

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

July 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 July 8 Technical Management Team conference call to discuss Dworshak 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 Rudd Turner at 503/808-3935.

2. Dworshak Operations.

Hlebechuk began with a report on current system conditions, noting that, while the seasonal average flow target of 51 Kcfs was met last week at Lower Granite, the current flow at the project is only 40 Kcfs. The current Dworshak elevation is 1599.1 feet; Brownlee elevation, as of midnight last night, was 2074 feet, 3 feet from full.

Paul Wagner reminded the group that the purpose of today's conference call was to check in on current flows, water temperatures and reservoir operations, and to give the TMT an opportunity to decide whether or not to implement an operation other than passing inflow at Dworshak. He said the salmon managers were somewhat surprised at the precipitous recession in flows at Lower Granite, a drop from 50 Kcfs on Friday to 38 Kcfs today. What does the Corps expect, in terms of a weekly average flow at Lower Granite this week? Wagner asked. I would expect to see flows decline from their current level, Hlebechuk replied.

Wagner noted that current forebay water temperatures at Lower Granite are fluctuating between 64 degrees and 68 degrees F, depending on time of day. Air temperatures at Lewiston are forecast to be 100 degrees+ starting Wednesday, he added. The salmon managers convened to discuss this issue this morning, he said; while there wasn't complete agreement on a recommended operation, some of the parties believe that increasing Dworshak outflow now is more important than maintaining higher discharge in late August. What we would like to do, then, is to increase Dworshak outflow to 14 Kcfs today, said Wagner, with the goal of retaining 100 KAF of Dworshak storage (above elevation 1520) for use in the month of September.

Ron Boyce said Oregon does not support an unequivocal reserve of 100 KAF of Dworshak storage for use in September; we would prefer to review conditions as they unfold, and make decisions about how best to use that water from week to week, he said. We do, however, support increasing Dworshak outflow to 14 Kcfs today, Boyce said.

Steve Pettit said IDFG also supports the increase to maximum outflow from Dworshak today; however, IDFG, unlike ODFW, does support reserving at least 100 KAF of Dworshak storage for use in September. Shane Scott said WDFW agrees with IDFG's position. Kyle Martin said that if there are assurances that at least 100 KAF, and preferably 200 KAF, of storage above elevation 1520 will remain in Dworshak on August 31, CRITFC is willing to support increasing Dworshak outflow to 14 Kcfs today. I don't see how we can assure that, Turner replied.

What I'm hearing, then, is that people are generally comfortable with the idea of bumping Dworshak outflow up to 14 Kcfs today, Silverberg said, but that there are still some longer-term issues that need to be resolved. Actually, said Dave Statler, I think what some of us are saying is that we're not comfortable with the idea of increasing Dworshak outflow to 14 Kcfs today without some assurance that at least 100 KAF will be reserved for use in September. And at least some of us are willing to discuss reducing Dworshak outflow slightly in August in order to meet that goal, added Scott.

After a few minutes of additional discussion, it was agreed that the Corps will model the following scenarios to assess the impact of various summer outflow regimes at Dworshak on the volume of storage left in the reservoir for use in September:

- Hold maximum outflow (13 Kcfs-14 Kcfs, up to gas cap) as long as possible, ramp down to about 10 Kcfs (full powerhouse) to achieve elevation 1537 feet (approximately 200 KAF of storage above elevation 1520) at Dworshak on August 31
- Hold maximum outflow as long as possible, ramp to 10 Kcfs to achieve elevation 1527.5 (approximately 100 KAF of additional storage) on August 31
- Hold maximum outflow from July 10 through August 31
- Hold about 10 Kcfs (full powerhouse) from July 9 to August 31

Hlebechuk said she will provide the results of these modeling runs at this Wednesday's face-to-face TMT meeting. In the interim, it was agreed to release about 10 Kcfs (full powerhouse) from Dworshak over the next 24 hours before ramping outflow up to 13 Kcfs tomorrow. The TMT will then revisit the Dworshak operation once the results of the model runs are available at its face-to-face meeting on Wednesday, July 10.

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