

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 3, 2009 Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Erin Halton

Notes: Christa Leonard

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.

Review Dworshak Operations

Dan Feil, COE, reviewed weekend operations for Dworshak (as discussed during the 7/31 TMT call) and triggers leading to 14 kcfs operation. Current operations are still holding based on required trigger of temperatures above 68.0 degrees F. Dan reported that temperatures were above 68F for 2-3 hours on Friday 7/31 and also for 6 hours on Saturday 8/1, before they dropped back below 68 degrees F on Sunday and Monday. Steve Hall reviewed the latest modeling results as posted to the TMT agenda. He reported that the observed temperatures tracked close to predicted over the weekend and said that the model, based on dropping to 12 kcfs, predicts temperatures at Lower Granite will bounce around the mid 66 degree F range. It was noted that the modeling was based on Hells Canyon outflows of 20 kcfs, which have since shifted down to 12-13 kcfs over the weekend and are expected to drop further, to 10-11 kcfs by Thursday 8/6.

Paul Wagner, on behalf of salmon managers, proposed holding outflows at 14 kcfs through 12:00 pm PST Tuesday 8/4, then shift outflows down to 12kcfs. The Salmon Managers also proposed another drop in outflows, down to ~10 kcfs (full powerhouse) at 12:00pm PST Wednesday 8/5. Russ Kiefer, ID, noted that the forecast is showing cooler temperatures with cloud cover and precipitation expected later in the week (around Thursday). Steve Hall clarified that there may have been an error in the modeling inputs and said that the sharp decreases in temperatures on 8/8 are not expected as shown.

Paul Wagner and Dan Feil discussed the current decrease in fish passage rates. The COE noted their preference to move to 12 kcfs immediately, but deferred to the Salmon Managers' preference of waiting until desired time of 12:00 pm PST Tuesday 8/4. Dworshak outflow temperatures are expected to remain between 42-43 degrees F.

Action/Next Steps: The COE will maintain Dworshak outflows of 14 kcfs through 12:00 pm PST Tuesday 8/4, then drop outflows to 12kcfs. TMT will revisit Dworshak operations during the conference call scheduled for 8/5 and will likely drop outflows to 10ksfs (full powerhouse) at 12:00pm PST Wednesday 8/5. Updated modeling runs will be provided via email/web.

Bonneville Spill Update

Dan Feil, COE, alerted TMT to an incident on Saturday 8/1 in which Bonneville's gate 13 experienced an outage at 1600 hours. There was slightly reduced spill during this time and spill was shifted to the spillway and consequently gate was closed in the interest of human safety. He also clarified that the spill cap will be revised today and that TDG was at an average of 112% as of 8/3.

Ice Harbor

Scott Bettin, BPA, noted that Ice Harbor had to pick up transmission as preemptive step (per pg. 11 of the Fish Operations Plan). Bettin said that BPA was hopeful that the new Sacajawea line will be back in service soon.

Next Meeting: TMT will have a conference call at 9 am on August 5, 2009.

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1. Introduction

Today's TMT call was chaired by Dan Feil (COE) and facilitated by Erin Halton (DS Consulting), with representatives of CRITFC, COE, FPC, BPA, USFWS, BOR, the Nez Perce Tribe, NOAA and others participating. 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. Dworshak Operations

Dworshak outflows have been 14 kcfs since July 29 in response to high temperatures. The main purpose of today's call was to check in on this operation. Tailwater temperatures at Lower Granite exceeded 68 degrees F for 2 hours on July 31 and for 6 hours on August 1, Feil reported. Since then, Lower Granite tailwater temperatures have been under 68 degrees.

The modeling results attached to today's agenda assume 20 kcfs flat flows from Hells Canyon Dam, Steve Hall (COE) reported. The model also assumes that Dworshak outflows will drop to 12 kcfs today and remain there for the rest of the forecast period. This operation can be expected to produce temperatures in the 66 degrees F range at Lower Granite tailwater. The model is based on a conservative assumption of 20 kcfs releases from Hells Canyon Dam, while their extended forecast calls for an average of only 11 kcfs through August 6.

One factor in the COE's recommendation on July 29 to bump up Dworshak outflows to 14 kcfs was increased outflows from Hells Canyon Dam, Feil said. Now that their flow forecast is dropping, it would be prudent to drop Dworshak outflows to 12 kcfs today. The Salmon Managers agreed with that recommendation but preferred to maintain the current operation until midnight August 4, one day later than the COE recommendation, a change to which the COE was amenable. The tentative plan after that is to reduce Dworshak outflows to full powerhouse at midnight August 5. TMT will check in via conference call that morning to confirm that conditions are as expected. Weather after August 6 is expected to be slightly cooler and cloudier than normal for this time of year, Russ Kiefer (Idaho) said. It will be important to confirm that as well.

Reducing spill through the Dworshak regulating outlet gates on August 4 and again August 5 might cause a slight increase in water temperatures at Lower Granite, Hall said. Dworshak outflows have been in the 42-43 degrees F range, using the coldest water available. Cutting back on current discharges will probably cause Dworshak outflow temperatures to increase to 43.5 degrees F. Full powerhouse during the forecast period will be in the 9.8-10 kcfs range.

TMT agreed on the following Dworshak operation: August 4 at midnight, drop current outflows of 13.6 kcfs to 12 kcfs. The following morning, TMT will check in via conference call to confirm Hells Canyon releases and weather predictions. At that point, probably Dworshak outflows will drop to full powerhouse at midnight August 5.

It's time to begin working on the Nez Perce plan for Dworshak operations in September, Hall said.

3. Bonneville Spill

On August 1, gate 14 at Bonneville had to be shut down for about 50 minutes for human health and safety reasons, Feil informed TMT. The average spill for that time was 73.9 kcfs, rather than 75 kcfs, due to shifting of spill to other gates while gate 14 was shut.

Russ Kiefer (Idaho) asked whether the Bonneville spill cap would be recalculated now that TDG readings at Camas Washougal gage have dropped. Yesterday the high 12-hour average TDG reading at Camas Washougal was 115%; today's average reading is 112%, Feil said. The Bonneville spill cap will therefore be increased today.

4. Ice Harbor Update

BPA has had to increase power generation at Ice Harbor in response to the heat wave, Scott Bettin (BPA) said. When local temperatures rise, the transmission system can overheat, which requires more power generation at Ice Harbor to avoid an emergency. This problem is covered in both the 2009 Fish Operations Plan and the 2009 Fish Passage Plan. The new Sacajawea transformer is scheduled to go into service August 7, which should put an end to the transmission problem.

5. Next Meeting

The next scheduled TMT meeting will be a conference call on August 5. The following TMT meeting will be August 12 in person, with Dworshak operations and an update on the Dworshak board's plans for September on the agenda. This summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

Name	Affiliation
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Dan Feil	COE
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Scott Bettin	BPA
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla
John Heitstuman	COE Walla Walla
Doug Baus	COE
Dave Wills	USFWS

John Roache
Russ Kiefer
Dave Statler
Paul Wagner
Karl Kanbergs

BOR
Idaho
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NOAA
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