

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

June 24, 2011 Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES

Facilitator: 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.

Spill Priority List

As follow up from the 6/22 TMT conference call, TMT members reconvened to discuss the COE's proposed change to the Spill Priority List, to move Chief Joseph to the top of the list in the Level 1 tier of involuntary spill.

Doug Baus, COE, reported that the new proposed list had been posted to the TMT web page just prior to today's call and was intended to describe more clearly the proposed operation. He acknowledged additional data that had been requested was not provided or available at this time. He said the purpose for today's call was to articulate the change and how it will be used:

- Continue voluntary spill in accordance with the Summer Fish Operations Plan at all fish passage projects.
- For involuntary spill conditions, and to best manage, TDG, Level 1 spill would spill at all fish passage projects to attain 120% tailwater/115% downstream forebay spill caps if not already spilling to those TDG levels.
- Level 2 spill, when all other projects have spilled up to their caps, Chief Joseph would spill to 120% as measured the spillway tailrace.
- This shift will reduce the wind energy re-dispatch, which BPA is managing per its current Environmental Re-Dispatch policy.
- It is anticipated that lack of load conditions will persist in to mid-July, and this would be the anticipated timeframe for managing involuntary spill to the priority list described in the COE document provided today.

Clarifying questions:

- TDG reports on the TMT website show Chief Joseph is the only project in the system that is within the state water quality standards. What level/stage of involuntary spill are we at currently? BPA response: Chief Joseph is the only project with any flexibility to reduce generation and remain within TDG standards. And, we still anticipate low load conditions and flows to recede on the Snake River over the next three weeks.
- The river appears to gain gas between the Chief Joseph tailwater and Wells forebay gauges. How will the COE manage for spill? COE response: Actual spill TDG is accurate at Chief Joseph, then mixed downstream showing higher TDG when mixed with water out of the powerhouse. Grand Coulee will begin operating to drum gate spill so TDG levels should drop downstream, and should be maintained at those lower levels.

- Is there still a concern with Chief Joseph readings being too low? COE response: While there was some discussion at TMT on Wednesday about this issue, the COE's current official position is to use the Chief Joseph gauge and manage to 120% in the Chief Joseph tailwater. Again, with Grand Coulee spill soon to be coming over the drum gates, significant lowering of TDG will be seen downstream. Still, gas will remain high, and degassing will be provided by Chief Joseph spill.
- NOAA: During high flow levels, adult fish fallback becomes a concern, and more spill at Chief Joseph could be a potential benefit – but there is not yet good data to support this.
- What is the trigger for moving to Level 2 involuntary spill? COE response: When projects have spilled up to their water quality criteria (120% tailwater/115% downstream forebay).

Process issues:

TMT members raised concerns that the data they requested to inform technical deliberation over this issue was not available during today's call. That left members feeling unable to further their discussions, and one member suggested moving the discussion to next Wednesday's (6/29) TMT meeting at which time the data could be reviewed and discussed, and the COE would be more informed about its decision. In addition, they asked for clarity on the COE's rationale for its decision.

Data to be shared:

Doug will post actual TDG values associated with various spill levels to the TMT page. The Fish Passage Center shared information with FPAC on Chief Joseph spill and TDG effects on the Wells forebay gauge, and will email those graphs to Doug Baus.

Next Steps/Actions:

- TMT members are asked to submit written comments to the COE by 3:00 pm today – and to include TMT members in the email so everyone can track the comments.
- The COE will notify TMT of its decision by the end of today – and provide an update at the 6/29 TMT meeting.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

June 24, 2011

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting. Representatives of Oregon, Montana, Washington, the Nez Perce Tribe, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, USFWS, BOR, BPA, COE, NOAA and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript. Any questions or comments should be directed to the TMT chair.

2. Spill Priority List Update

The purpose of today's TMT call was to follow up on concerns voiced by TMT members on the June 22 call, when the COE proposed to move Chief Joseph Dam up on the spill priority list. The June 22 discussion of Level 1 spill led to lack of clarity on how the COE manages in accordance with state TDG standards, Baus explained. To clarify the COE's intention, the proposed spill priority list is linked to today's agenda.

On June 22, TMT members requested more information on potential changes in spill volumes and TDG levels as a result of the change in spill priorities, plus data from a recent spill test at Chief Joseph. Information on the proposed modification to spill priority list was posted to the agenda. The COE is proposing to implement this spill priority list prior to this weekend and is soliciting comments from TMT members to inform the final decision.

Under the proposal, Chief Joseph moves to the top of the Level 2 list, which is for involuntary spill. The COE would continue to spill in accordance with: 1) the 2011 FOP, and 2) 120%/115% fish passage spill caps consistent with the Washington waiver as identified in Level 1. Tony Norris, BPA, clarified that this addresses concerns that the gap between FOP minimum spill and the Washington standard would be fulfilled prior to spilling Chief Joseph up to 120% TDG.

Baus invited TMT members to send the COE written comments by 3 pm today, which the COE will take into account before making a decision.

Questions and discussion: Jim Litchfield, Montana, wondered whether we're already at Level 3 spill, as Chief Joseph is the only project with additional spill capability. That's correct, Norris said, Snake River projects are out of turbine capacity. Rich Dominigue, NOAA, asked whether the COE would make a decision to spill based on the tailrace gage at Chief Joseph or the forebay gage

at Wells. The Chief Joseph spillway is stripping much of the gas out of incoming flows from Grand Coulee. Tonight when the COE switches the Grand Coulee operation to drumgate spill, TDG levels coming into the Chief Joseph forebay should drop by approximately 13%. John Roache, BOR, asked whether the Chief Joseph tailrace gage measures mixed flows from the spillway and powerhouse. Scott English, COE, said it does not, it measures TDG in the spillway.

Ross Hendricks, Grant PUD, asked whether the Chief Joseph tailrace gage is still giving low readings. Does the project have a waiver from the state of Washington requiring it to be compliant with the 115% standard at the next downstream forebay? Despite recent discussions regarding the accuracy of the CHJ tailrace gauge the COE still uses the CHJ tailrace gauge. Dominique asked whether tailrace or forebay readings would serve as the indicator to move to a higher level of spill on the proposed list. In the Level 1 category, an exceedance at either the forebay or tailrace could be the trigger at any given project, English replied.

Margaret Filardo, FPC, said she will send the COE graphs showing how TDG levels in the Wells forebay responded to increased spill at Chief Joseph. To create the graphs, FPAC members used all Chief Joseph data available this year to correlate spill volumes and proportions at Chief Joseph with TDG levels in the Wells forebay. Filardo, suggested that the expectation was that higher spill levels at Chief Joseph would equal lower TDG levels in Wells forebay, but the data showed the opposite. Filardo further contended that as spill increased at Chief Joseph, TDG levels at Wells forebay also increased.

Comments: Several Salmon Managers expressed dismay that more information was not provided today on effects of the proposal, as requested during the June 22 TMT call. To help people prepare comments for the COE by 3 pm today, Baus said he would post current TDG production curves to the TMT web page after this call ends.

There was no official poll of TMT members today. TMT members made the following comments:

NOAA – Very high rates of spill are associated with increased adult fallback. Moving more spill to Chief Joseph could have some merit in terms of reducing adult fallback and injury. NOAA might support this operation if more information were available.

CRITFC/Umatilla – This is not the typical TMT process in which spill priority lists are worked out with the Salmon Managers' advice concerning biological effects.

Nez Perce Tribe – Information requested at the last TMT is needed before meaningful comments can be made. Not comfortable with the decision-making process articulated today.

Oregon – Agrees with the Nez Perce comments. Doesn't believe this proposal is in the best interest of fish in the Snake River. Oregon does not support this operation.

BPA – The proposal would not affect Snake River spill. The goal is to displace hydro generation and avoid redispatching wind energy. In an overgeneration condition, BPA will redispatch wind if federal generation can not be displaced without exceeding state TDG standards. To the extent that federal generation is curtailed at Chief Joseph, wind generation can be kept on line.

Next steps: After this meeting, the COE will post revised TDG production estimates to the TMT web page. Written comments on the proposed spill priority list are due by 3 pm today. It was suggested that TMT members copy each other on any comments they send the COE so that comments can be widely disseminated. After this meeting, the COE will email TMT members and interested parties its decision.

TMT will follow up on this issue at its next meeting on June 29.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Charles Morrill	Washington
Dave Statler	Nez Perce
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
David Wills	USFWS
John Roache	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Greg Bowers	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Scott English	COE
Dan Feil	COE
Lisa Wright	COE
Alex Cibarra	Grant PUD
Ross Hendricks	Grant PUD
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Brandon Chockley	FPC
Dave Benner	FPC
Shane Scott	PPC
Richelle Beck	DRA
Bill Rudolph	NW Fish Letter
Rich Dominigue	NOAA

