of river system operations including the efficient operation of the hydrometeorological system required for each operation. The basic objective of the group is to facilitate agreement among the agencies in the interest of more effective and efficient public service in the use of water resources of the Pacific Northwest.

II. Composition.

The Columbia River Water Management Group will be composed of the representatives of the States and of the Federal agencies involved in the operation and management of water control facilities or forecasting of streamflows related to water management activities in the Columbia River basin and contiguous areas in western Washington and Oregon. Each State and member agency will designate an official representative, together with an alternate, who will be delegated to set forth his agency's position on problems related to water management and river regulation. It is envisioned that these representatives will be supervisory personnel who are actively directing or allied with water management problems. Meetings would be open to representatives of other public and private organizations concerned with the activities of the group.

The Chairman of the Group will be from one of the three U.S. Federal Project operating agencies, namely, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Corps of Engineers and this position will rotate annually. The Group normally will meet monthly throughout the year, or at such other intervals of time at the discretion of the Chairman. The permanent secretary will be provided by the Corps of Engineers, or as mutually agreed among the three Federal operating agencies.

III. Functions.

1. Coordinate seasonal program for system and project operations and the resolution of operational problems.
2. Prepare an annual report of significant water management events and such special reports as warranted.
3. Coordinate compilation of project operation data and water-use requirements, both at the reservoir sites and at downstream locations, for common use by all operating agencies.
4. Coordinate and perform as required the development of seasonal runoff forecasting procedures for Columbia River and tributaries, and coordinate the use of such forecasts by operating agencies.
5. Explore adequacy and propriety of short and medium range streamflow forecasts, and coordinate the use of such forecasts by operating agencies.
6. Coordinate the maintenance and expansion of the existing cooperative hydrometeorological reporting network for the Columbia River basin, including automation of reporting, communication requirements, and data bank facilities required for project operation.
7. Such other functions as are mutually agreeable among the operating agencies.