

# COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

## TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING NOTES

June 8, 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

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.

#### **Shaping the 600 MW-months spill:**

Federal Executive discussion in the morning of June 8, 2001 agreed to complete the spring spill for fish passage to 600 MW-months. At midnight June 7 a little more than 430 MW-mo. of spill had been used. The question for TMT was whether to continue with the current spill design and stop when we reach 600 MW month total. A proposal from Paul Wagner (NMFS) was to stop the spill at McNary and John Day after this Saturday and extend the spill period at The Dalles and Bonneville for a few more days. The final consensus was to continue with the current spill program until 6am on Monday and to allow salmon managers to consider the issue further on Monday. The salmon managers' recommendations would be accepted by TMT and may include any combination of adjustments, including changing the spill schedule at Bonneville and The Dalles to extend the spill program even longer. In absence of further input from the salmon managers, the default decision will be to stop the spill at McNary and John Day on Monday at 6am and extend the current spill regimen at Bonneville and The Dalles until 600 MW-mo. is expended.

#### **Next :**

Salmon Managers will communicate their decision to Cindy Henriksen or Rudd Turner by 3:00 p.m. on Monday. Next TMT conference call is Wednesday June 13, 9am.

## **Meeting Minutes**

### ***1. Greeting and Introductions***

The June 8 Technical Management Team conference call, held at the Customs House in Portland, Oregon, was chaired by Cindy Henriksen of the Corps and facilitated by 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 Rudd Turner at 503/808-3935.

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

### ***1. Prioritization of Remaining Spring Spill Volume.***

Henriksen said that, at today's Federal Executives conference call, the TMT was instructed to convene this call to discuss the prioritization of the remaining spill volume this spring. As you will recall, said Henriksen, at Wednesday's TMT meeting, we thought there may be as much as 600 MW-months of spill available this year; the Executives made a decision this morning to approve that total.

As of midnight last night, said Henriksen, the 2001 spill program had used about 430 MW-months of power equivalency, leaving 170 MW-months to go. The Executives asked us to discuss the current spill program, to see whether we want to continue it or change the spill design for the remaining volume. That, then, is the question to TMT today, Henriksen said.

If we continue with the current spill program, we estimate that the 600 MW-months will be exhausted by about midnight on June 15, Henriksen said. She noted that the current program includes 30 Kcfs at McNary every other night, 30% of instantaneous flow at John Day nightly, 30% of instantaneous flow 24 hours a day at The Dalles and 50 Kcfs 24 hours a day at Bonneville.

In response to a question, Rudd Turner said the current program is using about 7 MW-months/day at Bonneville, 8 MW-months/day at The Dalles, about 4 MW-months per day at John Day and less than 2 MW-months per day at McNary – about 21 MW-months per day in all.

Paul Wagner said his recommendation is to keep the current program in place through tonight, then stop spill at McNary after tonight. The goal of this change would be to allow spill to continue at Bonneville and The Dalles for two to three additional days beyond May 15. The greatest number of fish are now at Bonneville, Wagner said, and this will continue to be the case from this time forward. Because there are no screens at The Dalles, he added, NMFS would also like to see spill continue at that project for as long as possible.

Christine Mallette asked the other salmon managers to share their thoughts; Margaret Filardo said observed that there is one mitigation measure underway to encourage additional passage from the Mid-Columbia, yet NMFS is recommending that spill be stopped at McNary – is there a downside to waiting to make this decision until more of the salmon managers are available to discuss this issue? she asked. Just that there would be 12 fewer MW-months available to work with on Monday, if we continue to spill at John Day and McNary over the weekend, Henriksen replied.

Malette said she agrees with Filardo; the additional spill that would be expended over the weekend until a fuller group of salmon managers can convene to discuss this issue is acceptable. Malette said she will attempt to engage the other salmon managers in a discussion of this issue as early as possible next week. That would also give us an opportunity to look at fish passage over the next few days at McNary, she said; I'm curious to see whether we see an increase in passage at McNary as a result of the increased flow in the Mid-Columbia. Wagner noted that, if the TMT waits until Monday to make this decision, there will likely be only one additional day of spill at The Dalles and Bonneville if the decision is made, at that point, to curtail spill at John Day and McNary.

Tom Lorz said neither of these alternative operations is acceptable to CRITFC; neither alternative would yield significant biological benefit, so the tribes would prefer to continue with the current spill operation. Henriksen said she has spoken to Jim Litchfield, who reiterated Montana's position that there should have been no spill this spring.

It sounds, then, as though we have two choices, said Henriksen – stop spill at McNary and John Day after tonight, or continue spill and re-evaluate, based on McNary passage information, on Monday. After a few minutes of additional discussion, Malette said she will attempt to convene the salmon managers on Monday morning. At this point, however, without the input of Washington or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I am uncomfortable with changing the current operation, she said. Wagner checked the current passage numbers again; after doing so, he reiterated that NMFS' first preference would be to implement the operation he suggested earlier, but he is not averse to waiting until Monday – the stakes are not that high, Wagner said.

Malette reiterated her proposal: continue the current spill operation until the salmon managers can have a fuller discussion of this issue, hopefully on Monday. If we are unable to meet on Monday, she said, the John Day and McNary spill programs would cease on Monday morning at 6 a.m. if we are unable to reach a salmon managers' recommendation. It was agreed that the TMT will accept whatever recommendation the salmon managers make without an additional conference call.

We haven't discussed the alternative of reducing the spill amounts at Bonneville or The Dalles, said Turner – is that on the table? The salmon managers will discuss all available options on Monday, Malette replied.

To be clear, the TMT recommendation today is to continue the current spill program through Monday, said Henriksen; the salmon managers will attempt to meet on Monday; if they are able to reach a recommended operation, the Action Agencies have agreed to implement that recommendation without an additional TMT conference call. If they are unable to reach a recommendation, it was agreed that spill will cease at McNary and John Day on 6 a.m. Monday morning. That is the default, then, unless we hear otherwise from the salmon managers, Henriksen said. It was agreed that Malette will contact Turner or Henriksen by 3 p.m. Monday if the salmon managers are able to reach a recommendation; otherwise the default will be implemented.

With that, the conference call was adjourned. Meeting notes prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

### **TMT PARTICIPANT LIST**

**JUNE 8, 2001**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Scott Bettin	BPA
Ed Buettner	IDFG
Scott Boyd	COE
Dick Cassidy	COE
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Richard Forester	Facilitation Team
Russ George	Water Management Consultants Inc.
Cindy Henriksen	COE
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Christine Mallette	ODFW
Tony Norris	USBR
Rudd Turner	COE
Paul Wagner	NMFS