

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 13, 2010 Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES

Facilitator/Notes: Donna Silverberg

The following notes are a summary of issues discussed at today's meeting. These notes are intended to be a reminder for TMT members of the issues raised and actions to be taken.

Members Present on the Call: Steve Barton, COE; Russ Kiefer, ID; Rick Kruger, OR; Jim Litchfield, MT; Charles Morrill, WA; Tony Norris, BPA; John Roche, BOR; Dave Statler, Nez Perce; Dave Wills, USFWS. Unavailable: NOAA Fisheries.

Others on call: Doug Baus, COE; Dave Benner, FPC; Scott English, COE; Steve Hall, COE; Karl Kanbergs, COE; Donna Silverberg, facilitator; Pat Vivian, notetaker.

Dworshak Operations

Steve Barton, COE, reported on current Dworshak operations; Barton said that outflows had been increased to 11 kcfs on Wednesday morning 8/11 as discussed at TMT. He noted that the weather forecast still shows 'toasty' weather heading for the region over the weekend and early next week. No new modeling had been posted prior to the call, so he turned to Steve Hall to update with current conditions in the area.

Hall, COE, noted that the observed data shows they have been releasing water at DWK between 44-45 degrees. At this point, he didn't see a critical need to use lower temperature water as the temperature at Lower Granite topped out yesterday at 67.6 and dropped down to 67.1 today. Hall also noted that the weather forecast had shifted since Wednesday with the hottest weather now forecasted for Monday through Thursday of next week—with Tuesday likely being the hottest day. He noted that there had been scattered showers since Wednesday's call that helped to cool the area.

Steve expressed confidence in the forecast through Monday, but felt the TMT check in scheduled for Monday morning will be necessary. In the meantime, the COE will post the last model runs on the web later today or by Monday at the latest for use during Monday's call. Hall recommended that the COE continue the 11 kcfs outflows through midnight Monday and check-in on Monday.

Russ Kiefer, IDFG, noted that his own spreadsheet matches Steve's and agrees that keeping at 11 kcfs is an adequate operation that will minimally impact the hatchery. Salmon managers had discussed this and request that the COE maintain the current temperature conditions to save the colder water for the hotter days expected next week. Russ cautioned the group: the coolest tailrace temperatures will likely be on Monday when TMT has its call. As a result, things will look good—but it will take four days for any action TMT recommends to hit LGR. As a result he hoped everyone will consider the forecasted hot weather in lieu of the tailrace temperatures on Monday's call.

Support for Recommended Action: Consensus of TMT members on the call for the recommended action.

Action/Next Steps: The COE will operate Dworshak at 11 kcfs until midnight on Monday 8/16; TMT will have a check in call at 9 am Monday 8/16 to discuss current conditions and future actions.

Lower Snake Navigation Issues

Steve Barton, COE told TMT that the COE has been made aware of numerous navigation issues, including some near misses. As a result, the COE may need to adjust spill in the Lower Snake for safety reasons. FPOM reviewed the operations and, if a change in spill is requested by a captain, preferred that the COE shut down spill through the RSW and shift that spill evenly to the remaining bays for the amount of time necessary to support safe navigation. Steve clarified that the safety concern is only at play when boats enter the navigation lock. Karl Kanbergs, COE added that there is only one person on duty at night, so the amount of time this takes may be longer than during the day. When questioned, Barton noted his belief that the captains are aware of this time difference between night and day shifts.

Barton said that while FPOM made the recommendation, he wished to get feedback from TMT members.

Support for Recommended Action: Consensus of TMT members on the call for the recommended action.

Lower Monumental Unit Priority

Steve Barton reviewed an email sent to TMT members earlier today that said:

It was noted at the August 11 TMT meeting that Lower Monumental Powerhouse Unit 2 is out of service. Consistent with the unit priority in the 2010 Fish Passage Plan, unit 5 has been running to provide minimum generation, but discharges approximately 14.4 kcfs at minimum generation within 1% peak efficiency.

In an effort to provide spill levels closer to those specified in the 2010 Summer Fish Operations Plan, and as coordinated and recommended through FPOM, the Corps intends to change the unit priority at Lower Monumental to 2,3,5,4,6,1 effective today. This results in allowing unit 3 to run instead of unit 5, and a lower discharge at minimum generation within 1% peak efficiency (approximately 11.5 kcfs).

Barton noted that the COE is okay with these recommended changes but wanted to get feedback from TMT members.

Russ Kiefer, ID questioned whether or not FPOM had considered the adult attraction issues that might be raised by this change. Rick Kruger, OR, clarified that FPOM members had considered this and felt that the move to unit 3 might actually have a benefit to adults.

Support for Recommended Action: Consensus of TMT members on the call for the recommended action with the request that the COE watch for any negative impacts on adult passage that may result from this change.

Action/Next Steps: The COE will change the unit priority at LoMo effective today and will watch for impacts to adult passage. If needed, they will update TMT on the 9 am Monday 8/16 call.

Next Meeting: August 16 Conference Call

Agenda items will include:

- Dworshak Operations
- Possible check in on navigation and LoMo if needed
- Determine whether or not an 8/18 call is needed

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

August 13, 2010

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Steve Barton (COE) and facilitated by Donna Silverberg (DS Consulting). Representatives of Idaho, Montana, Washington, the COE, BOR, Nez Perce Tribe, USFWS, Oregon, BPA and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript. Anyone with questions or comments about this summary should give them to the TMT chair or bring them to the next meeting.

2. Dworshak Operations and Temperature Modeling

Dworshak outflows were increased to 11 kcfs on the morning of August 11 as discussed at the last TMT meeting. Hot weather is forecasted next week, Barton said. Steve Hall (COE Walla Walla) shared the latest modeling results for Dworshak. Current Dworshak outflow temperatures are 44-45 degrees F, with a high of 67.6 degrees yesterday at Lower Granite tailwater.

Hall presented observed data and forecast data for Dworshak. Temperatures have been moderate in the near term, and the outlook has changed since August 11, when temperatures were expected to peak on August 14-16. Temperatures at Lewiston are now expected to peak on August 17-18 at 101-102 degrees. Recent rains have cooled stream flows and led to a downward shift of 5 degrees F from the forecast TMT discussed on August 11. The change has had a dramatic cooling effect, and river temperatures should be fine through the weekend. Hall emphasized that the forecast is speculative beyond August 16 and recommended that TMT decide then whether 11 kcfs flows should be maintained into next week.

A slight decrease in Lower Granite tailwater temperatures is expected through August 16, Hall said. The potential for thunderstorms is expected to fade through the remainder of the forecast period, although chances rain might increase late next week. The 10-day weather forecast highlights August 17 as the hottest day, with temperatures above 100 degrees F in southern Idaho.

TMT members gave their views of the COE proposal to maintain discharges of 11 kcfs through the morning of August 16 when TMT meets again. **Idaho, the Nez Perce Tribe, USFWS, Montana, Oregon, BPA, BOR and Washington** expressed support for this operation.

3. Lower Snake Navigation Issues

Several recent near-misses with barges entering navigation locks on the lower Snake River have raised concerns about navigation safety under current low flow conditions, Barton said. At the August 11 TMT meeting, Barton told TMT the COE might have to adjust spill consistent with provisions for safe passage in the 2010 Fish Operations Plan.

As a result of feedback from FPOM since then, the COE proposed to temporarily shut down spill at the Lower Granite spillway weir and distribute the spill volume among remaining bays when spill cessation is requested by a barge captain. These adjustments would be made only for the time the barge is entering the lock, not for passage through the lock. Karl Kanbergs (COE) noted that night lockages will probably take longer than 20 minutes because only one operator is on duty to make the needed changes.

Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, BPA, BOR, USFWS and the **Nez Perce Tribe** voiced their support for FPOM's proposed solution of shutting off the RSW and redistributing spill at Lower Granite. **NOAA** representatives, although not present today, expressed their support at FPOM yesterday, Dave Wills (USWS) said.

4. Lower Monumental Unit Priority

At the August 11 meeting TMT discussed the unit priority at Lower Monumental, with unit 2 now secondary to unit 5, which is a much larger unit (current priority according to the 2010 FPP is 2,5,3,4,6,1). Unit 2 has been out of service so unit 5 is running at 1% of peak efficiency, releasing 14-14.5 kcfs, Barton said. To reduce the flow, FPOM recommended changing the priority to units 2, 3 and 5 in that order (proposed priority was changed to 2,3,5,4,6,1), with further specifications that are listed in an email the COE sent TMT members after FPOM met.

The impact of this proposal under the current operation will be a switch to unit 3, which produces around 11.5 kcfs within 1% peak efficiency, although it can vary as specified in the 2010 FOP. The COE agrees with this change and intends to send instructions to project to change the unit priority, Barton said, unless TMT objects.

Russ Kiefer (Idaho) asked whether this unit priority would cause a delay in adult migration. The conversation focused on attempting to achieve the levels of spill indicated in the 2010 FOP, Doug Baus (COE) said. TMT members stated their views of the priority change to units 2, 3 and 5:

- **Idaho** – Supports the change as long as adult passage numbers are monitored to ensure that it doesn't impact adult migration.
- **USFWS** – Agrees with Idaho that adult migration is a concern; believes that changing the unit priority might help the situation because unit 3 is closer to the fish ladder than unit 5.

- **Oregon** – Supports the unit priority change.
- **Washington** – Supports the unit priority change.
- **Nez Perce** – No objection
- **BOR** – Supports the change.

The COE will implement the change and monitor adult passage numbers closely for any adverse impacts.

5. Next Meetings

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call at 8 am Monday, August 16, to discuss Dworshak operations in light of updated modeling information. TMT will decide then whether to meet again Wednesday, August 18. A meeting in person is scheduled the following week on August 25.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Charles Morrill	Washington
Steve Barton	COE
John Roache	BOR
Dave Statler	Nez Perce Tribe
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla
Dave Benner	FPC
Dave Wills	USFWS
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Tony Norris	BPA
Scott English	COE
Doug Baus	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE