

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

November 21st, 2001

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

MEETING NOTES

November 21, 2001

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

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

1. Greeting and Introductions

The November 21 Technical Management Team conference call, held at the Customs House in Portland, Oregon, was chaired by Cathy Hlebechuk of the Corps and facilitated by Donna Silverberg. 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.

2. Resolution of Flows for Chum Spawning.

Paul Wagner said Monday's conference call ended with the expectation that a face-to-face TMT meeting would be scheduled to look at data and information related to changing the chum operation, or, failing agreement on such a change, elevating the chum flow issue to IT.

Since then, Wagner said, a tentative agreement, with disagreement voiced by the Fish and Wildlife Service, was reached to operate to a minimum Bonneville tailwater elevation of 11.2 feet. Since Monday's call, he said, it was my understanding we had agreement to continue to operate to an 11.2-foot minimum until next Tuesday's FPAC meeting, at which point additional information will be made available. We will then have the field trip on Wednesday, November 28, followed by a TMT meeting at the Cascade Locks Charburger, Wagner said.

Ron Boyce said that, like the Fish and Wildlife Service, ODFW has concerns about the adequacy of these reduced flows to protect chum spawning. However, said Boyce, ODFW does not wish to elevate this issue to the Implementation Team at this time.

I also have a question, Boyce said – what operations are actually being implemented? Project personnel are making best efforts to maintain a tailwater elevation of 11 feet and 11.2 feet between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Hlebechuk replied; if higher discharges are required, we're trying to put them into the 5 p.m.-midnight period. We're making best efforts to maintain a tailwater elevation of 11-11.2 feet, but it is very difficult operationally – tidal effects, even a boat passing, can alter the reading at the gauge, which is half a mile downstream from the project. Hlebechuk added that 11 feet is a hard constraint as a minimum tailwater elevation, within the parameters of the above caveats.

Boyce noted that the tailwater elevation at Bonneville dipped slightly below 11 feet at 9 a.m. this morning. Again, said Scott Bettin, it is extremely difficult to maintain 11 feet precisely, for the reasons Cathy just mentioned. In response to another question from Boyce, Wagner noted that day-average discharge from Grand Coulee was 93 Kcfs, up from 63 Kcfs last week. We are going to make best efforts to maintain the 11-foot tailwater minimum, Bettin said.

Editor's note: The 7 a.m. reading on November 21 of 10.9' was for the powerhouse tailwater reading. The powerhouse tailwater gage is between Units 1 and 2 and is not the official tailwater gage. The official tailwater gage is the project tailwater gage which is located about 1 mile downstream of the dam. This gage had a reading of 11.0' at 7 a.m.

Next TMT Meeting Date.

It was noted that van transportation to the November 28 TMT field trip to the Ives/Pierce Island spawning sites will be available from NMFS' Portland offices (downstairs lobby or in front of the building) at 8 a.m. November 28. Those who do not wish to ride in the vans can meet the other field trip participants at the Chevron station at North Bonneville at 9 a.m. November 28. Paul Wagner asked that anyone planning to take the van call him to provide a head count.

TMT PARTICIPANT LIST

NOVEMBER 21, 2001

Name	Affiliation
Scott Bettin	BPA
Ron Boyce	ODFW
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Dean MacAfee	Transalta Energy
Robyn MacKay	BPA
Lori Postlethwaite	Reclamation
Shane Scott	WDFW
Donna Silverberg	Facilitation Team
Paul Wagner	NMFS
David Wills	USFWS