

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 30, 2007 Emergency TMT Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Robin Gumpert

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.

Potential Power Emergency

BPA convened an emergency TMT call to inform the TMT that Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) may need to declare a stage 2 emergency this afternoon if they cannot meet load. Robyn Mackay, BPA, reported that if a NERC stage 2 alert were to be declared, BPA Administrator Steve Wright would be notified and would discuss the situation with the LADWP General Manager, before taking action. The expectation was that the risks to an emergency would diminish after 6:00 pm today, August 30, but that the situation would need to be closely monitored through tomorrow. The Action Agencies had been discussing options for providing relief. Grand Coulee was running at full capacity. Questions were raised about what steps the action agencies would take if an emergency were to be declared. It was clarified that the Action Agencies would utilize available flexibility as a next step prior to reducing spill. If spill reductions are needed, they would begin at Ice Harbor. BPA added that they would do their best to follow the emergency actions list as needed and feasible, and would report back to TMT the results of the situation, whether or not action was taken.

ACTION: BPA will send an email to the COE on Friday, August 31, for posting to the TMT web that outlines the results of the situation and any action that was taken to address this issue.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team Unscheduled Conference Call**

BPA requested an Unscheduled TMT call at 3:00 p.m. Aug 30 to alert the region of a potential power emergency developing in California, per the TMT Emergency Protocols.

1. Introduction

Following its procedures for notification of public power emergencies, BPA convened today's conference call to inform federal agency, state and tribal representatives that a power emergency could possibly necessitate an interruption of fish protection measures. The call was chaired by Jim Adams (COE) and facilitated by Robin Gumpert (D.S. Consulting), with representation from BPA, COE, NOAA, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at the meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should provide them to the TMT chair or bring them to the next meeting.

2. Discussion

BPA informed the TMT that today at 1:00 pm PDT, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power ("Department"), declared a "Merchant Alert" through the WECCNET stating that they "may be short on energy and capacity" over the peak due to higher than expected load. BPA confirmed that LA has scoured the region of power and have asked for conservation.

BPA said that it doesn't know whether or not the LADWP will call for a Stage II alert. If a Stage II is declared, the BPA Administrator will speak directly with the LADWP General Manager before deciding whether or not to declare an official power emergency. If declared, the Action Agencies would then implement the TMT's new Generation Action Plan

BPA is not currently declaring any sort of emergency, MacKay assured TMT. The purpose of today's call is to inform the region of a potential situation and to review action list.

The first actions on the list would have BPA operate the turbines at John Day and The Dalles dams outside of their 1% peak efficiency range. However, under the present circumstances, that would be ineffective because there is not enough water coming into those projects to sustain that operation.. GCL is currently operating at full capacity. Spilling water at Chief Joseph Dam to move more water downstream is not an option, due to ongoing work in the tailrace at Chief Joseph Dam.

Rick Kruger (Oregon) raised the possibility of creating more energy by drafting additional water at the headwater projects – Hungry Horse, Libby and Dworshak dams. Jim Litchfield (Montana) objected stating that it would be disruptive to the reservoir and river around Libby Dam. He questioned the number of fish left migrating in the Snake River and pointed out that the proposed PA for the new Bi-Op says that when daily average index counts have been less than 1,000 fish for three days, spill will be shut off. Many Snake River fall Chinook are overwintering anyway, so there should be little or no effect on them if the Action Agencies were to reduce spill at Snake River projects to generate more energy, Litchfield said. The migration season is nearly over, and many of the fish passing Snake River projects now are probably of the type that overwinters in the reservoirs rather than migrating. That PA has not yet been adopted, and Oregon disagrees with it, Rick Kruger replied. He continued by stating that Oregon places a high priority on maintaining spill. Oregon suggested drafting water from the headwater projects if necessary, instead of altering Snake River spill. If Libby outflow is reduced, it would take awhile to get back to the 9 kcfs outflow we've been trying to maintain, Henriksen advised. MacKay explained that generation from headwater projects are more appropriate for an extended energy emergency when sustained generation is needed as in a cold snap or prolonged heat event. This is expected to be a short term capacity event where power is only needed for a few hours. The COE agreed with this assessment.

Kruger asked whether BPA would follow the list as stated; MacKay emphasized that only effective actions would be taken. Unless transmission issues arise, the expectation is that BPA would start an emergency response by reducing spill on the Snake River projects.

In closing, Idaho and Montana representatives asked for clarification on the actions BPA would take if called upon to produce more energy. BPA would first reduce spill at Ice Harbor Dam to the RSW, MacKay said.

3. Next Steps

MacKay stressed again that this is just a heads up to notify TMT members of a potential situation and thanked participants for joining the call; and NOAA thanked BPA for initiating it and appreciated them being forthright about the situation. BPA will let TMT know what actions were taken if LADWP does declare a Stage II alert. BPA will also let TMT know if a follow-up call is needed.

{Editors Note: On the morning of August 31, Scott Bettin (BPA) sent the following E-mail to TMT, “To follow up with the Emergency TMT call yesterday afternoon, there were no actions taken on the FCRPS that impacted BiOp fish measures. All BiOp fish measures were implemented as planned last night. LADWP (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) and other California utilities did not declare a stage II alert. There continues to be a tight energy market today, but temperatures are slightly lower in the

west and the market appears to have sufficient energy available to meet the load without impacting BiOp fish measures.

The LADWP situation arose fairly quickly yesterday, necessitating the need to convene the TMT meeting to review potential actions in light of the developing issues at the time. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for getting together quickly and with such short notice. With fish passage measures wrapping up at midnight tonight, we hope you can all enjoy the long holiday weekend as we await the arrival of the fall Chinook and chum.”}

7. Next Meetings

The next scheduled TMT conference call is on Sept. 5, with Dworshak operations, Little Goose double testing, the 2008 WMP, and the usual operations review on the agenda. Following the Sept. 5 meeting, TMT won't meet again, absent another emergency, until the face-to-face meeting on Sept. 26. This summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

Name	Affiliation
Robyn MacKay	BPA
Jim Adams	COE
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Cindy Henriksen	COE
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Brian Marotz	Montana
Dan Spear	BPA
Scott Bettin	BPA
Greg Haller	Nez Perce
John Roache	BOR