

**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
CONFERENCE CALL NOTES**

March 8, 2002

**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 March 8 Technical Management Team conference call to discuss spill operations in support of the upcoming Spring Creek Hatchery release was chaired by Cindy Henriksen 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 Henriksen at 503/808-3945.

2. Continued Discussion of Spring Creek Hatchery Spill Operation.

Henriksen noted that the March final water supply forecast is now available; it is down slightly from the February final forecast. The January-July volume forecast at Grand Coulee is now 60 MAF, 95% of average, down from 60.8 MAF in the February final forecast. At Lower Granite, the April-July forecast is now 19.7 MAF, 91% of average, down from 20.8 MAF in the February final forecast. At The Dalles, the January-July forecast is now 97.3 MAF, 91% of average, down from 101 MAF in the February final. The Corps will be re-calculating its flood control rule curves based on this revised forecast, Henriksen said.

Howard Schaller said the salmon managers had an opportunity to discuss a revised Spring Creek Hatchery release spill operation earlier this morning. We are now requesting a total flow of 150 Kcfs at Bonneville beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 12, he said, with 50 Kcfs spill and a Bonneville tailwater gauge elevation of 13.5-14 feet. On March 13 at 9 a.m., said Schaller, we would like the action agencies to increase the flow at Bonneville to 170 Kcfs, with spill of 70 Kcfs, while still maintaining a minimum tailwater elevation of 13.5 feet. At the same time, Schaller said, the Fish and Wildlife Service will be monitoring TDG levels over the redds at the Ives/Pierce Island complex and on the Oregon shore. We would like to increase spill in 10 Kcfs increments based on those TDG readings (not to exceed 105% over the redds) as well as compensation depth over the highest redds, said Schaller. The spill operation would end on March 14, once the 200 KAF is exhausted.

What if we find that dissolved gas at Skamania or Camas/Washougal is in excess of 105%? Henriksen asked. Again, we'll be monitoring TDG levels very closely, Schaller replied; if there isn't enough depth compensation over the redds, we would terminate spill until we can develop a better operation. Actually, rather than terminating spill altogether, we would probably want to decrease total flow so that we could provide at least some spill with adequate depth compensation, said Ron Boyce. We don't anticipate that TDG will be a problem at 150 Kcfs, Schaller said, adding that hatchery personnel will release the fish at about 11 a.m. Monday,

March 11.

Henriksen noted that, based on her calculations, the available volume would be used up by about 1 a.m. Friday, March 15. Is that all right with the salmon managers? she asked. Boyce said the salmon managers would strongly prefer that spill not be cut off during the peak nighttime passage hours. Henriksen replied that the available volume is 200 KAF above the 125 Kcfs average flow that would normally be delivered at Bonneville. The group devoted a few minutes of discussion to the question of how, and where, this volume is to be measured; Boyce said his understanding was that up to 25 KAF of additional water would be available from John Day pool. Henriksen replied that the 25 KAF from John Day is included in the 200 KAF total.

If you would rather that spill not be cut off at 1 a.m. on the 15th, said Scott Bettin, you could continue the operation at 150 Kcfs, rather than 170 Kcfs. Schaller said he would prefer to provide 170 Kcfs during the migration peak, which is expected to occur on the second day following release. Paul Wagner suggested that the salmon managers could request a flow of 170 Kcfs beginning at 9 a.m. on March 13, followed by a reduction to 150 Kcfs starting at noon on Thursday. We would then run 150 Kcfs until the available volume is exhausted, Wagner said. That's a possibility, Schaller agreed.

In response to a question from Schaller, Henriksen said she thought Wagner's suggested operation would allow the spill operation to continue until about 6 a.m. on March 15. That would give us 28 hours at 170 Kcfs flow, before we dropped back to 150 Kcfs again, Schaller said. That should be implementable, said Scott Bettin. In response to a question, Schaller said 13.5 feet is the minimum tailwater depth at Bonneville during this operation; again, he said, we will be monitoring TDG at the Ives Island complex closely. So if tailwater depth falls below 13.5 feet because of the upcoming low tide, we may need to increase flow at Bonneville to maintain that minimum depth? Rudd Turner asked. Correct, Schaller replied.

What about NMFS' criteria of 115% TDG in the tailwater? Bettin asked – that was one of NMFS' sideboards. NMFS agreed to review the salmon managers' proposal, Wagner replied; we won't insist on the 115% TDG cap as long as there is adequate depth compensation over the redds.

Is 150 Kcfs and 170 Kcfs the upper limit, Bettin asked, or do you want to increase flow if tailwater depth falls below 13.5 feet? After a few minutes of discussion, Schaller said his preference would be to increase total flow to ensure the 13.5-foot minimum tailwater depth during Day 1 of the operation, rather than maintaining the total flow cap and curtailing spill until the tailwater elevation comes back up. On Day 2, however, our preference would be to reduce spill while limiting total flow to 170 Kcfs, Schaller said.

Rudd Turner said that, based on his preliminary calculations, if there is no need to increase total flow above 150 Kcfs on the first day, there should be an adequate volume to allow this operation to run the full three days. It was agreed to schedule a brief TMT conference call for Wednesday afternoon, March 13 at 3 p.m. to check in on the status of this operation. Schaller noted that the ODEQ waiver has now been received to cover this operation.

Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

TMT MEETING PARTICIPANTS

MARCH 8, 2002

Name	Affiliation
Scott Bettin	BPA
Ron Boyce	ODFW
Scott Boyd	COE
Michelle DeHart	FPC
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Cindy Henriksen	COE
Tony Norris	Reclamation
Steve Pettit	IDFG
Howard Schaller	USFWS
Shane Scott	WDFW
Rudd Turner	COE
Paul Wagner	NMFS