

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM EMERGENCY CONFERENCE CALL

July 18, 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.

Emergency Protocols

The action agencies convened an emergency TMT call to discuss the list of emergency protocols from the 2005 Water Management Plan, in the event there is a power emergency. Rick Pendegrass, BPA, explained that earlier in the morning, due to warmer weather, BPA experienced a shortage of about 500 mw of power from 3:00-8:00 AM. BPA attempted to purchase power at higher than market price but there were no offers. More energy became available as the day continued, resulting in enough power for today. However, in the event that a future stress to the transmission system were to occur (e.g. lightning strikes, an outing of CGS), BPA would like the flexibility to keep generation up, and wanted to be sure the emergency protocol list was up to date and prioritized per recommendations from TMT.

The salmon managers responded that they had not yet reached consensus on a revised list. Dave Wills, USFWS, offered that at the July 13 TMT meeting, the salmon managers recommended that the action agencies operate from the list as it is currently written, in the interim, until more feedback could be provided. It was noted that the current list is not prioritized, and the action agencies would like to have a prioritized list.

Other comments from TMT members:

- Will the issue today continue to arise throughout the season? Isn't this typical for summer? Yes, due to the heat, but this year is unique in that there is less capacity with the court-ordered spill in the Lower Snake.
- Without understanding the need before it arises, the salmon managers cannot provide guidance. The operators should be in control of the decision – it is their call during an emergency.
- A clear characterization of the problem from BPA would be helpful for the salmon managers in the future.
- It seems like the current problem is more long-term than what the salmon managers had been thinking when discussing the emergency protocols. What is the time frame for emergency operations? BPA responded that these would be short-term, no longer than a few hours in duration.
- The list we are looking at is different from what is written in the WMP, which includes language to the effect that BPA will use all purchasing power, including bidding above

market rates, before implementing any of the operations on the emergency list. Is this different than what is being discussed today?

- **ACTION**: The action agencies will add language to the emergency protocols list that clarifies that BPA will only resort to the emergency list after all other power marketing options have been explored.

Cindy Henriksen, COE, went through the list and ruled out those actions that are not possible this year with the court order, current operations and conditions. The following list is reflective of the potential actions that could be taken in case of a power system emergency:

- Additional 1' of tailwater at Bonneville – it was noted that this could be implemented without necessarily impacting the tribal fishery.
- Reduce Bonneville spill to 50 kcfs, then to 0 kcfs.
- Reduce John Day to 0 kcfs daytime spill.
- Shut spill bays 1 and 2 at The Dalles.
- Obtain megawatts from the Willamette Basin.
- Ramp up Hungry Horse – the BOR is looking into how much could be done here, and Montana offered support for this.

ACTION: The salmon managers planned to caucus immediately following the conference call, to discuss the above revised list and offer a prioritized list to the action agencies as soon as possible today (preferably by 2:00 pm). TMT will check-in on this issue at the TMT conference call on Wednesday, July 20.

Technical Management Team Conference Call Notes

July 18, 2005

1. Greetings and Introductions.

Today's Technical Management Team emergency conference call was chaired by Cindy Henriksen and facilitated by Robin Harkless. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at today's meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Henriksen at 503/808-3945.

1. Power System Emergency.

Henriksen said the purpose of today's call was to discuss the current power system situation and the TMT's emergency protocols. Rick Pendergrass said that this morning at 8 am, in looking at the streamflow, weather and load situation, BPA determined that a shortage of 600-800 MW could occur from 2-9 p.m. today. BPA went to the real-time power market and tendered an offer 50 mills over the current market price, but found no takers. Later, around noon, some additional power became

available, and BPA was able to purchase enough capacity across the evening peak to manage the system today. The continuing concern is that a lightning strike could take out Libby and/or Hungry Horse, or a problem could occur at CGS, which has experienced several outages in the last three weeks. We wanted to revisit the emergency protocol list to be sure that any actions we take if problem occur have been coordinated with TMT, said Pendergrass.

Henriksen noted that the action agencies had asked the salmon managers for their feedback on the draft emergency protocols list several weeks ago, but their feedback has not yet been received. I need a clarification, said Dave Wills – the list refers to transmission system instabilities, but isn't this a capacity issue? It could be either, said Henriksen – the purpose of this call is to talk about the situation at hand, and any actions that may need to be taken to respond to any further problems that could occur. Pendergrass noted that, when temperatures are as high as they are, currently, that imposes additional stress on the transmission system, and additional problems are more likely to occur.

Wills said the salmon managers still have not reached consensus on the draft list of emergency actions. We stated at the last TMT meeting that the original list that was put out would be used in the interim, until the salmon managers are able to reach consensus, he said. It's difficult to make choices at this point in the season, from a fish perspective, because both listed and non-listed fish are moving past all projects in both directions. I'm not sure how we would make up 500-600 MW, he said – it's a bit confusing, and I'm not sure we can give you a recommendation at this point.

So is it acceptable, for the salmon managers, for us to continue to use the original list? Pendergrass asked. I can't speak for the other salmon managers, said Wills, but I'm not completely comfortable with the list as it stands. Henriksen noted that BPA appears to have been able to purchase enough power to defuse today's emergency, but if that's not the case, TMT needs to decide how to prioritize what additional actions may need to be taken outside the UPA.

In response to a question from Cindy LeFleur, Pendergrass explained that there is an hourly real-time market for power purchases. When we noticed that we had a load shortfall for this afternoon, we put out a bid that was 50 mils over the current price. We didn't get any takers at 8 am, but later, some additional power came on the market, and we were able to get the power we needed for today. And how is this year different from other years? LeFleur asked. It's a pretty typical year, in terms of streamflows and temperatures, but we have lost a significant amount of capacity because of the court-ordered spill at the Snake River projects and McNary, Pendergrass replied.

So neither the draft list put together by the salmon managers or the original list developed by the action agencies are prioritized, said Paul Wagner. Without knowing what the situation may be, and how much energy is needed, it's really the operator's choice as to what are the appropriate steps to be taken – what measure or mix of

measures are needed to alleviate the problem. At the end of the day, we would prefer to have a prioritized list, Pendergrass replied. We can have that for you by Wednesday, said Wagner. We need it by 1 pm today, said Henriksen. We have heard today that this afternoon's crisis has been averted, said Wagner – FPAC has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, and we will discuss it at that time. The problem with that is that additional problems could occur at any time, said Pendergrass. I'm looking at the list from the 2005 Water Management Plan, said Pendergrass; I understand that you are willing to allow us to continue to use that list, but any additional guidance you can give us would be helpful.

In response to a question, Henriksen said both Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph are already running at full powerhouse capacity. Would it be helpful to step through the list and identify which items might be applicable? Harkless asked. It would be helpful to have something in writing, describing the situation at hand in some detail, so that we could better understand exactly what the problem is and where generation is needed, said Ron Boyce – in the future, I would look to Bonneville to provide that. You're asking us to offer up an opinion when we don't fully understand what the problem is, he said.

I agree that once we get through this situation, a little retro would be helpful, Pendergrass replied. I would observe that you've been spilling for three weeks, and this type of situation – high temperatures throughout the region while spill is occurring at the Lower Snake projects and McNary – must have been on BPA's planning horizon, said Boyce. We're still trying to get our arms around Judge Redden's decision, and how to manage the river, Pendergrass replied. Why is this not going to be a daily issue between now and mid-September? LeFleur asked. It may be, Pendergrass replied – one thing we're doing is trying to lock up more energy supply. The system is becoming more constrained on the generation end; we need to fix the situation today, and then work on whatever fixes may be necessary through the end of the summer period.

Any of the actions taken under the emergency protocol list don't just happen, said Henriksen – there is notification from Bonneville, and we then convene an emergency call to discuss which actions on the list should be taken in response to the situation. As we look at the list, there are several actions that aren't necessarily applicable. We have talked to our biologists about what possible actions might get us some megawatts at the least impact to fish. Options they suggested include the possibility of reducing Bonneville daytime spill to 50 Kcfs, or the reduction of John Day spill to zero; there may also be an opportunity to find a few megawatts in the Willamette Basin.

Again, we don't know what you're trying to protect against, said Boyce. The main contingencies are possible lightning strikes in the Libby or Hungry Horse area, or an outage at the CGS, said Pendergrass. We're at 170 MW at Hungry Horse, and could go to 290 MW today if necessary, under a stepped outflow increase regime, said Tony Norris. Dworshak and Libby are already at full powerhouse capacity, added Henriksen. It's a system condition, said Pendergrass – if problems occur, generation anywhere in

the system would be useful.

LeFleur noted that, from the salmon managers' perspective, the current list is intended to apply to short-term problems – a few minutes, maybe an hour. It isn't intended to cover longer-term emergencies. In our view, this is short-term – it's just a few hours, said Pendergrass. We're not looking at this as a multi-day or multi-week list, he said.

The problem is that, because of the spill requirement at the Snake projects and McNary, this could be a chronic problem through the summer, said LeFleur. True, but most of the problems that would occur would be short-term, said Pendergrass.

The group then devoted a few minutes of discussion to the list of emergency actions, in an attempt to decide which actions are and are not available for use at this time. The actions discussed include:

- An additional 1 foot of tailwater at Bonneville (90 MW of additional generation) – at this time, Bonneville is operating for a Zone 6 fishery, so forebay elevation is limited. If this step is taken, CRITFC will probably need to agree.
- Spill at McNary during the day, if available – no longer applicable. With Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph already at maximum generation, and McNary constrained by Judge Redden's order, that option is either already underway or not applicable.
- Increase McNary nighttime generation – again, McNary is constrained to 50 Kcfs generation around the clock, so this option is not available.
- Increase Dworshak generation – Not available because Dworshak is already at powerhouse capacity
- Increase McNary generation to an operation outside 1% peak efficiency – again, this action would conflict with Judge Redden's order, so is either not on or is far down the list.
- Reduce spill at Bonneville Dam to zero – the action agencies have proposed that reducing spill at Bonneville to 50 Kcfs daytime (100 MW) – might be considered. We could also reduce Bonneville spill to zero for several hours, said Henriksen. This would pick up 200 MW.
- Reduce spill at John Day to zero (additional generation: 300 MW). It may also be possible to take an interim step, and go to 20% or 10% spill, rather than zero spill, said Henriksen. It may also be possible to go to zero spill during the day, and 60% spill at night, said Larry Beck. That would be a positive step, from a fish perspective, said Wagner.
- Shut spill bays 1 and 2 at The Dalles (would free up an additional 4 Kcfs for generation)
- Reduce spill at the Lower Snake projects – again, this would conflict with the current court order. The action agencies recommended that this measure either not be on the list or be placed at the bottom of the priority list.

In response to a question, Pendergrass said BPA is maintaining its required

reserve margin at this time. Can the BPA reserves be used for these types of emergencies? Bob Heinith asked. We are required to maintain reserves at all times, replied another BPA participant – if a facility trips off, those reserves kick on within seconds, but have to be replaced – we are required to maintain those reserves at all times. Can the California reserves be used to alleviate problems here in the Northwest? Heinith asked. Each control area has to maintain its own level of reserves, and we're in a different control area, Pendergrass replied. We can certainly purchase power from the Southwest if power is available, but I'm not sure how the reserves might be used. This is about having the physical generating resources needed to meet all emergency situations the instant they occur, he said.

It looks as though the one-foot tailwater increase at Bonneville, reduced spill at Bonneville or John Day, and stopping spill at Bays 1 and 2 at The Dalles are still on the list, said Henriksen. We may also be able to pick up a few megawatts at Willamette projects. It sounds as though it may also be possible to increase generation at Hungry Horse, said Pendergrass. Do these actions sound appropriate, as an interim list, until TMT can meet on Wednesday? he asked.

Heinith said he would like the salmon managers to caucus before signing off on this list; they will then report their recommendations to the action agencies later this afternoon. But is this acceptable as an interim list, until that occurs? Pendergrass asked. The action agencies are going to do what they're going to do, said Heinith – I can't sign off on the list until I confer with others in my office and the other salmon managers. We need a little bit of time. We should be able to get back to you by 3 pm today. Henriksen said that, in that case, the action agencies will use this list – one foot of additional tailwater at Bonneville, decreased spill at Bonneville, zero daytime spill at John Day, stopping spill at Bays 1 and 2 at The Dalles, increased generation at the Willamette projects and/or Hungry Horse – at least until they hear back from CRITFC and the other salmon managers.

Rob Lothrop noted that the list of emergency actions in the Water Management Plan also includes a number of power marketing actions, including seeking additional power in the marketplace and curtailing non-firm load. I'm not sure why those dropped off the list, but Bonneville is committed to taking those power marketing actions prior to implementing any of the operational actions we've been discussing, Pendergrass replied. It sounds as though it would be helpful to add those actions to the list, for the sake of clarity, said Harkless. Sure, said Pendergrass. Jim Litchfield said the proposal to increase Hungry Horse generation is acceptable to Montana.

It was agreed that the salmon managers will convene a conference call and attempt to reach consensus on the list of emergency actions, and that they will then communicate their recommendations directly to the action agencies.