

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

June 6, 2008 Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Robin Gumpert

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.

Libby Sturgeon Flows/USFWS SOR #2008-2

Amy Reese, COE, reported that the Libby elevation was 2429.3', and was operating with inflows of 41.3 kcfs and outflows of 21.3 kcfs. Jason Flory, USFWS, referred TMT to an SOR posted as a link to the meeting agenda. Flory recalled USFWS' SOR 2008-1 and the subsequent operations up through this week. The recommendation in the new SOR is to ramp the project up to full powerhouse the morning of 6/7 and hold for 14 days, followed by gradual ramp down of remaining sturgeon flows as the transition is made to summer operations. The COE and BPA said that pre-coordination efforts were underway at the project, in anticipation of approval of the SOR. Cathy Hlebechuk, COE, said that depending on reservoir/river and weather conditions during the weeks ahead, the COE might have to increase outflows at some point rather than gradually ramp down flows to reach the end of August elevation of 2439 feet. Greg Hoffman, COE, clarified that selective withdrawal gates would be structurally capable to meet the requested operation.

The following parties weighed in on the proposed SOR:

- NOAA: no objection
- BOR: no objection
- ID: no objection
- CRITFC: no objection

Action/ Next Steps: The COE will shift Libby operations to full power house the morning of 6/7. TMT will discuss the operation at the scheduled 6/18 face-to-face meeting.

Other

Dan Feil, COE, reported on a request for a one-week outage for installation of gate hoist in the two TSW bays at McNary, in anticipation of transport operations later this summer. Spill during the outage would be shifted to non-TSW bays. He added that a contractor is in place and could begin the work on 6/10, if the request is approved. Feil said the request is being vetted through FPOM and FFDRWG; he asked TMT members to weigh in on the request. Russ Kiefer, ID, suggested perhaps delaying installation and Paul Wagner, NOAA, requested time to discuss the request with Gary Fredericks, project biologist for NOAA.

Action/Next Steps: Dan Feil will contact TMT members via email (and/or phone, if necessary) on 6/9, to follow up on this item. TMT will revisit this item as necessary.

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Technical Management Team Conference Call
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1. Introduction

Today's TMT call was chaired by Cathy Hlebechuk (COE) and facilitated by Robin Gumpert (DS Consulting) with representatives of BPA, USFWS, CRITFC, COE, NOAA, Idaho, BOR and others participating. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should provide them to the TMT chair or bring them to the next meeting.

2. Libby Operations – SOR 2008-FWS-2

Amy Reese (COE Seattle) gave an update on Libby operations. The current reservoir elevation is 2,429.3 feet, with average inflows of 41.3 kcfs. Outflows are 21.3 kcfs, running 4 units.

Discussion moved to the SOR submitted by USFWS May 28. At that time, USFWS realized that a failure incident on Libby Dam involving the crane that allows temperature control could affect sturgeon releases. Earlier this week, the damaged boom was replaced, making temperature control of Libby releases possible again. For a sturgeon managers' conference call yesterday, Amy Reese put together a series of scenarios. The sturgeon managers discussed the options and reached unanimous agreement on a recommendation to return to full powerhouse as soon as possible and maintain at that outflow for the next 14 days. That is the essence of today's SOR. At the end of the 14 days, the remainder of the sturgeon volume should be used to taper flows down gradually to summer levels. This SOR ties up the previously open-ended nature of the requested sturgeon operation.

Slot 10 at Libby Dam still can't hold selective withdrawal gates because of damage from the crane collapse, Greg Hoffman (COE Libby) reported. Fourteen days of full powerhouse would pass approximately 852 kaf, leaving 187 kaf of the sturgeon volume remaining, Cathy Hlebechuk (COE) estimated. She cautioned TMT that, while the COE will try to decrease flows effectively, flows may remain at powerhouse capacity to manage the rate of refill. Nothing mechanically would prohibit implementation of today's SOR. BPA and the COE were prepared to implement the SOR beginning tomorrow morning, unless TMT objected. NOAA, Idaho, BOR and CRITFC did not object.

3. McNary Dam Gate Hoist

A new operational issue has come up, Dan Feil (COE) reported. Next week, the COE is planning to begin work to install a gate hoist on the second

TSW at McNary Dam. Installing gate hoists on the TSW bays will allow the bays to be opened and closed for the transport operations scheduled to begin later this summer as part of the Fish Operations Plan. While the TSWs will be shut off during the outage, spill levels won't be reduced, Feil emphasized. The contractor plans to begin the gate hoist installation on Tuesday, June 10. Work will continue for about a week, which will require an outage of the two TSW bays. However, instead of shutting spill off, the volume will be shifted to other bays across the spillway. The current spill proportion at McNary is 40%, excluding involuntary spill and that proportion will continue through this outage.

Plans for the outage had already been vetted by FPOM and FFDRWG prior to today's call. Feil polled TMT members on the line. NOAA preferred to wait until Monday, June 9, before deciding whether to object. Idaho questioned the benefits and timing of doing the installation next week, but didn't raise a formal objection. No other TMT members weighed in on this issue today. Feil will contact them on Monday to discuss the issue further.

4. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled TMT meeting will be June 18, with a possible conference call before then. This summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

Name	Affiliation
Greg Hoffman	COE Libby Dam
Jason Flory	USFWS
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Robyn MacKay	BPA
Jim Adams	COE
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
John Roache	BOR
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Amy Reese	COE Seattle
Dan Feil	COE