

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
May 14, 2007 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.

SOR 2007-FWS1

Jason Flory, USFWS, reported that the SOR submitted to TMT on 5/11 included what was shared and discussed during the 5/9 TMT meeting. He clarified that start times for the operations within the SOR were “to the extent possible.” He also said the operation would likely be requested to begin either late this week or early the week of 5/21, and that he would continue to be in close coordination with the Sturgeon Recovery Team and COE Reservoir Control Center. BPA requested 2 days lead time to implement the operation. Those present on the call: OR, ID, MT, BOR, BPA, USFWS, NOAA, and CRITFC, supported the proposed process for moving forward: USFWS coordinate the operation with the Sturgeon Recovery Team and the COE, with notification coming to TMT via email.

Action/Next Steps: Coordination on this SOR will be between Jason Flory, the Sturgeon Recovery Team, Libby Dam Operators, BPA, and the COE Reservoir Control Center. TMT will be notified via email when the decision is made to implement the operation.

Operations Update

Jim Adams, COE, said that the COE had raised the spill caps at Bonneville to 100 kcfs and that the spill caps at Little Goose and Lower Granite had been lowered over the weekend, due to TDG exceedances. Paul Wagner, NOAA, and Russ Kiefer, ID, commented that the fluctuation in spill cap levels was not good fish protection and that the restricted spill had potentially impacted listed fish. The COE responded that they are doing their best to operate as close to the caps as possible. All will need to continue closely monitoring and communicating about river conditions and fish passage to assure best possible operations throughout the migrating season.

McNary June Spill Shift

Bernard Klatter, COE, followed up with TMT members on the Walla Walla District recommendation for transducers installment at McNary spillbay 22. The original recommendation for timing of this work was for June 19-21; Klatter reported that members of FPOM shared the desire to minimize effects on fish and that the work could be scheduled earlier, for June 12th, following the last group of acoustic tagged fish passage at McNary on the 11th. Those present on the call: OR, ID, MT, BOR, BPA, USFWS, NOAA, and CRITFC, did not object to the June 12 date.

Action/Next Steps: Bernard will coordinate with the Walla Walla district and FPOM.

Next face-to-face TMT meeting: Wednesday, May 16th

Agenda items will include:

- Dworshak Operations
- Sturgeon Pulse / Libby Operations
- Grand Coulee Flood Control Operations
- Operations Review

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team Conference Call
May 14, 2007**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Cindy Henriksen and facilitated by Robin Harkless, with representatives from CRITFC, BOR, FPC, USFWS, COE, BPA, NOAA, Idaho, Montana and Oregon participating. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made on the call. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should provide them to the TMT chair or bring them to the next meeting.

2. Review Meeting Minutes

The official minutes for May 2 have not yet been posted, Cindy Henriksen (COE) said. TMT will check in on this at the next meeting.

3. Sturgeon Pulse/Libby Operations (SOR #2007-FWS1)

Jason Flory (USFWS) introduced this SOR, which has not changed substantially since last week's discussion. Once the reservoir is ready to release 20-25 kcfs from Libby Dam without dropping temperatures in the Kootenai River more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (and preferably no more than 0.8 C), the sturgeon operation can begin. The operation calls for 4 days of 20 kcfs flows, 14 days of full powerhouse, 3 days of 20 kcfs, then 15 kcfs until the sturgeon volume is exhausted.

The current temperature at Bonner's Ferry is approximately 45 degrees Fahrenheit, or 7.5 degrees Centigrade. Henriksen asked Flory when the sturgeon pulse might begin; Flory said late this week or early next week, possibly this Friday, May 18. He will be in touch with COE staff at Libby Dam, who will keep him informed when the reservoir conditions have been reached. At that point, Flory will confer with the sturgeon recovery team and, if they approve, contact COE staff at the Reservoir Control Center to request commencement of the sturgeon operation. Henriksen asked how much lead time BPA would need to manage the approximately 100 extra megawatts the increased flows would produce. BPA prefers 2 days' notice before commencement of the sturgeon operation, Dan Spear (BPA) said.

The COE will email TMT when the sturgeon operation begins. Representatives from NOAA, BPA, BOR, CRITFC, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana agreed to this process. Henriksen asked whether it's imperative to begin releasing sturgeon flows at 6 am on the first day of the operation. There could be a public safety issue if higher flows begin on the weekend, given that large numbers of people could be boating on the river. Starting at 6 am is not

necessary, Flory said. TMT will check in on this operation at upcoming meetings on May 16 and 23 as needed.

4. Operations Review - Spill Caps

The spill cap at Bonneville is up to 100 kcfs, Jim Adams (COE) said. The COE lowered the spill cap at Little Goose and Lower Monumental to 15.3 kcfs (today it's 21.5 kcfs) and saw TDG levels rise as high as 117% at Ice Harbor. Yesterday, TDG was 114.4% at Ice Harbor, so COE intends to increase the spill caps soon.

Paul Wagner (NOAA) commented that flows were expected to rise over the weekend, which would help clear the gas from the river. The opportunity to increase spill without violating water quality standards was early in the week; increasing the spill caps now that flows are decreasing could result in exceedances. Wagner and Russ Kiefer (Idaho) expressed regret at the lost opportunity to help listed fish pass through the Lower Monumental powerhouse this past weekend. Margaret Filardo (FPC) questioned whether the gages in the Lower Monumental forebay are wholly representative of upstream tailraces.

When Little Goose is spilling and generating tailwaters TDG of 116-118%, there are often exceedances at Lower Monumental forebay, Adams said. There isn't a perfect correlation between TDG levels in the spillway and downstream water quality. Levels of gas coming through the powerhouse are an important factor in water quality issues. The COE is trying to keep spill caps as high as possible, Henriksen said, but there have been exceedances at downstream forebays which take a few days to show up after the spill cap has been raised. Part of the problem might be the spill pattern being used at Little Goose this year, Adams said. Because of that, the tailrace monitor might be underreporting net TDG production due to spill patterns at the project.

Robin Harkless advised TMT members to monitor the spill situation closely and stay in communication with each other.

5. McNary Spill Shift

In response to TMT's request, Bern Klatter (COE) presented to FPOM the Walla Walla District's request to shift 40% of spill for 6-8 hours at McNary to replace two dead transducers in spill bay 22, where TSW #1 is located. Initially, the Walla Walla COE office requested the shift take place from 19-21 June, but recently said the work could be done on June 12. FPOM has agreed to the shift and advocated getting the work done as soon as possible. Klatter asked TMT members to weigh in on it. Representatives of NOAA and Oregon agreed to the operation with no more discussion needed; USFWS also agreed and request that the operation take place on a low flow day if possible. Klatter said that spill for that day will be at the 30% spill, the lower of the two volumes currently being tested.

USFWS said that was good and go ahead and schedule the operation for June12.

6. Next TMT Meeting

The next meeting will be on May 16, 2007. Agenda items will include the sturgeon pulse, Libby operations, Dworshak operations, Grand Coulee flood control, and the usual operations review. This meeting summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

Name	Affiliation
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
John Roache	BOR
Margaret Filardo	FPC
David Wills	USFWS
Shane Scott	NWRP
Jim Adams	COE
Bernard Klatte	COE
Paul Koski	COE
Cindy Henriksen	COE
Dan Spear	BPA
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Jason Flory	USFWS-Spokane
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Brian Marotz	Montana
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Barry Espensen	CBB
Tom Le	Puget