

# COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

## TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

July 31, 2006 Conference Call

### FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Robin Harkless

Notes: Erin Halton

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.

TMT held a conference call on Monday, July 31, to discuss current conditions, review COE modeling and discuss Dworshak operations. Per an SOR submitted to the COE on Friday, July 28 from the salmon managers, the COE operated Dworshak over the weekend at 12 kcfs. Mike Schneider, COE, shared operation scenarios at varying flow levels out of Dworshak, projecting temperatures and volumes for the month of August. The COE noted that cooler temperatures were expected in the Lewiston River this week, and that an uncertainty remained about the amount of flow that would be coming out of the Hells Canyon projects.

During an FPAC call earlier on July 31, the salmon managers developed a short-term recommendation to operate Dworshak at full powerhouse as soon as reasonably possible, and target 43 degree water out of the project if possible. The COE responded that the project could go to full powerhouse quickly, and that in all undershot mode, the project would release water of about 45 degrees.

**ACTION:** Per request, Mike Schneider planned to do additional modeling to show what the system would look like for the rest of August if the project reduced to 7.5 kcfs on Tuesday, August, 1, and what it would like with a reduction to 7.5 kcfs on Friday, August 4. TMT members could check the web page and, if the model results prompted the salmon managers to recommend a different operation than full powerhouse, a TMT conference call will be held on Wednesday, August 2 at 9:00am. The COE planned to operate the project at full powerhouse until a different operation was recommended.

# Technical Management Team Meeting Notes

July 31, 2006

## **1. Greetings and Introductions.**

The July 31 Technical Management Team conference call was chaired by Cathy Hlebechuk and facilitated by Robin Harkless. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at this meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Hlebechuk at 503-808-5190.

## **2. Dworshak Operations.**

Harkless noted that there are four items hot-linked to today's agenda on the TMT homepage: the most recent STP volume forecast, SOR 2006-06, submitted last Friday by the salmon managers, and two different charts showing the results of recent modeling work for water temperatures at Lower Granite Dam.

Hlebechuk noted that SOR 2006-6 was submitted on Friday; the request was that Dworshak outflow not be reduced on Friday night as planned. The Corps therefore kept Dworshak outflows at 12 Kcfs through the weekend, she said. If you look at the STP volume forecast, which shows the remaining Dworshak volume available for flow augmentation, if we maintain 10 Kcfs outflow through the end of August, we would have a deficit of 68 kaf below elevation 1535 on August 31, which means we would need to reduce Dworshak outflow to about 7.2 Kcfs about August 17 if we want to hit elevation 1535 on August 31 she said.

Mike Schneider said he had modeled two different flow and temperature conditions this morning; he noted that the cold front that has moved into the Lewiston area had provided significant cooling effects. The first scenario is a baseline operation, showing the effects of the current operation, he explained – what might happen if we continue to release 12 Kcfs from Dworshak through Thursday, followed by a reduction to full powerhouse capacity. We would then back off again later in the month to hit the 1535 target at the end of August, he said. The second scenario shows what might happen if we reduce Dworshak outflow to full powerhouse capacity tomorrow morning, Schneider said.

It takes awhile for the temperature effects to hit Lower Granite once outflow from Dworshak is changed, he continued – about four or five days. Under the latter scenario, we see the largest increase in temperatures at Lower Granite, although they do moderate later in August. The forecast shows that we're going

to warm up a little, then air temperatures are forecast to cool off somewhat, which will help us maintain water temperatures below 68 degrees in the Lower Granite tailrace, he said.

Did you model a scenario under which Dworshak outflow would immediately be reduced to 7.5 Kcfs? Scott Bettin asked. I didn't model that alternative, Schneider replied – that would certainly produce water temperatures that are warmer than what we see in scenario 1, but I'm not sure how much warmer. Given the fact that quite a bit of natural cooling is forecast to occur over the next week, Schneider said, it may be possible to reduce Dworshak outflow to 7.5 Kcfs and still keep temperatures in the Lower Granite tailrace below 68 degrees. The wild card is the operation and outflow temperatures at Hells Canyon, he said.

The group devoted a few minutes of discussion to Schneider's model results, offering a few minor clarifying questions and comments. Russ Kiefer said FPAC discussed the Dworshak operation this morning; FPAC's recommendation is to reduce Dworshak outflow to full powerhouse capacity as soon as reasonably possible, still targeting a 43-degree release temperature. We're recommending that Dworshak go to full powerhouse capacity later today if possible, Kiefer said.

Jim Adams noted that the Dworshak release temperature will likely increase slightly, to about 45-46 degrees, once the flow from the regulating outlets is shut off, and outflow is coming only from the three generating units in undershot mode. We're aware of that, but we think that will still allow us to meet the temperature target at Lower Granite, Kiefer replied. In response to a question from Hlebechuk, Kiefer said ODFW was the only salmon management agency that was not represented during this morning's FPAC discussion. Kiefer also noted that this is a short-term recommendation only, and the salmon managers' expectation is that this operation will be modified further in response to changing weather and water quality conditions. Our hope is that it will be possible to reduce Dworshak outflow even further as soon as possible, Kiefer said. It was agreed that Schneider will model a scenario under which Dworshak outflow would be reduced to 7.5 Kcfs tomorrow.

After a few minutes of further discussion, it was agreed that the Corps will reduce Dworshak outflow to full powerhouse capacity later today, with all three units in undershot mode. It was further agreed that the TMT membership will closely monitor the weather and water quality situation at Lower Granite, with the goal of reducing Dworshak outflow further, to 7.5 Kcfs, as soon as possible. Schneider said he will model the effects of a 7.5 Kcfs operation at Dworshak; the results will be posted to the TMT homepage within 24 hours. A check-in TMT conference call was tentatively scheduled for 9 am Wednesday, August 2.

Is there an updated water temperature profile for Dworshak reservoir? David Wills asked. It's on the TMT website, under "Documents" and "Operations,"

Laura Hamilton replied. The temperature around the turbine intakes, 35 feet down, is about 41 degrees, while the temperature closer to the surface is about 47 degrees, Adams added. I'm expecting the Dworshak temperature to start going up pretty rapidly, and fairly soon, he said.

### **3. Question for IT Resolution.**

Greg Haller said the questions the Nez Perce would like the Implementation Team to resolve are, first, whether the IT supports the general framework of the Nez Perce SOR, and second, does the IT support the concept of revenue-sharing to support the Tribal Enforcement Program.

The next face-to-face meeting of the Technical Management Team was set for Wednesday, August 9. With that, today's conference call was adjourned. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

### **Technical Management Team Meeting Participants July 31, 2006**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Russ Kiefer	IDFG
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Greg Haller	NPT
Scott Bettin	BPA
Dan Spear	BPA
Paul Wagner	NOAAF
David Wills	USFWS
Jim Adams	COE
Howard Burge	USFWS
John Roche	USBR
David Benner	FPC
Barry Espensen	CBB
Mike Schneider	COE
Bern Klatte	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE

