

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM CONFERENCE CALL

June 22, 2005

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.

Summer Operations as a Result of Recent Court Ruling

The action agencies began summer spill operations at the lower Snake dams at midnight on Sunday, June 19, operating to minimum station service. The COE's water quality experts continued to monitor TDG and made adjustments to operate to spill caps at the projects. Per discussions at the last TMT meeting, Lower Monumental was operated at 12 kcfs initially, and was ramped up to the current 20 kcfs, about 118.5% TDG, on Monday afternoon (6/20). After coordinating via conference call with the Plaintiffs earlier this week, the COE is operating up to two units if needed to adjust to high flows in the system.

Dworshak Water Temperatures

Kyle Martin, CRITFC, presented modeling for a Dworshak operation modified from the Nez Perce/Idaho proposal, per request from the salmon managers after the last TMT meeting. The model shows that moving additional water out of August into July results in the same number of temperature exceedance days, but to a lesser degree. The salmon managers said they had no suggestions at this point for additional modeling, but welcomed any models that the action agencies might want to run.

McNary Transport/Spill

The salmon managers discussed and agreed that because there temperatures are at or above 62° F and flows are less than 220 Kcfs at McNary Dam. The 2004 BiOp and Corps Fish Passage Plan prescribe eliminating voluntary spill and maximizing transportation at McNary Dam under these conditions. Given that spill has been initiated at the Snake River collector projects and will begin at McNary Dam on July 1, the Salmon Managers did not oppose reducing voluntary spill levels and beginning transport at McNary Dam in order to strike more of a balance and spread the risk between in-river and transported fish operations. BPA shared that there will be some involuntary spill during this time, and requested to go to 24-hour average spill instead of 12-hour nighttime to allow BPA to manage load. Researchers at the project recommended that if there is involuntary spill, the operation remain consistent (whether it is 24-or 12-hour spill periods). One initial recommendation from the salmon managers was to follow the operation described in the Fish Passage Plan concerning spill levels greater than 20% being the criteria for 24 hour spill.

ACTION: After talking further with researchers at the project, Cathy Hlebechuk, COE, will send an email to TMT members confirming the researchers preferred shaping for involuntary spill at the project. Oregon noted that the operation should be driven by what is best for the fish.

Operations to Correct Short Term Transmission Instabilities

John Wellschlager, BPA, presented a first-cut draft of a prioritized list for operations should there be sudden transmission instabilities during implementation of the summer spill plan. The action agencies noted that they are committed to the court ordered spill operation and, transmission instabilities have occurred that forced slight, short term deviations from the intended spill operation: Issues at Hatwai required reduced spill briefly (about 10 minutes) at The Dalles; Chief Joseph generation was cut so a second unit was briefly utilized at Little Goose; and The Dalles was operated briefly (about 10 minutes) outside 1% because divers were doing inspections at the project. In the interest of transparency, the action agencies would like feedback from TMT members on what measures to take should there be future instantaneous transmission instabilities that cause short-term deviations from the intended spill operation. Initial comments from the salmon managers included:

- Provide interim steps to reducing spill at the projects rather than going immediately to zero spill.
- Reduce spill at more than one project before going to zero spill at just one project.
- Develop a list for operations until August, then change the priorities for operations after August 1.
- **ACTION:** The salmon managers will review the list, discuss and share further guidance with the action agencies on the prioritization list, as soon as possible. There will be a check-in on this item at the June 29th TMT meeting.

Other Operations Updates

Tony Norris, BOR, reported that there will be 427 kaf available for flow augmentation out of the Snake River; 1.5 kcfs is being released from Milner through July.

Divers at The Dalles inspecting apron erosion at bays 1 and 2 found that the apron is fine, so spill restrictions at the bays will likely be lifted.

Libby is 5' from full, with 37 kcfs inflows and 24 kcfs out. The action agencies are carefully monitoring the project to avoid fill and spill. When inflows recede, the project will go to a flat flow through August; at this point, the estimated flow will be about 18 kcfs.

Next Meeting, June 29, 9am-noon

Agenda Items include:

- Review notes
- Libby operations
- Dworshak temperatures
- Check in on summer spill per the recent court decision

- Feedback from salmon managers on transmission instabilities priority list
- McNary transport operations