

## COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

### TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

December 15, 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.

#### Chum Operations

An unscheduled TMT conference call was convened to discuss chum operations as follow up to an email sent out on 12/12. Tony Norris, BPA, reported that as weather conditions will likely stay very cold through 12/21, BPA will need to move a lot of water in order to meet power demands. As such, BPA was seeking regional input on adjustments to operations as described in the current chum operations teletype. Norris added that in order to maintain the daytime tailwater target elevation, Bonneville may need to go to full powerhouse plus spill at night. Norris offered the following three options for regional consideration: start nighttime elevation earlier (suggest 1500 hours), set a higher daytime tailwater elevation range, or operate to maximum tailwater elevation at night.

Paul Wagner, speaking on behalf of the Salmon Managers, said that the preference would be to start the nighttime elevation range at 1500 hours and make as little increase to the target daytime elevation range as possible. Norris suggested the following revisions to the current chum operations teletype's paragraph 6: “if actions in paragraphs 2-5 are not sufficient, move daytime elevation target up to 12.3” and in paragraph 7, change the language for daytime hours to “0600-1500”.

TMT members that participated on the call had no objections to the short term contingency plan as discussed. BPA added that a survey would be conducted on 12/16 (either by foot or boat, depending on weather conditions) and that updated data would be available for the scheduled 12/17 TMT meeting.

**Action:** Dan Feil, COE, was tasked to revise the teletype with language discussed today for short term contingency operations. He emailed it to TMT members following today's conference call, and comments were to be shared through Paul Wagner and back to Dan for finalizing as soon as possible. TMT will revisit chum operations during their meeting on 12/17 and will review the most recent data available and discuss future survey needs.

#### **Next Meeting: 12/17**

Agenda items will include:

- Chum Operations
- Albeni Falls Update/Post-spawning Operations
- Snake River Zero Nighttime Generation
- WMP/Fall-Winter Update – Edits Review
- Operations Review

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Technical Management Team Conference Call  
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**1. Introduction**

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Jim Adams (COE) and facilitated by Robin Gumpert (DS Consulting) with representatives of BPA, USFWS, NOAA, COE, BOR, Oregon, and CRITFC 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. Chum Flow Management**

Tony Norris (BPA) gave an update on the chum operation at Bonneville Dam. Last Friday, Dec. 12, BPA sent TMT an e-mail explaining that cold weather was coming and the chum operation would follow specifications of the latest chum operation teletype that had been sent out. Today's meeting was called to reevaluate the chum operation in response to a cold snap that is turning out to be worse than expected. Low temperatures are predicted now through Sunday, Dec. 21, so BPA will probably need to move a lot of water through the system to meet load, Tony Norris said. BPA has been doing maximum reverse load factoring until now, but that probably won't be enough to meet the coming demand for electricity. In order to continue maximum load factoring – which would allow BPA to maintain the current tailwater operation – extreme measures might be needed at night, such as going to full powerhouse plus spill which could produce a 7-foot tailwater change if nighttime tailwater levels reach 18 feet or higher. Large tailwater changes at night are generally not productive for chum, Paul Wagner (NOAA) confirmed.

BPA asked TMT for feedback on 3 basic options: maximizing the tailwater elevation at night beginning at 1500 hours, as described in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the existing teletype; providing a higher daytime tailwater elevation; or a combination of these two, targeting an elevation less 13 feet during the day. NOAA preferred raising the tailwater elevation in the afternoon, followed by raising the overall daytime tailwater elevation. There was discussion of the full powerhouse operation at night (from 1500 hours to 0600 hours). Item 5 of the existing teletype deals with higher tailwater elevations from 1500-1800 hours. USFWS preferred raising the tailwater to a slightly higher elevation in the afternoon beginning at 1500 hours, then adding water to daytime flows if further generation is needed. This operation would start at 1500 hours (3 pm) and ramp up, increasing the tailwater elevation from 11.5 feet. The next step would be adding flows to the daytime tailwater elevation, rather than increasing the elevation during the afternoon, if more water is needed to be passed. NOAA

agreed to this operation and suggested up to a foot of tailwater elevation increase during the day if needed, to which USFWS agreed.

To summarize the chum operation that came out of today's call: BPA will maintain an 11.5-foot tailwater operation for the rest of today, then (as a worst case scenario) begin raising the tailwater elevation at 1500 hours toward full powerhouse capacity sometime tomorrow evening as needed to pass the additional water. BPA will minimize effects of this operation on chum tailwater elevations to the extent possible, at least until the end of chum spawning. If the above operational changes don't pass enough water, the next step will be to increase the daytime tailwater elevation by up to 1 foot, which probably wouldn't happen until Wednesday morning, Dec. 17.

Dan Feil (COE) will draft a teletype for the revised chum operation and circulate it for review; TMT members will provide any comments to Paul Wagner. There was general agreement that paragraphs 5 and 6 of the existing teletype deal with the operational changes discussed today, with the addition to paragraph 6 of a step up from the 12.3-foot tailwater elevation to 12.5 feet. The current tailwater range of 11.3-11.7 feet elevation will increase to 12.3-12.7 feet, targeting 12.5 feet. USFWS and NOAA agreed to this operation; CRITFC and Oregon had no objections.

TMT will check in on chum spawning survey information at its next regularly scheduled meeting Dec. 17. BPA's most recent survey of chum spawning on Dec. 12 found 35 chum actively spawning below Bonneville Dam.

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Affiliation</i></b>
Tony Norris	BPA
Dave Wills	USFWS
Jim Adams	COE
Kevin Grode	COE
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Lori Postlethwait	BOR
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Scott Bettin	BPA
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Dan Feil	COE