

**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
CONFERENCE CALL NOTES
August 28, 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 August 28 Technical Management Team conference call to discuss the Libby/Canadian storage swap and Libby 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 Henriksen at 503/808-3945.

2. Libby/Canada Storage Swap and Libby Operations.

Hlebechuk explained that this emergency TMT call was convened at the request of NMFS because it was discovered yesterday, in reviewing the treaty storage regulation (TSR), that it appeared that the storage swap between Libby and the Canadian projects was not playing out as hoped. Specifically, she said, the August 8 TSR showed a 70 Ksf delivery of water from the Canadian projects and a corresponding non-delivery from Libby. The most recent TSR showed that there would basically be no swap water delivery from Canada, but a 70 Ksf reduction in Libby storage releases, said Hlebechuk.

The final TSR, which will show the actual volumes delivered from Canada and retained in Libby, will be available next week, she continued. Hlebechuk noted that the TSRs are based on forecast inflows; one of the things that happened was that inflows on the August 22 TSR were lower than those on the August 8 TSR. That created a proportional draft of the system, and as a result, the swap water would not be coming out of the Canadian projects, she explained. Basically, we wanted to be sure, as we approach the end of August, that everyone was aware of this development, Hlebechuk said.

Rick Pendergrass noted that the August 22 TSR created additional draft at treaty projects; as a result, Arrow discharge was increased from 58 Kcfs to 64 Kcfs. This resulted in more flow across the border during the last week in August, he said. However, the net effect is that, rather than the planned 70 Ksf swap, the Canadian projects will not be able to furnish this amount and the final amount will be determined when the September 11 TSR is completed.

What I was told, and the reason I requested this conference call, is that the 2002 Libby/Arrow/Duncan swap did not work out quite as planned, said Paul Wagner. Basically, when the treaty/non-treaty numbers were run, they were very close to what would have happened under the normal treaty/non-treaty operation if there was no swap

this year, he said. Back in early August, we recommended this exchange between Libby, Arrow and Duncan because we thought it would keep more water in Libby through the end of August, Wagner explained. I got a call from the Corps yesterday, explaining this situation and asking whether, if the expected volume was not released from the Canadian projects, we wanted to change the Libby operation for the four days that remain until August 31. Our answer was, let's keep Libby outflow at 17 Kcfs and discuss the situation with our co-managers, Wagner said; however, NMFS' preference is not to increase Libby discharge at this time. We would still like to see Libby end August at elevation 2442, he said.

The TMT devoted a few minutes of discussion to this question. Ultimately, Tony Norris said the Bureau of Reclamation is willing to draft Grand Coulee an extra half-foot in order to make the swap NMFS agreed to earlier in August whole. Essentially, NMFS has asked the action agencies to consider actions that would make up the difference in flow, and the Bureau is stepping forward to do so, Norris said. The 1279.5' would be reached sometime on Friday, August 30, and the half-foot of additional Grand Coulee storage will then be refilled between August 31 – September 2, he added.

So Reclamation has offered to release an additional half-foot of Grand Coulee storage, although NMFS did not ask them to do that, specifically? Hlebechuk asked. Also, the Bureau will inform the Spokane and Colville Tribes that they will be drafting Grand Coulee to elevation 1279.5 feet this Friday because NMFS has asked the action agencies to find an additional water source to make up this shortfall? she asked. Norris said he would. Actually, I think the way I would characterize it is that, consistent with the spirit of the Biological Opinion, the Corps is the agency that said what actions need to be taken, Wagner replied. If any, said Hlebechuk, adding that, if NMFS is OK with Reclamation's offer, the Corps has no objection. I'm pleased that an agency is stepping forward with an offer, said Wagner.

After a brief discussion, the TMT endorsed Reclamation's offer. With that, the conference call was adjourned. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

**TMT ATTENDANCE LIST
SEPTEMBER 28, 2002**

Name	Affiliation
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Rudd Turner	COE
Scott Boyd	COE
Steve Pettit	IDFG
Russ George	Water Management Consultants Inc.
David Wills	USFWS

Rick Pendergrass	BPA
Tony Norris	USBR
Paul Wagner	NMFS
Chris Ross	NMFS
David Benner	FPC
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Donna Silverberg	Facilitation Team
Shane Scott	WDFW
Jim Litchfield	Consultant (Montana)

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 28, 2002

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

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.

Libby/Canada Swap:

Today's emergency TMT call was requested by NMFS to discuss the swap operation between Duncan, Arrow and Libby Dams. Due to changes in the treaty storage regulation (TSR), the intended swap amount changed. The August 8 TSR showed the full 70 ksf swap being completed – provided from Canada and stored in Libby. The August 22 TSR forecast had less inflow and therefore, a requirement for proportional draft from Canada. Therefore, the TSR showed no swap water delivery from Canada. While there was less swap water from Canada than planned, proportional draft storage from Arrow is being provided through the end of August. Arrow was increased from 58 to 64 kcfs on August 24 and will remain at that level the rest of August.

NMFS said they were okay with this operation, as the operation was entered into in good faith, it was intended to provide water from Canada, but because the forecast change, the swap amount might be less. NMFS said they did not want to draft additional water out of Libby before the end of the month, as they had made promises to the Montana delegation. NMFS requested that the Action Agencies consider actions that would help complete the swap. The BOR offered to draft Grand Coulee to 1279.5' on Friday, August 30 and refill above 1280' over the long weekend. This would put approximately 35 KAF into the

system. Tony Norris will contact the Spokane and Colville tribes to notify them of this action. The COE had some concern that the BOR's action would have no effect on the system as Lake Roosevelt would likely be back above 1280' by the end of August, but agreed to the proposal. NMFS is still looking for additional water to make the swap "whole". TMT members agreed that Treaty Operations should be included in the end-of-year review.

The next TMT meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, from 9 am to noon, to finalize the WMP and discuss chum operations.