

# COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

## TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

March 29, 2006 Conference Call

### FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

Notes: 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.

#### **SOR 2006-2**

Russ Kiefer, IDFG, spoke on behalf of the salmon managers, who put forth SOR 2006-2 regarding the start of MOP operations on the Lower Snake River. They requested that the action agencies begin drafting to MOP operations when spill is initiated at the projects on April 3. Drafting to MOP increases water velocity by increasing the flows and reducing the cross-sectional area of the reservoirs, this will likely stimulate the fish to migrate. The salmon managers' request that this stimulus for fish migration occur at the same time the preferred spillway passage route becomes available.

Cindy Henriksen, COE, responded that while the projects are currently operating at full operating range (3-5') and fluctuating to maximize power possibilities, many of the projects are fluctuating to below the top range, closer to MOP. It was also noted that to implement MOP at all the projects on the same day would require a lot of water to be moved in one day. The salmon managers clarified that the intent of their request to begin MOP operations on April 3 was to initiate the operation during, but not sooner than, the start of spill. (So that any additional water moving through the reservoirs in shifting to MOP would occur after the start of spill.)

The COE proposed the following operation:

- *At Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental, begin on April 3 to narrow the operating range to 2', and operate to MOP on April 4.*
- *At Little Goose and Lower Granite, narrow to a 4' operating range on April 3, a 3' range on April 4, a 2' range on April 5 and operate to MOP on April 6. (The salmon managers supported this recommendation, with a request that it maximizes fish benefits and minimizes power fluctuations. They did not support refill at any of the projects during this time.)*

Scott Bettin, BPA, responded that he heard what the salmon managers' interests are and stated that BPA will incorporate this into the way the Snakes are drafted but noted that initiating MOP operations at the same time as spill operations are not required or specified in the BiOp or court order. BPA plans on operating to the criteria agreed to in the meeting.

### **Transducer Installation at Little Goose and Lower Granite**

Tim Wik, Walla Walla COE, described transducer installation work slated to begin in April at Lower Granite and Little Goose that will impact spill patterns, but not spill volumes.

Little Goose installation will occur on April 11-13 during which time there will be divers in the water. Safety concerns will require four of eight bays to be shut off. During the day on April 13, spill will be implemented to the volume specified in the court order, as a flat pattern through the four available bays. Lower Granite installation work will occur on April 3 at the RSW and unit 6, requiring bays 1-4 to be shut off that day and possibly into April 4. 20 kcfs will be spilled through bays 5-8 during that time. On April 6-7, installation will occur in the spillways, requiring spill to be turned off at individual bays for 1-2 hours. The make-up volume will be spilled through a different bay.

**ACTION:** Tim will send an email to TMT with specifications about the installation work at the two projects, and will coordinate further on spill patterns with Gary Fredericks (NOAA), Bill Hevlin (NOAA), and Rick Kruger (ODFW).