

**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM  
MEETING NOTES  
August 6, 2003  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTHWESTERN DIVISION OFFICES – CUSTOM  
HOUSE  
PORTLAND, OREGON**

FACILITATOR’S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Robin Harkless

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.

**Regional Executives Update:**

Jim Litchfield, Montana, updated the group on the previous day’s Regional Executives meeting to discuss SOR MT 2003-1, on Libby and Hungry Horse operations. Jim reported that the Regional Executives chose not to implement Montana’s recommended operation this year and asked that the region work together to develop a strategy for a better operating plan for future years. Currently, there is concern over the lawsuit over the NOAA Biological Opinion. There is a need to improve communication with the courts in order to foster better understanding of the flexibilities built into the BiOp. Regional Executive members expressed a need to improve operations at Libby and Hungry Horse. TMT will continue to work together on this issue for next year.

**Dworshak Operations:**

Cindy Henriksen, COE, provided handouts and reported that operations at Dworshak have continued similarly to that expressed in SOR 2003-C4. As a result of FPAC discussions last Friday and Monday (8/1, 8/4), the project was held at 12 kcfs, then was ramped down to full power house out on Monday to target 1535’ by the end of August. This operation was not the result of a consensus but not enough objection was expressed to raise the issue to IT. Cindy distributed a DRAFT graph, also found on the TMT web page, of projected outflows for August and September that would enable the project to reach elevations 1535’ by the end of August and 1520’ by mid-September. The graph showed outflows dropping to 7 kcfs for a week or more at the end of August, then increasing to 8 kcfs in September. Cindy noted that, depending on the water supply and temperature forecasts, this projection could change. Kyle Martin, CRITFC, spoke on behalf of the tribes and said that 200 kaf during the first week in September is important, but that the tribes are flexible on how to get there.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that temperatures have not shown much response to the drop in flows. Temperatures are dropping and there is some expected precipitation. There is still fish passage occurring at the project.

**ACTION:** As agreed to by the TMT, Cindy Henriksen, Paul Wagner, and possibly Greg Haller (Nez Perce) will hold a conference call this Friday and again on

Monday to discuss temperatures and operations at Dworshak. Cindy will email the operating decision to TMT members on Monday. Flows may be reduced to ~9 kcfs late on Monday. TMT will revisit the issue during the TMT meeting next Wednesday, August 13.

**Ice Harbor Spill Update:**

Paul Wagner reported that the results from the Ice Harbor spill test are not yet available. NOAA recommended that the bulk spill pattern continue until the data is available, possibly by next Wednesday's TMT meeting. Cindy Henriksen updated TMT on the COE survey conducted two weeks ago and on the special operation that occurred Saturday, August 2 to remove a blade. No future special operations will be needed at Ice Harbor for this issue, and the survey found no adverse effects of bulk spill, except possibly during very high flow which is unlikely considering the current low flows.

**ACTION:** Given the known data from the survey, it was agreed by TMT to continue with the bulk spill pattern until next Wednesday, August 13. FPAC will discuss Ice Harbor operations and if data is available before Wednesday, there may be a special conference call held to discuss the issue.

**Other:**

*Status of Migration/End of Spill:* Paul Wagner said there were no updates on migration status at this time. Jim Litchfield reported that the Regional Executives recommended no operational changes but to continue to monitor conditions and make in season management decisions. Paul reported on fish passage and will present travel time analyses at the next TMT meeting.

**Operations:**

Hungry Horse is at elevation 3548' and releasing 5 kcfs. A ramp down is expected during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August. Grand Coulee is at 1282.6' and Banks Lake is at 1568.3'. Libby is releasing 18 kcfs outflow, is nearly 8' from full and may need to drop to 14 kcfs out later this month as inflows drop. Dworshak will be held to full power house this week, then possibly drop to 9 kcfs late on Monday, 8/11, depending on FPAC discussions and communication with the COE. The COE will produce a model of Dworshak operations to aid discussions at the next TMT meeting.

**Next Meeting, August 13, 9am-noon:**

Agenda Items:

- Operation Updates
- Ice Harbor Spill Update
- Review Current Conditions
- Status of Migration
  - Travel time analysis – NOAA
- SOR's
- Water Management Plan – Draft for Review
- Develop Recommended Operations
- Next Meeting Agenda
- Other

## ***1. Greeting and Introductions***

The August 6 Technical Management Team meeting was chaired by Cindy Henriksen of the Corps and facilitated by Robin Harkless. 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. Dworshak Operations.***

Henriksen said that FPAC had discussed Dworshak operations on Friday and agreed with the planned outflow reduction at that project. Accordingly, the Corps held Dworshak outflow at 12 Kcfs until Monday night at midnight, then reduced Dworshak outflow to full powerhouse discharge, about 9.8 Kcfs, targeting elevation 1535 on August 31. This was done with the understanding that, while there is not full TMT consensus on that operation, there is no desire to elevate it for dispute resolution at this point, Henriksen said.

Henriksen distributed the most recent Dworshak operational forecast graph, showing the expected operation needed to achieve elevation 1535 on August 31. According to this forecast, the Corps will need to reduce Dworshak outflow to 7 Kcfs during the last week of August, after which Dworshak outflow would be ramped back up to 8 Kcfs and held at that level through September 19.

Kyle Martin said that, in CRITFC's opinion, the region would get the biggest bang for the buck from the cool water from Dworshak during the first two weeks of September. Wagner asked whether the recent thunderstorms in the region have resulted in a bump to inflow to some projects; Martin replied that there was a slight increase at some projects. It was noted that water temperatures have held relatively steady since Dworshak outflow was reduced to full powerhouse discharge; if anything, Lower Granite tailrace temperatures have declined slightly. Martin noted that the weather in the Lewiston region has moderated considerably, with air temperatures falling from the low 100s to the mid-80s to the low 90s. There has been some precipitation in the area, with more expected early next week. I don't see any return of the major heating we saw during July, Martin said.

In response to a question, Paul Wagner said subyearling chinook passage is continuing at Lower Granite; the indices have actually increased somewhat over the past few days. One process question, said Henriksen – the CRITFC SOR asked that the next stepdown in Dworshak outflow, to 9 Kcfs, occur on Monday, August 11. Do we want to make that change, or shall we just maintain the current operation? After a brief discussion, there was general agreement that the reduction should occur as scheduled, in order to minimize the magnitude of the decrease to 7 Kcfs at the end of the month. It was agreed that, procedurally, the change will occur in the same way the reduction happened this week, with check-in calls on Friday and Monday between Henriksen, Wagner and Greg Haller to discuss the current water temperature situation at Lower Granite. The reduction to 9 Kcfs Dworshak outflow will occur late in the evening on Monday, August

11, unless water temperature or weather conditions dictate otherwise. The full TMT will then discuss the Dworshak operation at their August 13 meeting.

### ***3. Ice Harbor Spill Update.***

Wagner said there isn't much new to report on this topic; there are still no updated numbers available from the Ice Harbor PIT-tag evaluation. Henriksen touched on the results from the erosion survey of the Ice Harbor spillway, noting that the survey showed little reason for concern at this point; there has been some discussion of opening another spill bay at night to reduce the concentration of spill somewhat. Events may overtake us, however, in that river flows continue to fall, with spill volumes falling in response, Henriksen said. She added that the broken turbine blade discussed at the last TMT meeting has been found but has not yet been recovered, because it was larger than expected. The turbine blade will be recovered today or tomorrow, with no special operations needed. In the meantime, the plan is to continue with bulk spill at Ice Harbor during nighttime hours, at least until the PIT-tag information is available, possibly by the end of this week. The TMT will then discuss this information at its August 13 meeting. It was agreed that there could be a need for a special TMT call before next Wednesday if the information warrants.

### ***4. Recommended Operations.***

The group briefly recapped expected operations for the period of August 11-17. Tony Norris said Hungry Horse is at elevation 3548 and releasing 5 Kcfs; the project will probably start ramping down to the Columbia Falls minimum some time in the third week in August. Grand Coulee elevation was 1282.6 as of midnight last night; Banks Lake was at 1568 feet. Henriksen said Libby continues to release 18 Kcfs; it's approaching 8 feet from full and drafting. Inflow projections to that project are falling; as a result, Libby outflow will need to be reduced to 14 Kcfs later this month, perhaps as early as August 20, Henriksen said. Dworshak will continue to release full powerhouse discharge until midnight Monday, at which point discharge will be reduced to 9 Kcfs, as long as water temperature and weather information continues to support that reduction. Dworshak is now at elevation 1561, 39 feet from full.

### ***5. Other.***

Jim Litchfield reported that, at the request of the Governor of Montana, there was a meeting yesterday of the Regional Executives, states and some tribes; the topic was the Montana SOR. To cut to the chase, he said, the Executives decided to maintain current Libby operations for this year. However, there was a great deal of interest expressed at the meeting in finding a better way to do things next year. The main reason for the refusal to implement the SOR this year was legal constraints arising from the current litigation, Litchfield said. At this point, we're unsure what the next steps will be; Montana still feels the current Libby operation is very undesirable, and plans to continue to pursue a more equitable operation for next year.

Scott Bettin requested an update on the current status of the juvenile outmigration, with the goal of setting an ending date for the lower river spill program.

Wagner went to the DART homepage and pulled up the current index information for subyearling chinook passage at Lower Granite, reiterating that the daily index has bumped up from less than 1,000 to about 4,500. In the lower river, we're still seeing subyearling indexes of 45,000+ at McNary and 10,000+ at John Day and Bonneville, he said. There are still plenty of subyearlings passing through the system, in other words, Wagner said. And the reason the indices are higher at McNary than they are at the lower river projects is that a large percentage of the upriver fish are being transported at McNary? Litchfield asked. That's correct, Wagner replied -- we transport 50% of the subyearlings arriving at McNary, and there is some loss of in-river fish in the reach between McNary and Bonneville. Wagner also reviewed the most recent cumulative passage information, noting that, as has been observed before, the overall timing of the subyearling outmigration was somewhat earlier than normal in 2003. According to the DART in-season forecast graphs, the 95% subyearling passage point was reached at Lower Granite on August 4; however, only 85% of the run had passed McNary by that date. Hopefully by Wednesday of next week we'll have more information, Bettin said.

**6. Next TMT Meeting Date.**

The next face-to-face meeting of the Technical Management Team was set for Wednesday, August 13, 2003. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle.

**TMT PARTICIPANT LIST**  
**August 6, 2003**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Cindy Henriksen	COE
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Jim Litchfield	Consultant -- Montana
Kyle Martin	CRITFC
Colin Beam	PPM
Mike O'Bryant	CBB
Scott Boyd	COE
Paul Wagner	NOAA Fisheries
Russ George	WMCI
Mary Karen Scullion	COE
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Tony Norris	USBR
Jim Adams	COE
Tom Le	PSE
David Wills	USFWS

Randy Hortman	COE
Greg Bauers	COE
Kevin Nordt	PGE
Mike Butchko	Powerex
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Dave Statler	NPT
Julie Ammann	COE
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