

# **COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM**

## **TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001

### **FACILITATOR'S NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS**

Facilitator: Richard Forester

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out 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.

#### **Update on Lower Granite Spillway Weir Test:**

Tim Wik, Walla Walla District COE, reported on the test. He said that the test schedule is still set for November 5-9. It appears inflows should be high enough so the test can proceed as planned. The Salmon Managers were asked whether or not they endorsed the test. In the event they endorsed the test, they were also asked to provide a contingency plan in the event inflows are not high enough to complete the test as planned and still stay within MOP+1. They were asked to recommend either going outside 1% unit operation or going to 0 flow to stay within MOP + 1. t.

**Action:** The Salmon Managers endorsed the test as proposed. TMT will continue to monitor inflows and ascertain if the test can proceed without going below MOP + 1. If needed, Salmon Managers will be asked to recommend a contingency plan as stated above. . Cathy Hlebechuk will also check with navigation folks if the Lower Granite forebay can be operated below 734' during this test.

#### **SLICE Presentation:**

Terrin Pearson, BPA, reported on the new SLICE program that nearly a dozen PUDs are participating in this BPA which allocates 22% of system capability, on a daily adjusted basis (more frequent if necessary) to them. The utilities are subject to all of the system constraints, such as BiOp and spill. The program runs on a ten-year contract. BPA administers the overall system under the contract, and the utilities get the benefits and the limitations of that management. The benefit to the PUDs is the ability to manage its share directly, including storing surplus or selling its surplus when the market is favorable. However, the utilities participating in SLICE also assume risks similar to BPA, including overforecasted water supply. Because the participants will feel a more immediate monetary impact, there was a concern whether the arrangement will create pressure from them on BPA on such issues as spill. The answer was to the effect that there was already a great deal back and forth communication under the previous arrangement and that the contract gives BPA control over operating issues. The hope of the program is that over the 10-year contract, given good water years, everyone will benefit.

#### **Chum Studies/Discussion:**

See handouts on the TMT web page at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/index.html> under the 2001 Supporting Documents.

Cathy Hlebechuk handed out the chum flow study comparison. One alternative (3a on the handout) was added from last week's handout. One conclusion gathered from the study is that increasing out-flow for chum would require augmentation from Grand Coulee. Any requests for more studies should be sent to Cathy at the COE. Salmon Managers are still analyzing salvage operations. Ron Boyce, Oregon, gave TMT a heads-up to a possible SOR from the Salmon Managers. A conference call will be initiated next week if necessary to discuss the request.

**Action:** Another model run was requested with 3a assumptions and 130,000 chum targets, as being more realistic.

#### **Attorneys Meeting Update (TMT Emergency Protocols):**

Paul Wagner sent a legislative change to the TMT Emergency Protocols, which the COE posted on the web page. See handouts on the TMT web page at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/2001/documents/EmerProtocl/emmerprotocl1024.pdf>  
TMT will finalize the Protocols at the next meeting.

#### **Year-end Review:**

The group was reminded of possible topics for the year-end review that they had come up with at the August 29 meeting. A handout listed the topics, which the group narrowed down as agenda items for the next meeting. The following topics will be discussed:

- Vernita Bar
- Mixers at McNary
- Lower Granite Study
- Comparison Analysis 2001/ other years
- Operation Analysis (FPC)

**\*NOTE:** As requested, the meeting date has been changed to **Tuesday, October 30, 10-3**. The location will be announced by the end of this week.

#### **Next Meeting: Year-end Review – Tuesday, October 30, 10-3:**

##### Agenda Items:

Finalize TMT Emergency Protocols

Vernita Bar Operations – Shane Scott

Mixers at McNary – Larry Beck, Mark Smith

Lower Granite Study – Billy Connor, Dave Wills

Comparison Analysis 2001/other years – Paul Wagner

Fish Passage Center Operation Analysis – Margaret Filardo

**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM  
MEETING NOTES  
October 17, 2001  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTHWESTERN DIVISION OFFICES – CUSTOM  
HOUSE  
PORTLAND, OREGON**

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

# **DRAFT**

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

The October 17 Technical Management Team meeting, held at the Customs House in Portland, Oregon, was chaired by Cathy Hlebechuk 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 Cindy Henriksen at 503/808-3945.

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

## ***2. Update on Lower Granite Spillway Weir Test.***

Hlebechuk reminded the group that the Lower Granite spillway weir test occurred several weeks ago; biological testing of the RSW is scheduled to begin November 5. There was a second hydraulic test on October 5, from about 11 to 12, Tim Wik said. We had about 10 Kcfs going through the bay, Wik said; everything went well, and there were no surprises. The Corps is still planning to conduct balloon-tag testing on November 5-9. Wik said he had sent out a memo, dated September 25, providing the details of the planned biological test.

The concern is that inflows are so low in the Lower Snake that it would be necessary to go below MOP in order to conduct the test, Hlebechuk said – 13.5 Kcfs inflow to the project is the make-or-break point. If flows are below that level, she said, it will be necessary to shorten the test, or go to zero nighttime flow or zero generation at the project or operate outside 1% on the turbine. Currently, however, Lower Granite inflows are in the 16 Kcfs-17 Kcfs range, although they did fall as low as 13.5 Kcfs one day last week. In other words, we don't think we'll have a problem doing the test, Hlebechuk said, but we need to have a contingency plan in place in case flows are lower than expected.

After a few minutes of discussion, it was agreed that the TMT will work on a contingency plan to cover what will happen if Lower Granite inflows fall below 13.5 Kcfs. In the meantime, the November 5-9 biological test will proceed as planned. In response to a request from Ron Boyce, Wik said he will send out a brief written description of the October 5 hydraulic test.

### ***3. FYI-SLICE Presentation.***

Terrin Pearson provided a description of BPA's SLICE program, under which public utility districts around the Northwest can "own" a percentage of the federal system capability. The program gives the utility districts some limited ability to shape generation to meet its load and sales needs; in exchange, the PUDs also assume their share of BPA's risks (poor water year, equipment failure etc.). Pearson emphasized that any non-power constraints (spill for fish passage or chum salmon incubation flows, for example) apply to SLICE customers as well as to the federal operators. Pearson worked from a series of overheads, copies of which are available from him at 503/230-5000. Please refer to this document for details of Pearson's presentation.

### ***4. Chum Studies Discussion.***

See handouts on the TMT web page at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/index.html> under the 2001 Supporting Documents.

Hlebechuk distributed a handout summarizing the results from the various alternative chum operations the Corps has modeled to date; it included a new alternative, 3-A, which factors in a more realistic Canadian operation. Under this scenario, the target flows are not met as often as they are under Alternative 3, Hlebechuk said. She spent a few minutes going through the comparison sheet, which is available via the TMT homepage. Hlebechuk noted that current outflow from Bonneville is about 85 Kcfs; if the chum operation was implemented today, she said, we would need to augment Bonneville flows by 40 Kcfs using Grand Coulee storage. Increasing flows by 40 Kcfs would cost just over a foot per day in Grand Coulee storage, she said. The longer we can wait before the chum operation begins, the greater our chances of achieving both the target flows and the upper rule curve elevation at Grand Coulee, said Hlebechuk.

The TMT devoted a few minutes of discussion to the model outputs; ultimately, Hlebechuk asked that any additional scenarios for modeling be provided to her as soon as possible. Paul Wagner asked that the Corps run a scenario showing the likelihood of being able to meet a chum flow of 130 Kcfs, using the Canadian operation assumed in Scenario 3-A.

Boyce noted that the salmon managers are still discussing a potential chum salvage plan; an SOR on this subject could be forthcoming in the next week or two. He said chum redd surveys have already begun; no redds have been identified to date. Hlebechuk added that some climatologists have warned that soil moisture contents around the Northwest are so low that 130% of normal precipitation would be needed to produce a near-normal runoff volume in 2002.

**5. Attorneys Meeting Update.**

See handouts on the TMT web page at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/2001/documents/EmerProtocl/emerprotocl1015.pdf>

Hlebechuk said Paul Wagner had provided another draft of the emergency protocols appendix; everything looks good, she said, except for one small change which has subsequently been taken care of. The most recent Emergency Protocols is on the web. TMT will finalize them at the next TMT meeting.

**6. Discussion of Additional Information Needed for the Year-End Review.**

The group devoted a few minutes of discussion to the list of year-end review agenda items developed at previous TMT meetings, ultimately agreeing to add a summary of last year's flow operation/fish by Fish Passage Center. Margaret Filardo had made this same presentation at IT already.

**7. Next TMT Meeting Date.**

The next meeting of the Technical Management Team (the year-end review) was changed to Tuesday, October 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meeting notes prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA writer-editor pool.

**TMT PARTICIPANT LIST**

**OCTOBER 17, 2001**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Larry Beck	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA
Jon Boling	IPC
Ron Boyce	ODFW
Mike Butchko	PowerX
Dick Cassidy	COE
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Richard Forester	Facilitation Team
Jim Gaspard	B.C. Hydro
Russ George	Water Management Consultants Inc.

Richelle Harding	D. Rohr & Associates
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Doug Marx	Attorney, Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club
Tony Norris	USBR
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Paul Wagner	NMFS
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