

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

January 18, 2008 Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

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.

Emergency Protocols

Tony Norris, BPA, said that there was a chance of a power emergency for the 21st and 22nd of January, due to region wide cold weather, available generation and potential unit outages. He clarified that BPA has planned well for contingencies in our control area but possibility of a connecting control area declaring an emergency is more likely. Norris reiterated that it was not yet a certainty, but that BPA wanted to let its TMT partners know of the possibility. If a power emergency does occur, projects could be impacted for anywhere from 2 hours to 2 days. Norris clarified that all preemptive actions would need to have taken place before another control area could declare a NERC Alert 2 (e.g. all other available energy would need to be purchased before turning to BPA via the merchant alert.) If a NERC Alert 2 is declared, Norris said that Dworshak would be the first project to ramp up; Libby/Hungry Horse would be the last. All TMT members will be contacted by Cathy Hlebechuk, COE, or Jim Adams, COE, in the event of an Alert 2 declaration.

Russ Kiefer, ID, noted his concern regarding fall flood control levels. This will be an agenda item at a future TMT meeting.

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1. Introduction

Today's TMT call was chaired by Jim Adams (COE) and facilitated by Donna Silverberg (D.S. Consulting). Representatives from BPA, COE, BOR, USFWS, NOAA, Montana, Washington, Idaho and others were on the line. 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. Emergency Protocols

This ad hoc meeting was called in response to the possibility of a NERC 2 power emergency originating from California, where a cold snap is expected next Monday and Tuesday, January 21-22. BPA has planned contingencies to meet its load in its control area, but is worried now about other control areas, Tony Norris (BPA) reported. He assured TMT that BPA would not support a second control area without a NERC alert. That means California utilities must first curtail any sales they can and purchase all the energy available to them, before they can declare an emergency and place a load on BPA.

Drafting Dworshak would be BPA's first response at this time of year; drafting Libby or Hungry Horse would come last. Don Faulkner (COE) asked how much warning the region would get. It could be a few hours' warning, but BPA might have to move some water in advance of that, Norris replied. It's likely that Dworshak reservoir will need to be drafted anyway to reach later flood control targets, whereas Hungry Horse reservoir is already 20 feet below its January flood control target. By the time the declaration of a power emergency reaches BPA, the only energy available will be hydro to respond.

Paul Wagner (NOAA) asked whether the benefit of drafting Dworshak would be the short time frame between drafting the reservoir and subsequent generation downstream. Yes, but Dworshak releases would gain energy as the flows move downstream, whereas Libby and Hungry Horse drafts would provide no such downstream benefit. Hydrologically, the three projects seem very similar, Wagner noted. Even with a 100% of normal inflow forecast, Hungry Horse has only a 10-15% chance of meeting its April 10 target elevation, John Roache (BOR) said. The COE's ESP analysis indicates that Dworshak has a 35% chance of not meeting its April 10 target if any flexibility is used, Cathy Hlebechuk (COE) said. Wagner asked whether the COE has done similar calculations for other projects; the answer was no.

Russ Kiefer (Idaho) expressed frustration with the practice of meeting conservative flood control elevations in fall and drafting too much water for chum, then running short of water needed for winter generation without putting streamflows at risk. BPA has already made arrangements at Grand Coulee to use higher draft rates as needed, and would do that first before drafting Dworshak, Norris said. There was agreement that flood control concerns wouldn't be resolved today, but could be addressed at a later time.

In terms of preemptive actions, Norris referred TMT to the list of emergency protocols available in Appendix 1 of the Water Management Plan, which is posted on the TMT website. All the things on the list will occur prior to a power system emergency declaration. According to the list of emergency actions, the only sources of power available this year are headwater project increases. Dave Wills (USFWS) asked whether the preemptive actions on the September-March emergency list would be taken. We can operate units at 2% if needed because there's no fish attraction at Bonneville Dam now, Norris said. The emergency operation would not violate any fish protection measures.

Wagner asked, is there any guarantee the California utilities would follow the NERC rules? Norris said he believed there are after-the-fact reporting requirements and consequences if utilities don't follow the rules.

If a NERC alert is declared over the weekend, Hlebechuk will send out a new schedule for the projects to follow, then notify TMT members via the emergency contact phone list. Ramping a headwater project up and down has impacts lasting longer than a few hours, Norris said. Problems would probably persist for a day or two early next week.

3. Next Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call on January 23 to discuss the Fish Operations Plan. This summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

Name	Affiliation
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Tony Norris	BPA
Paul Wagner	NOAA
John Roache	BOR
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Dave Wills	USFWS
Cindy LeFleur	Washington
Dave Benner	FPC
Russ Kiefer	Idaho

Jim Adams	COE
Bob Buchholz	COE
Scott Boyd	COE
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Don Faulkner	COE