

## COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

### TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

September 8, 2010 Conference call

#### FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES

Facilitator: Erin Halton

Notes: 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.

#### **Dworshak Operations**

Steve Barton, COE, shared that water in the system has been cool, with temperatures at Lower Granite hovering at 62°F. Dworshak is drafting to elevation 1520' using the shaping plan outlined in the Nez Perce plan and discussed at TMT during previous meetings. Steve Hall, Walla Walla District COE, added that the project reached its end of August elevation of 1535'. He reported that unit testing at the project on 9/9 will require it to deviate for just two hours (from 7-9 am), with a return to 8 kcfs outflows by Friday. He noted that the COE had coordinated with the Nez Perce Tribe regarding this deviation. To complete the planned operation to 1520', the current operation of one big and one small unit will continue until Friday night (Sept 10<sup>th</sup>), followed by a step down to the big unit only for two days, then a step down to two small units for two days, followed by a step down to one small unit for the remainder of the operation to 1520'. Once elevation 1520 is reached, there will be one more reduction to minimum (1.6 kcfs). A question was asked about the temperature monitors; specifically whether the Anatone gauge would be out for the rest of the season. Scott English, COE, will follow up with Paul Wagner, NOAA, about this.

#### **Lower Granite Forebay Navigation**

Steve Barton, COE, reported that due to recent navigation issues at Lower Granite, the COE plans to operate the forebay at elevation 734.0' minimum to alleviate the problem. This is one foot above the MOP operating range, which had been officially lifted at the end of August. Steve said the COE will also continue best efforts for no net storage in the Lower Snake River (a soft constraint.)

**Action/Next Steps:** The change was scheduled to go in to effect later this afternoon, and the COE will issue a teletype describing the change.

#### **Autumn Treaty Fishing: SOR 2010-C8**

Tom Lorz, CRITFC, thanked the COE for its continuing commitment to meet the tribes' operating requests for Autumn Treaty Fishing. The only change with the latest request, he said, was to extend the fishery through Saturday, for this week. Lorz said he expected at least one more fishery to occur, but said it would be based on the TAC recommendation. Steve Barton said the COE has instructed the project to operate per the request. One

caveat was mentioned: a triathlon is occurring at The Dalles over the weekend and the COE will try to accommodate their desire for a higher Bonneville pool to facilitate access conditions; the COE said they will also try to avoid causing pool fluctuations during the morning and evening hours, that the tribes have said are the most critical to their fishery.

**Action:** Karl Kanbergs, COE, will share the specifics of the special operation with Tom Lorz.

**Other**

Russ Kiefer, Idaho, followed up on a report he gave on sockeye at the 8/11 TMT meeting. He clarified that IDFG has been trapping, taking samples, then letting the fish continue their run; he said that some fish have been sent to the brood stock program (not all released in to Red Lake as had been previously reported). The last count was 1,135 in the Stanley Basin (compared to 491 as of 8/11.)

**Next TMT Meeting: Face to face, September 15:**

Agenda Items include:

- Notes Review
- Dworshak Operations
- Treaty Fishing
- Draft WMP
- Draft Fish Emergency Plan
- Operations Review

**Columbia River Regional Forum**  
**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**September 8, 2010**

Notes: Pat Vivian

***1. Introduction***

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Steve Barton (COE) and facilitated by Erin Halton (DS Consulting). Representatives of BPA, the COE, CRIFC, NOAA, BOR, USFWS 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***

Barton discussed the latest temperature data for the lower Snake River. The river is cold for this time of year, with Lower Granite tailwater and forebay around 62 degrees F. Dworshak is drafting steadily releasing water under the Nez Perce Agreement targeting elevation 1,520 feet by about September 19. NERC testing of the Dworshak units will cause interruptions in the scheduled discharges per the Nez Perce plan as described at the last TMT meeting on August 25. However, the COE has discussed these interruptions with the Nez Perce Tribe and ascertained that the impacts should be minimal, therefore the tribe did not object.

Steve Hall (COE) discussed the latest modeling results for Dworshak (not yet posted as of today). The reservoir reached its elevation target of 1,535 feet at 4 am on August 31. The impact of unit testing will mean dropping outflows from 8 kcfs briefly from 7-9 am tomorrow, September 9, then back up to 8 kcfs through the close of business on September 10. The Nez Perce plan then calls for dropping outflows to the big unit for 2 days (September 11-12); 2 small units for 2 days (September 13-14); and 1 small unit for 2 days (September 15-16). Paul Wagner (NOAA) asked about the schedule for removing tailwater gages, which Scott English (COE) said he'll provide via email.

***3. Autumn Treaty Fishing – SOR 2010-C8***

Tom Lorz (CRITFC) discussed the latest tribal fishery per SOR 2010-C8, submitted to the COE last week in time for the Labor Day weekend. The SOR, attached to today's agenda, called for 1.5-foot bands as a hard system constraint at the 3 lower Columbia pools from 6 am August 24 to 6 pm August 27; from 6 am August 30 to 6 pm September 3; and from 6 am September 7 to 6 pm September 10. At least one additional tribal fishery is expected in September, and CRITFC will submit an SOR to the COE for that fishery.

The COE has issued instructions to the projects to operate as requested in SOR 2010-C8, Barton said. Karl Kanbergs (COE) noted that the COE received a request to maintain a higher pool at The Dalles on Saturday, September 11, for a triathlon event. In accommodating that request, the COE will make a special effort to keep The Dalles within its 1.5-foot operating band during morning and evening hours when the tribal fishers are setting nets out or retrieving them. Lorz asked the COE to notify CRITFC via email of any expected fluctuations. TMT will check in on the treaty fishing operation at the next TMT meeting September 15.

#### ***4. Lower Snake River Navigation Issues***

In response to recent concerns about navigation on the lower Snake, the COE will issue a teletype requiring a minimum elevation of 734 feet in Lower Granite forebay, Barton reported. This is basically a foot higher than the MOP range of 733-734 feet, although the projects were formally released from MOP restrictions as of midnight August 31. Lower Granite was going to operate within a 1-foot range of MOP, but now that elevation needs to be raised by a foot to address the navigation concerns. The remainder of September operation will remain as described at the last TMT meeting on August 25.

Paul Wagner (NOAA) asked whether the operation will call for 734 feet elevation as a hard constraint, with a soft constraint of up to 735 feet; Barton said yes. As noted at the last TMT meeting, best efforts will be made to have no net storage in the lower Snake River during flow augmentation. The COE will coordinate project instructions with TMT offline and issue the teletype later this morning.

#### ***5. Sockeye Migration***

Russ Kiefer (Idaho) clarified a statement he made earlier to TMT regarding sockeye migration in the Stanley basin. He had stated that IDFG researchers opened the trap and allowed the fish to swim into Redfish Lake. However, researchers have been trapping the fish to take genetic samples and measurements, and a few fish are being incorporated into the broodstock program. Idaho continues to collect information on sockeye movement, with 1,135 sockeye in the basin at last count and more coming.

#### ***6. Next Meeting***

The next TMT meeting will be in person on September 15.

| <b><i>Name</i></b> | <b><i>Affiliation</i></b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Tony Norris        | BPA                       |
| Steve Barton       | COE                       |
| Tom Lorz           | CRITFC                    |

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Paul Wagner    | NOAA               |
| John Roache    | BOR                |
| Barry Espenson | CBB                |
| Ruth Burris    | PGE                |
| Scott Bettin   | BPA                |
| Tom Le         | Puget Sound Energy |
| Richelle Beck  | DRA                |
| Steve Hall     | COE Walla Walla    |
| Russ Kiefer    | Idaho              |
| Dave Benner    | FPC                |
| Scott English  | COE                |
| Dave Wills     | USFWS              |
| Karl Kanbergs  | COE                |