

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING NOTES

May 2, 2001

CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTHWESTERN DIVISION OFFICES – CUSTOM HOUSE
PORTLAND, OREGON

TMT Internet Homepage: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/index.html>

FACILITATOR'S NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Richard Forester

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point our future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the “record” of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Hanford Reach/Vernita Bar Update:

Joe Lucas reported, saying that, currently, typical level flows exist above Bar minimum. An emergency was called due to an April 24th operator error causing fluctuations over a 4-hour period. The flows resulted in multiple entrapment of large fish population and some thermal shock, causing serious damage. The incident points out the extreme sensitivity to operating conditions during low water flow.

Emergence is still on track to end May 9. A question was raised whether more frequent sampling would be possible to determine whether we are nearing emergence peak and to determine when the emergence is over. BOR requested that flows on Priest Rapids be dropped 65,000 to 55,000 beginning this Friday. The justification for the request ran as follows: The first fish emergence commenced on March 21 and based on past records is over within 7 to 8 weeks. Also based on past performance 10k flow reduction would negatively impact 20% of the emerging fish. If the emergence is 80% over, that would mean that with 10k flow reduction would impact 20% of the remaining 20%, or 96% of the fish would have emerged, which is consistent with the balancing policy. After some discussion, there was no consensus on these assumptions; however it was agreed that the VB Settlement group had jurisdiction to determine whether or nor to reduce flow, with BPA having final authority to reduce flow in low water years. **Action:** TMT will accept VB Settlement group decision to drop the flows at Priest Rapids as requested by BOR; however, a decision to keep the present flows or elevate them should be discussed at IT. A conference call decision in time for the IT meeting tomorrow (4/3/01) was going to be attempted.

Rudd reminded the group that refill at Albeni Falls will begin May 5, to be completed by the end of June. Spills at Albeni will be avoided in order to resume traditional summer operations. A

request from Washington to further explain this activity will be responded to by the COE before May 5.

Brownlee:

BPA and Idaho Power are currently trying to work out two proposals to help Lower Granite surging operations in May. Idaho Power is currently looking at the proposals and will make decisions soon. **Action:** if a decision is made before the next TMT meeting, the COE will be contacted and will set up a TMT conference call.

Oregon and BOR met to discuss water in eastern Oregon. There was no water available for sale in Oregon; Oregon has agreed to convene a group, including water rights experts to look at the long term institutional barriers to obtaining additional water. Likely, this will have no impact on the current year.

Lower Granite Spring Operation Proposal:

The proposal is on hold due to its reliance on actions taken for Brownlee in the spring. The group will discuss this at the next meeting.

Spill:

BPA is developing a contingency plan. They are still looking at proposals and reliability problems. NMFS reported that the Dalles will be the first place for spill (20% for a 24-hour period, minimum 50kcfs), then Bonneville, then McNary and/or John Day. Shaping of the spills could accommodate various scenarios. There also may be no spills, depending on the final May forecast. This will be discussed at the Regional Executives meeting. Washington noted that the fish are moving as a result of rain and has moved a lot of fish to the lower river at John Day. Rudd told the group that the May final is set for May 8, just prior to the next TMT meeting.

Lower Granite Evening Flows Update:

COE sent out a teletype last Friday to operate Lower Granite to maintain higher flows later in the evening, until midnight. This is a "make best effort" regulation. Currently, the MOP+1 to MOP+2 range is being adhered to, but the group discussed allowing some leeway. An initial request was made for greater flexibility, to exceed MOP by a half foot in Lower Goose to continue the evening flows that will aid fish movement up to midnight. There was considerable discussion concerning the need to add Lower Granite, just to include Lower Granite and exclude Lower Goose, how to evaluate the benefit of this action in order to justify the operation, and the need to monitor naive fish at the head of the reservoir. **Action:** Provide an additional 0.5 foot range (MOP+1 to MOP+2.5 feet) for the evening flows in Lower Granite and no MOP change at Little Goose, with some monitoring at the head of the reservoir. The group will revisit the issue next week, with a report from biologists on the effects. Chris Ross from NMFS will contact Dennis Rondorf of USGS-BRD before the next meeting.

Zone 6 Tribal Fishing Update:

A handout shows the request to operate (SOR 2002 C-4) the Bonneville pool within 1.5 feet from May 4 through May 6 (a 36-hour period). The COE sent a teletype out last evening concerning this manner. Kyle of CRITFC noted the importance of this current fishing

opportunity to the tribes and identified some Treaty compliance concerns based on uneven levels and said this proposal should be the last until August.

Navigation Locks:

Chris Ross had requested information from the COE on elimination of half of the commercial navigational locks. While the Portland District had responded, there was information missing from Walla Walla District projects and a response is being put together to understand the impacts of the barge operations on water availability for other purposes.

Next Meeting:

The next TMT meeting will be face-to-face, held **May 9 from 9-12**, followed by a Regional Executives meeting May 11.

UPDATES:

- Vernita Bar
- Brownlee and Upper Snake operations
- Lower Granite operations and spill
- Water Quality temperature info. (Dick Cassidy, COE)

Meeting Minutes

1. Greeting and Introductions

The May 2 Technical Management Team meeting, held at the Customs House in Portland, Oregon, was chaired by Rudd Turner of the Corps and facilitated by J. Richard Forester. The following is a distillation, not a verbatim transcript, of items discussed at the meeting and actions taken. Anyone with questions or comments about these minutes should call Turner at 503/808-3935.

Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting, then led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda.

2. Hanford Reach/Vernita Bar Update.

Joe Lukas reported that for the week of April 23-29, average flows at Priest Rapids Dam were just above the Vernita Bar minimum of 65 Kcfs. A combination of a full reservoir at Priest Rapids and operator error caused flows to reach 128 Kcfs for an hour on April 24, resulting in significant stranding and entrapment below the project. I'm not sure if it was multiple entrapments or one large one, Lukas said. We got an emergency call on April 26; during that call, it was determined that higher flows or rewetting was not in the best interest of the fish.

The count was made on April 25? Paul Wagner asked. Correct, Lukas replied – obviously, this year, with the low flows, there is a great deal of sensitivity, in terms of fish response to flow changes. We're seeing record numbers in the index seine; numbers are off the charts, probably because the fish are really packed into a reduced area of available habitat. The most recent fork lengths of the sampled fish ranged from 38-70 mm, he added.

At the last TMT meeting, I asked about the possibility of more frequent seining to try to get a better feel for where we are in emergence timing, Wagner said. Paul Hoffarth said he would see what he can do, said Wagner, but I have not yet heard any results from Monday's seining. Jim Nielsen said Hoffarth has been off work with a bad back; however, sampling is underway today, and those results should be available this afternoon. In response to a question from Wagner, Nielsen said he was not sure whether or not index sampling was conducted on Monday.

You're trying to get a better sense of when the emergence might begin to decline? Scott Bettin asked. That's correct, Wagner replied. In this particular water year, fish size and accumulated celsius temperature units (CTUs) are a better measurement of the end of emergence, Lukas said; we're at 857 CTUs currently, still gaining about 9 CTUs per day.

I had heard an estimate that we're at about the 80% point of the emergence cycle, said Pat McGrane. I would be hesitant to assign a numerical value, Lukas replied; we do know that emergence started about seven weeks ago, and emergence is typically a 7-8 week process. However, pinning down an exact percentage is very difficult. Reclamation is very concerned about the current elevation at Grand Coulee, said McGrane; if we were to drop flows at Priest Rapids from 65 Kcfs to 55 Kcfs, according to my math, at least, only 4% of the total run would be at risk, meaning you would get 96% of the run out. The 2001 federal operating principals instruct us to balance Vernita Bar protection with Grand Coulee elevations; I would argue that, if we can protect 96% of the Hanford Reach chinook run, in this water year, that's pretty good, said McGrane. That would be consistent with the philosophy we adopted in protecting the majority of the chum emergence earlier this year. My understanding is that BPA doesn't need to run 65 Kcfs at Priest Rapids in order to meet load, and with that in mind, I would propose that we reduce Grand Coulee outflow by 10 Kcfs, beginning this Saturday, May 5, he said.

We don't know what percentage of the run has emerged at this time, said Nielsen – I don't feel comfortable making that call at this point. With respect to this year's chum operation, I think our subsequent seining showed we may have been less far along in the emergence than we thought. However, I don't believe there is any evidence that the chum were adversely affected by our chum operation this year, another participant noted. Scott Bettin added that, because of low flows and constricted habitat, this year's index seining data is basically useless. I'm not sure that's true, said Nielsen, but I would agree that this year's length-frequency information is probably the best indicator of the status of the emergence.

We're going to have to make some decisions with less-than-perfect information, said McGrane; again, I would like to propose that we drop the Vernita Bar minimum flow from 65 Kcfs to 55 Kcfs this Saturday, in the belief that the majority of the Hanford Reach chinook run

has now emerged. That will allow us to store about 100 KAF additional into Grand Coulee, McGrane said; I would be interested to hear each agency's response to that proposal.

My suggestion is that this is probably a more appropriate discussion for the Vernita Bar signatories, once they receive the most recent index seining information, Nielsen said. BPA is willing to have that group make the call on this issue, said MacKay, but it would be helpful if the TMT could frame something for that group to discuss. There is a specific Reclamation proposal on the table, Turner replied. But has the TMT endorsed that proposal? MacKay asked. The other question is whether the proposed reduction in the Vernita Bar minimum flow will actually result in net storage at Grand Coulee, said Nielsen. Yes it would, absolutely, MacKay replied. Also, are we talking about storing water on the weekend, then running the water out during the week? Nielsen asked. If so, it doesn't make much sense to sacrifice these fish. I agree, said McGrane.

Snake River flows are coming up, said Turner; yesterday's average flow at Lower Granite was 68 Kcfs, and we saw in excess of 160 Kcfs at McNary. Do you expect that to continue? Wagner asked. For awhile, said Turner; it is a snowmelt/precipitation event. We're looking at a warming trend in the longer-term forecast, he added.

BPA could certainly sustain a cut in flows, from a load standpoint, said MacKay. In response to another question, McGrane reiterated that five days of 10 Kcfs flow reduction at Grand Coulee is equivalent to 100 KAF, or 1.5 feet in Grand Coulee elevation. The project is currently at elevation 1223, 67 feet from full. It has gained five feet in elevation over the last five days, but this is the time of year when Grand Coulee storage has to increase.

Are there any objections to asking the Vernita Bar signatories to consider the Reclamation proposal? asked Forester. I think it would be helpful, again, to hear how everyone feels about the Reclamation proposal, said McGrane; we could also discuss it further at tomorrow's IT meeting and Friday's Federal Executives conference call. Nielsen and Wagner said that approach makes sense to WDFW and NMFS. I think the Tribes will object to the Reclamation proposal, but keep us informed, said Kyle Martin.

I would still like to be able to characterize this, or some operation, as the TMT's recommended operation, said MacKay. Otherwise, you're asking Bonneville to make this decision, without input from the other parties in the region. We need to see today's index sampling and length-frequency information before we could make an informed recommendation, Nielsen replied; again, that information will be available late this afternoon or early this evening.

Can we ask everyone to state their position at this time, so we have a feel for where everyone stands in terms of moving this proposal on to IT? Forester said. Washington's position, again, is that this discussion needs to take place among the Vernita Bar signatories, once they have received the latest index seining information, Nielsen said. If they agree that this is a reasonable operation, he said, then I assume it moves on to IT. If the information indicates that we're still approaching peak emergence, and there are still significant numbers of newly-emerged fish out there, WDFW will not support this operation.

It sounds, then, as though BPA needs to have a conference call late today or early tomorrow and ask the Vernita Bar group to make their recommendation, McGrane said. The problem is that if the Vernita Bar group doesn't reach a decision tomorrow, there is nothing to take to IT, Bettin replied. Without this additional meeting, it's BPA's call, said Bettin; in all likelihood, the Vernita Bar protection operation, in that case, will end on May 9.

We'll call the Vernita Bar signatories together, then, and implement whatever they decide, Bettin said. Actually, I think you should get the Vernita Bar group's input, then take it to IT, said McGrane. We can do so, if that's what the TMT wants to do, said MacKay.

The Vernita Bar agreement is an entity unto itself, said Wagner; the decisions that are made by the signatories to that agreement do not need to be ratified in another forum. That's an important point, said Nielsen – again, I would suggest we ask that group to look at the latest data, then make their decision.

If the Vernita Bar Settlement agreement parties decide that it would be acceptable to drop the flows from 65 Kcfs to 55 Kcfs this Saturday, would there be any objections from the TMT to doing so? Turner asked. That is acceptable to Washington, said Nielsen. Jim Litchfield said Montana would have no objection; Christine Mallette said neither would Oregon. It sounds, then, that we have a decision – that the TMT will accept the recommendation of the Vernita Bar Settlement Agreement parties with respect to reducing or maintaining Vernita Bar minimum flows, Forester said. If the decision is to maintain the Vernita Bar minimum at 65 Kcfs through May 9, does Reclamation want to raise that issue to IT? Bettin asked. I would like the IT to discuss it, McGrane replied, although that does not mean Reclamation will object to or formally raise that issue to IT – we feel there should be some IT discussion, because of the level of regional interest in the Vernita Bar operation. The Corps would not object to that, said Turner.

Turner added that the Corps plans to initiate refill at Albeni Falls on May 5, as discussed at previous TMT meetings. There will be some smoothing of discharge, but once refill begins, outflow from that project will average about 7 Kcfs less than inflow. The project is actually filling slightly, currently, because inflows are about 31 Kcfs, 5 Kcfs over full powerhouse capacity. The current Albeni Falls elevation is 2054.1 at the Hope gauge, said Turner, adding that the plan is to fill Albeni Falls by June 30, and maintain it at full through the summer. In other words, he said, once the project fills, we will pass inflow at Albeni Falls.

What is driving that refill requirement? Nielsen asked. It is our traditional summer operation, Turner replied; there are a lot of shoreline interests at that project. Still, this is not a typical summer, said Nielsen; I'm curious why Albeni Falls is not sharing the pain. Would you like us to look into that? Turner asked. Yes, Nielsen replied. I'll see what I can find out, and will email the TMT membership by the end of this week, said Turner. [Turner provided additional information relative to ongoing court actions at the TMT conference call on Friday 4 May].

3. Brownlee Operation, Report on Availability of Upper Snake and Eastern Oregon Water.

McGrane briefed the TMT on the status of the negotiations regarding Brownlee and Upper Snake operations this spring. First, he said, Bonneville has made a proposal through the

State of Idaho to Idaho Power to draft 180 KAF from Brownlee during May to facilitate the Lower Granite surging operation. The proposal includes an energy exchange under which BPA would return an equivalent volume of energy to Idaho Power in June.

Reclamation is also trying to reach an agreement with Idaho Power with respect to the delivery of the Upper Snake water in 2001, said McGrane; however, there isn't a great deal to report at this point. Ningjen Liu said that he has nothing to add to the BPA proposal discussion at this time. When will IPC make a decision on the BPA proposal? Turner asked. I have no information at this time, Liu replied. Let's put it on the agenda for next week's TMT meeting, Bettin suggested; it was so agreed. So there will be no flow augmentation from Brownlee over the next week? Turner asked. That's correct, MacKay replied – in the absence of an agreement, there will be no Brownlee releases. McGrane added that the Upper Snake BiOp is due any day now.

Mallette said she had followed up on the conversation at last week's TMT meeting regarding the potential use of eastern Oregon storage to backfill Brownlee Reservoir; we agreed to recruit several people who we feel should be involved in that discussion, she said, and a meeting has been set between Oregon and Reclamation for the week of May 14. At that meeting, we're going to discuss the institutional barriers to renting water in Oregon, McGrane added; at this point, however, it does not appear likely that any water will be available from Oregon storage reservoirs to backfill Brownlee this year.

That's surprising, given the critical nature of the water supply this year, said Chris Ross. I can continue to pursue it, but I don't want to mislead you by sounding too optimistic, Mallette replied. There is some water stored in eastern Oregon, said McGrane, but at this point, there are no willing sellers.

4. Lower Granite Spring Operations Proposal.

Was there any further discussion of the Lower Granite surging proposal at yesterday's FPAC meeting? Turner asked. Not much, Ross replied; as you know, one of the scenarios is contingent on having water available to backfill Lower Granite reservoir from either Dworshak or Brownlee. We have received comments that many agencies are unwilling to use Dworshak in such a manner this spring; that leaves Brownlee, and until we hear the outcome of the BPA/IPC discussions, this operation is one hold, Ross said.

We do have the option of using Lower Granite without backfill and augmentation, Ross continued, but that would be a less-desirable operational alternative. Basically, we need to see where BPA and Idaho Power end up. So there will not be a request to begin the Lower Granite surging operation prior to next week's TMT meeting? Turner asked. Not unless BPA and IPC can reach agreement before next Wednesday, Ross replied. If that proves possible, agreement is reached and there is a desire to get the Lower Granite surging operation underway, if you'll let the Corps know, we can convene a TMT conference call prior to next week's TMT meeting, said Turner.

5. Spill for Fish Passage.

Turner said that, at last Friday's Regional Executives meeting, the Federal Executives agreed to take a look at the spill situation for 2001. BPA is looking at the assumptions in the operations plan proposal now, Turner said.

MacKay said BPA is still looking at the spill proposal; we need to see what kind of a contingency plan we can develop, given the continued power system reliability problems and the current water supply forecast. We are still looking to develop some contingency proposals, she said.

NMFS had a meeting yesterday to discuss the importance of spill for fish passage, the number of MW-months available for spill and what the spill program should look like this year, given the recent recommendations from the Power Planning Council and the Tribes, said Turner. Ross said the participants in that meeting agreed that The Dalles should be the first priority for any available spill, while Bonneville Dam was the second priority. The group then talked about the priorities for any additional spill volume that should become available, said Ross – increased spill at The Dalles or Bonneville, or adding spill at John Day or another project.

The alternatives considered were based on assumptions of 200 MW-months, 400 MW-months, 600 MW-months and 800 MW-months being available for spill, said Nielsen; there was no agreement at yesterday's meeting about whether to increase spill at The Dalles and Bonneville, or to add spill at other projects, if additional spill volumes are available, Nielsen said. Basically, he said, at this point, we need to wait and see what BPA is going to have available to give us this year.

When would you like to see spill start? Turner asked. There wasn't any resolution on that question at yesterday's meeting, said Nielsen; I'm sure it will be discussed further at Friday's Federal Executives conference call. Nielsen added that the fish are moving in response to the recent increase in Snake River and Lower Columbia flows; Ross reported that the yearling chinook index at Lower Granite doubled on four consecutive days this week, and a similar response was seen in juvenile steelhead numbers at Lower Granite and John Day.

We're still assessing the situation, said Bettin; we understand that the fish are there, but we're still trying to weigh biological concerns with concerns about power system reliability. You need to be aware that there still may not be any spill for fish, said Turner; the May early-bird forecast is now 57 MAF, January-July, at The Dalles, up about 1 MAF from the April final. However, BPA has made it clear that May Final forecast from the RFC of at least 60 MAF is needed if any spill is to be provided. In other words, said Turner, don't get your hopes up – the water supply forecast is still very low. May 8 is the expected delivery date for the May final forecast, he said.

6. Lower Granite Evening Flows Update.

We discussed this at last week's TMT meeting, said Turner; the Corps subsequently worked with BPA to explore the feasibility of keeping flows at Lower Granite higher up until midnight, and sent out a teletype to that effect. In other words, he said, that operation has now been implemented.

Since its implementation, juvenile passage numbers have increased dramatically, Turner said. As noted at last week's TMT meeting, this is a soft constraint; the action agencies have agreed to make best efforts to implement this action, with the understanding that doing so will not put BPA into a surplus power condition. In response to a question from Ross, MacKay said it is her understanding that the Federal Executives have directed BPA not to go outside of MOP at Little Goose in order to implement this operation. After a few minutes of discussion, it became apparent that while there is some confusion about what the Federal Executives actually recommended on this subject.

If BPA can maintain a higher discharge at Lower Granite into the later evening hours, would the TMT object to some minimal exceedence of MOP at Little Goose, given the benefits we're seeing in terms of increased passage at Lower Granite? Ross asked. I assume that the extra water at Little Goose would be released during the following day? Turner asked. Correct, Bettin replied. Would that help BPA, if they could capture that extra water at Little Goose? Ross asked. Yes, Bettin replied.

Steve Pettit observed that the salmon managers feel that, if there is any additional water available from Brownlee, it would provide more biological benefit if it was used to prolong the natural peak in flows, rather than to backfill Lower Granite pool during the pulsing operation. After a few minutes of further discussion, Pettit added that IDFG supports going outside of MOP by a foot or so at Little Goose in order to keep flows up at Lower Granite during nighttime hours, but does not support any operation that causes Lower Granite to go outside of MOP. It is our best judgement that the Lower Granite operation NMFS proposed has just as much potential to have a negative biological impact as it does a positive biological impact, Pettit said.

That's a longer-term question, said Ross; what we're attempting to decide today is whether or not BPA should have the flexibility to exceed MOP at Little Goose for a short period, in order to increase fish passage at Lower Granite. I have no objection to granting BPA that flexibility, said Litchfield. Bettin added that making the Lower Granite operating range 1.5 feet, rather than 1 foot, would be extremely helpful in providing increased flow at Lower Granite through the midnight hour.

I would support approving that type of operation, said Litchfield. Is there any hard evidence that suggests this type of pulsing operation actually produces a biological benefit? Margaret Filardo asked. Because in essence, by ponding during the day and holding the fish in front of Lower Granite until nighttime hours, when passage increases, but over a limited duration, we may not see any increase in total passage, Filardo said. What is the biological basis for that operation? Filardo asked. Passage is always higher during nighttime hours, Ross replied; by keeping flows up during nighttime hours, rather than allowing them to decline, as they normally would given load-following, we should see a net increase in passage.

After a few minutes of additional discussion, Pettit said he would have little problem with increasing the operating range at Lower Granite by half a foot, as proposed by Bettin. I would propose, then, that we try that operation for a week, then discuss it again at next week's TMT meeting, said Bettin. How would you evaluate the biological effects of this operation? Nielsen asked. Perhaps we could ask the biologists at that project to give us their assessment of the impacts of that operation, Litchfield said. There was general agreement that this would be useful. After a brief additional discussion, no TMT objections were raised to Bettin's suggested operation, despite concerns, raised by Nielsen and Pettit, about the possible negative impacts of the higher pool elevation on travel time through the Lower Granite pool. Turner said the Corps will issue a teletype ordering Lower Granite to increase its operating range to MOP+ 1 to MOP+ 2.5 feet, effective tonight.

If it would be possible to have some radio-tag monitoring of naive fish movement at the head of Lower Granite pool, that would ease my mind somewhat, Pettit said. I'll look into that, Ross replied. In response to a question from Pettit, Ross said he will also contact Dennis Rondorf to see whether or not there are radio-tag antennas in the Lower Granite gatewell, and will send an email to Turner for distribution to the other TMT members. We'll discuss this further at next week's TMT meeting, Turner said.

Juvenile fish collection for transport has now begun at McNary, and is also continuing every day at the other collector projects, Turner added.

7. Zone 6 Tribal Fishing Update.

Turner said the Corps received SOR 2001 C-4 from CRITFC on May 1; it requests the following specific operations:

- Implement the following operations for a short commercial fishery, from 6 a.m. May 4 through 6 p.m. May 5:
- Bonneville Pool: operate the pool within 1.0 foot from full pool (msl elevation 77-76)
- The Dalles Pool: operate the pool within 1.0 foot (from msl elevation 159.5-158.5)
- John Day Reservoir: operate the pool within 1.0 foot (from msl elevation 264.5-263.5)

The Corps has agreed to maintain a 1.5-foot operating range (75 - 76.5 ft.) at Bonneville pool through May 5, Turner said. Martin noted that, over the five weeks of the 2001 Treaty fishery, the action agencies have actually maintained the one-foot pool fluctuation recommended by the Tribes 10% of the time at Bonneville, 65% of the time at The Dalles, and 90% of the time at John Day. They have maintained a 1.5-foot operating range 60% of the time at Bonneville, 95% of the time at The Dalles and 100% of the time at John Day. This will probably be the last week of the Treaty fishery, until the fall season, given declining adult passage numbers, Martin added.

Have the fishers reported any problems in connection with the forebay operation? Turner asked. As I reported earlier, the platform fishers are having more problems than the boat fishers,

said Martin; that could be due to a combination of a lack of spill and pool fluctuation. I have brought this point up time and time again; he said, these tribal fishers have a very limited time in which to conduct their harvest this year. Many of these fishers live in borderline poverty; we implore the federal operators to implement this requested operation and live up to their tribal trust responsibilities. If there are issues or problems connected with our efforts to hold the pools as steady as possible, please let us know, said Turner. I'll check with the Tribal enforcement office, Martin replied.

8. Other.

A. Navigation Lockages and Power Loss. At a previous TMT meeting, said Ross, I had asked that the action agencies analyze the impacts on flow and power generation if commercial lockages were reduced by half. We're considering that request, said Turner; however, I can tell you that it would have a significant impact on the federal parties' ability to provide lockages, which is one of the multi-purpose uses of these projects. Cutting the number of commercial barge lockages in half is not an option, added Cathy Hlebechuk of the Corps; the Corps is required by law to pass any commercial vessel as it arrives at the project. Understood, said Ross; at this point, we're just asking for an assessment of the effects of navigation on power system reliability. In a year like this, said Nielsen, it is appropriate to look at all of the authorized uses of the federal parties, in order to share the pain as evenly as possible. It was agreed that the Corps can provide this information, and will do so as soon as possible.

9. Next TMT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the Technical Management Team was set for Wednesday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to noon. Meeting notes prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

TMT PARTICIPANT LIST

May 2, 2001

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