

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

April 25, 2008 Conference 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.

Little Goose Operations

Paul Wagner, NOAA, shared a concern on behalf of the salmon managers that juvenile injury rates had appeared to have increased at Little Goose, based on a requested report from the Fish Passage Center. Samples taken on 4/8, 4/10, 4/15, 4/22 and 4/24 showed injury rates on yearling chinook and steelhead ranged from 13%-35%. Dave Hurson of Walla Walla District shared that ODFW's process for calculating and reporting injuries and de-scaling at Little Goose Dam was different than what is done at other projects, so a comparison could not be made across the projects. He and sampling staff from Oregon confirmed that the injury rates at Little Goose were normal compared to other years, and as such, the salmon managers did not recommend any change to current operations.

Action: Dave Hurson will coordinate with the state biologists at the Walla Walla District projects to standardize the process for data collection and reporting on fish conditions and disease, and to work toward consistency with the rest of the region. He will share information with the Fish Passage Center who will in turn coordinate with FPAC. The salmon managers thanked the COE for the information and clarification.

Chief Joseph Spill Patterns

Carolyn Fitzgerald, Seattle District COE, described the dam safety spill test at Chief Joseph that is scheduled to begin at 0000 hrs on 4/27. As the spill test was not included in the Fish Operations Plan, the COE's desire was to inform the region and allow an opportunity for any concerns to be raised. The test would involve use of two spill bays and a total of 20 hours of spill in two increments (16 kcfs and 32 kcfs) to measure uplift pressure response beneath the spillway monoliths. This test is related to the construction of the spillway deflectors that are currently under construction. Carolyn and Jeff Laufle noted that the test was similar to what was conducted last year, but this year the test would require a longer duration to ensure stabilization. TDG was projected to stay below 125% but could exceed 120% when spilling at the 32 kcfs level. Carolyn noted that the test may not need to conduct the 32 kcfs spill level for the entire 10 hours that are being planned. This portion of the test could be shortened if the uplift pressure data collection was completed prior to the full 10 hours of spill at this level.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, shared that NOAA Fisheries reviewed this proposal and considered its potential risk to listed fish in the area; Upper Columbia River spring

chinook and Upper Columbia River steelhead. NOAA fully supports the planned test and believes this operation poses minimal risk to these fish. The agency anticipates these fish will be exposed to gas levels at least as high as the levels the COE believes will occur from the test and for a much longer duration during their downstream passage past the lower Columbia River Dams.

All TMT representatives present: Idaho, USFWS, BPA, BOR and Nez Perce, supported the operation. The COE noted that they had coordinated individually with Washington DOE, The Colville Tribe and Montana and that no concerns had been raised. {Update: Jim Adams made multiple attempts to contact TMT representatives from the state of Oregon to solicit input regarding this operation, but was unsuccessful. Jim Adams was able to speak with Cindy LeFleur from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on Monday morning April 28th and she indicated that she had no concerns regarding with performance of the spill test}.

Action: Jim Adams will send the Official Meeting Minutes from today's conference call to Jeff Laufle at Seattle District COE as soon as they are available.

Gas Spill at Bonneville

Dan Feil, COE, reported that a research boat that had gone out to evaluate the BGS at Bonneville met with a high current, ran up against the BGS and capsized. While the two researchers and boat were safely removed, about 20 gallons of gasoline had likely spilled. An incident report was submitted to the Corps by Batelle and shared through all the appropriate channels, indicating that no visible impacts to the environment had occurred. The Fish Passage Center had not at this time been notified of any resulting impacts to fish based on data collected at the Bonneville smolt monitoring facility.

Action: Per suggestion from TMT, this issue will be shared with FPOM and a request was made to clarify protocols, aside from reporting, that are taken for an event like this. (It was thought that the statement of work might include specific language on spill response protocols.)

Next TMT Conference Call: April 30th

Agenda Items include:

- Dworshak Operations
- Spring Creek Hatchery Release

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team Conference Call
April 25, 2008**

1. Introduction

Today's unscheduled TMT call was chaired by Jim Adams (COE) and facilitated by Robin Gumpert (D.S. Consulting), with representatives of COE, ODFW, USFWS, NOAA, BPA, BOR, CRITFC, Idaho, the Nez Perce Tribe and others 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. Little Goose Operations

Today's meeting was called at the request of FPAC in response to reports of injury rates running 20-25% for each of several samples taken at Little Goose Dam so far in April, Paul Wagner (NOAA) said. Jerry McCann (FPC) gave recent injury rates.

April 8:

of 14 yearling Chinook, 35% were injured
of 76 steelhead, 25% were injured

April 10:

of 43 yearling Chinook, 30% were injured
of 111 steelhead, 22% were injured

April 15:

of 125 yearling Chinook, 33% were injured
of 382 steelhead, 29% were injured

April 22:

of 93 yearling Chinook, 19% were injured
of 373 steelhead, 13% were injured

April 24:

of 104 yearling Chinook, 21% were injured
of 119 steelhead, 20% were injured

The apparently high rate of injuries at Goose is due to discrepancies among the projects in the way fish sampling results are reported, Dave Hurson (COE Walla Walla) explained. The majority of injuries being reported at Little Goose consist of de-scaling in the 5-20% range, which other projects, such as Lower Granite, don't report as injuries. Annie Dowdie (ODFW), who has been involved in the sampling effort, agreed that most of the reported injuries are minor de-scaling. Hurson suggested adding a category for de-scaling of less than 20% of the body to allow for valid data comparisons among projects. Hurson and John Bailey (COE Walla Walla) offered to work on parallel reporting procedures

and present their recommendations to Fish Passage Center staff, who will share the information with the Salmon Managers.

3. Chief Joseph Spill Test

Because this test is not called for in the Fish Operations Plan, it needs full consensus of TMT; Adams solicited comments today. Carolyn Fitzgerald and Jeff Laufle (COE Seattle) explained the operation. A spill test of the deflectors at Chief Joseph Dam will be conducted for dam safety purposes on Sunday, April 28, using only 2 of the 19 spill bays at Chief Joseph. The test, similar to one conducted last year, will measure uplift pressure on the spillway and is required for a spillway monolith sealing project.

The test involves spilling for a total of 20 hours in two increments, 6 kcfs per bay and 16 kcfs per bay, the same amounts used in last year's test. What's different about this year, Fitzgerald said, is that the specified levels will need to spill for longer, 10 hours per bay this year as compared to 4 hours per bay last year. To minimize the impact on fish migration, the COE will increase powerhouse flows to at least 50 kcfs during the first spill increment and at least 100 kcfs for the second. If uplift pressures stabilize while the test is in progress, the testing will stop. Last year's TDG levels ranged from 117% to just over 120% during the test. This year's test could increase TDG levels up to 120% but not higher than 125%.

The Salmon Managers don't have a problem with this, Paul Wagner said. The duration of the test is acceptable. Species of significant concern to be affected are upper Columbia steelhead and spring Chinook. Nevertheless, the test should proceed because getting deflectors safely installed and operating at Chief Joseph is a high priority. The COE has been coordinating this work for some time with NOAA, USFWS, the Colville Tribe and the Washington Department of Ecology, Laufle noted.

All TMT members present on today's call accepted the Chief Joseph operation. Representatives of BPA, BOR, NOAA, USFWS, Idaho and the Nez Perce Tribe voiced no objections. In addition, Laufle has discussed the project with representatives of the Colville Tribe and they did not object. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife was contacted regarding this operation but hasn't yet given a response. Adams will send the official minutes of this meeting to Laughley as documentation of concurrence among TMT members present.

4. Gasoline Spill at Bonneville

In the process of installing hydrophones to monitor fish passage in the Bonneville 2nd powerhouse forebay with the Behavioral Guidance Structure in place, a boat capsized and spilled approximately 20 gallons of gasoline into the water. No one was hurt, and the boat was retrieved from the river, Dan Feil said.

The COE reported the incident to the National Response Center, the Oregon Emergency Response System, and Washington Emergency Management as a follow-up protocol for spills at the project. In addition, Columbia River Keepers and CRITFC have been contacted, Rudd Turner (COE) said. The spill was small, but Paul Wagner wondered whether a larger spill would call for emergency procedures beyond simple notification. This topic would be a good addition to the FPOM agenda, he and Turner agreed. The Fish Passage Center has not received any reports of fish injuries as a result of the gasoline spill, Margaret Filardo reported.

5. Next Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be an April 30 conference call. The next regular TMT meeting is on May 7. This summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

Name	Affiliation
Jim Adams	COE
Annie Dowdie	ODFW
Dave Wills	USFWS
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Greg Haller	Nez Perce
John Roache	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Scott Bettin	BPA
Dan Spear	BPA
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Brandon Schafley	FPC
Jerry McCann`	FPC
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Bob Buchholz	COE
Rudd Turner	COE
Scott Boyd	COE
Dan Feil	COE
Don Faulkner	COE
Greg Bauer	COE
Richelle Beck	DRA
Tim Dykstra	COE Walla Walla
Dave Hurson	COE Walla Walla
John Bailey	COE Walla Walla
Carolyn Fitzgerald	COE Seattle
Jeff Laufle	COE Seattle