

**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM  
CONFERENCE CALL NOTES**

**July 3, 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 July 3 Technical Management Team conference call to discuss summer system operations 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 Hlebechuk at 503/808-3942.

***2. McNary Juvenile Fish Transport.***

Paul Wagner said FPAC discussed this issue yesterday; the decision is not to begin transport at this time, given the current flow and temperature regime in the river. Flow at McNary was 332 Kcfs yesterday; temperatures are still only about 62 degrees F. We'll check back in on this issue at the TMT's July 10 meeting, Wagner said.

***3. SOR 2002-5 – Brownlee Operations for Fall Chinook Migration.***

On June 25, the action agencies received SOR 2002-5. This SOR, supported by USFWS, NMFS, ODFW, CRITFC, the Nez Perce Tribe and WDFW, requests the following specific operations:

- Draft Brownlee reservoir to shape USBR water which will not pass through Brownlee until after July 31 to assist in meeting the July/early August flow objective at Lower Granite Dam. This draft will likely be between 150 and 215 KAF (elevation 2066 to 2061 from full pool) by July 31. This volume of pass-through and draft should total between 300 and 427 kaf of USBR water from the Upper Snake Basin.
- Draft an additional 137 KAF of water volume by August 10, to assist in meeting the summer flow objective of 51 Kcfs at Lower Granite, pursuant to the current Northwest Power Planning Council Fish and Wildlife Program draft from Brownlee Reservoir.
- Draft the remainder of the NWPPC required volume from Brownlee reservoir, 100 KAF during the rest of August to assist in meeting the summer flow objective of 51 Kcfs at Lower Granite.
- It would be most beneficial for salmon to begin refill at Brownlee after August 31.
- Flow augmentation should be provided in a manner to avoid adverse impacts to water quality and other fish and wildlife resources.
- USBR should take all reasonable effort to deliver water held as power head for Anderson Ranch, Palisades and Minidoka to minimize the deficit between 427 KAF and actual

deliveries.

Boyce spent a few minutes going through the recommended operations in this SOR, the full text of which is available via the TMT website. Please refer to this document for full details of this SOR.

We continue to say that approximately 300 KAF will be available from the Upper Snake reservoirs this year, said Tony Norris; there will be no flow augmentation above Milner. With respect to the power head issue, we have already used the power head at Anderson Ranch, and the power head at Palisades and Minidoka is not available, because it would be a change of use – the state of Idaho does not recognize in-stream flows as a beneficial use. It's a state law issue we're working on gradually, Norris said; it's not something the TMT can resolve. Norris added that Anderson Ranch did not come close to refilling this year.

Where will the water come from this year – the Payette and Boise systems? Boyce asked. That's correct – we'll deliver approximately 300 KAF from those other basins, Norris replied. We have made a lot of purchases, mainly from pumpers, to supply that water, he said. Norris added that a significant portion of that water has already been delivered. In response to a request from Boyce, Norris said he will provide a breakdown of how much water is being delivered from the Boise and from the Payette at the July 10 TMT meeting.

Norris noted that there is still no shaping agreement between IPC and BPA, so there is no mechanism by which to ask IPC to shape this water. John Bowling reiterated IPC's position that, absent such a shaping agreement, IPC cannot ask its shareholders to incur the cost of shaping that water. Again, he said, our plan is to keep Brownlee full through July, in order to avoid having to purchase more-expensive energy in August. BPA has informed us that their position is that they are meeting their ESA obligations without a shaping agreement, Bowling said, so essentially, nothing has changed since the last time we discussed this issue.

We need to continue to work on this issue, said Boyce; if you read the SOR, you'll see that there is very compelling information about the need for that water to be delivered in late July and early August. We can't do anything more with this issue at this time, Boyce said, but I would urge Idaho Power and the Bureau of Reclamation to continue to try to reach an agreement that will allow this water to be shaped.

#### ***4. SOR 2002 C-8: Dworshak Summer Operations Plan.***

On June 26, the action agencies received SOR 2002 C-8. This SOR, supported by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, requests the following specific operations:

- Keep Dworshak full (elevation 1600) through July 14. Pass inflow and use 47 degree F water
- Ramp up flows to 6 Kcfs by mid-day July 15; hold this outflow through July 21
- Ramp up flows to 9 Kcfs by mid-day July 22; hold this outflow through July 28

- Ramp up flows to 13 Kcfs by mid-day July 29; hold this outflow through August 4
- Ramp up flows to 14 Kcfs by mid-day August 5; hold this outflow through September 1
- From September 2 through September 8, reduce flows to 10 Kcfs
- From September 9 through September 15, reduce flows to 7 Kcfs
- From September 16 through September 22, reduce flows to 2.5 Kcfs
- From September 23 through September 29, reduce flows to near minimum (1.4 Kcfs)

It was noted that this SOR was presented at the last TMT meeting; what remains today is for the action agencies to make a decision about whether or not it will be implemented. Wagner provided a letter from Billy Connor about the status of the wild Snake River fall chinook subyearling emergence and outmigration, and the fact that the majority of wild Snake River fall chinook juveniles are already moving downstream. Connor estimates that about half of the wild Snake River fall chinook subyearlings have already outmigrated. Rick Prendergast observed that Lower Granite has been spilling about 40 Kcfs over the past few days, primarily due to lack of load. Boyce added that subyearling collections at Lower Granite increased dramatically yesterday.

The main point of this SOR is that the weather and water temperatures are still relatively cool, said Martin; while some might want to see higher flows in the Lower Snake at this time, the cool water from Dworshak will be much more beneficial, biologically, if it is retained for use later in July. Dave Statler noted that the outflow temperature at Dworshak has increased from 47 degrees to about 52 degrees over the past few days; Hlebechuk said she will check on the reasons for that increase.

Wagner noted that flow at Lower Granite is 56 Kcfs and receding. Water temperatures are about 62 degrees in the reservoir, currently. Hlebechuk noted that Lower Snake flows are receding faster than forecast in the current SSARR. The Corps' perspective is that, if there is a need to augment flows from Dworshak, we should probably wait until after the Fourth of July holiday – probably beginning July 7, she said. Martin said CRITFC would prefer to continue to pass inflow at Dworshak, and revisit this issue at next Wednesday's TMT meeting.

Boyce replied that Lower Snake flows have dropped by 20 Kcfs over the past few days; there are a lot of fish in the river right now, he said, and we don't want to see Snake River flows drop below 51 Kcfs. Martin and Dave Statler reiterated that it would be more beneficial, biologically, to keep Dworshak full as long as possible, and to use the flow augmentation volume from that project later in the summer, when the flow and water temperature situation in the Lower Snake will be much worse than it currently is. Wagner said NMFS agrees that it would be acceptable to continue to pass inflow at Dworshak and to revisit this issue at next week's TMT meeting.

Statler noted that it would be preferable to reduce the current Dworshak outflow temperature to 47 degrees. Dick Cassidy said he will check to see whether the project has switched from undershot mode to overshot mode. When he returned, Cassidy said Dworshak project personnel will lower the selector gates at that project to reduce outflow temperature to 47 degrees.

Boyce suggested that it would make sense to have a TMT check-in on this issue on Monday; Hlebechuk said she will reserve the conference call line for 1 p.m. Monday, and will send out an email notification to the TMT membership. In the interim, she said, we will continue to pass inflow at Dworshak.

**5. Other.**

Boyce asked whether forced spill is occurring in the Lower Columbia due to lack of load. Forced spill is occurring throughout the system, Hlebechuk replied; Grand Coulee, for example, is spilling 30 Kcfs, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Libby is spilling 15 Kcfs, she added. Where are the TDG hot spots? Boyce asked. Chief Joseph is the main one, Cassidy replied; TDG levels below that project exceeded 130% for several hours yesterday. There are also high gas levels below McNary, John Day and Bonneville – TDG levels exceeded 125% below Bonneville yesterday. Flows in the lower river are expected to start receding soon, Hlebechuk added. If there is anything you can do to reduce gas levels below Bonneville, said Boyce, that would be desirable.

**6. Next TMT Meeting Date.**

The next face-to-face meeting of the Technical Management Team was set for Wednesday, July 10. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

**List of Attendees  
TMT Meeting July 3, 2002**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Kyle Martin	CRITFC
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
David Wills	USFWS
Rudd Turner	COE
Shane Scott	WDFW
Ron Boyce	ODFW
Russ George	WMCI
Ruth Burris	PGE
Tony Norris	USBR
Rick Pendergrass	BPA
John Bowling	Idaho Power Co.
Steven Wallace	PacifiCorp
Richelle Harding	D. Rohr & Associates

Dave Statler	NPT
Paul Wagner	NMFS