

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

July 6, 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.

Dworshak Operations

Steve Hall, Walla Walla District COE, reported on Dworshak operations. The project reached elevation 1598.4' on 7/4, then 1598.8' on 7/5. Inflows were 16.9 kcfs and outflows were increased incrementally from 9.5 kcfs, to 12 kcfs, to 13 kcfs. He reported that current day average outflows were 13.5 kcfs. Steve said the remaining snow pack is just 6% but the high runoff has continued. The COE is managing the project to minimize TDG, which had exceeded 110%. Spill was being shaped at night to help manage TDG. The project was expected to reach full on 7/9, pass inflow through 7/15, then begin to draft. Steve said flow augmentation will likely drive the operation this year more so than temperatures, as the river remained relatively cool and below the 68° threshold at Lower Granite. According to current modeling, temperatures will rise to 62-63° around 7/13.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, said FPAC had discussed the situation at Dworshak and agreed that passing inflows at the project made sense. Russ Kiefer, Idaho, added that the COE was doing a good job managing the project given the conditions they were facing.

Action/Next Steps: Walla Walla District will continue to run weekly or bi-weekly models, and will share the model results at the upcoming TMT meetings while the project is managed for flows, temperature and refill.

Other:

- **Grand Coulee Operations:** John Roache, Reclamation, reported that Grand Coulee was at elevation 1285' and slowly filling, likely to reach full sometime next week.
- **Lower Granite MOP:** A question was asked about the schedule for conducting a survey in the Lower Granite area to determine if the approach for managing MOP operations and safe navigation per the COE's disposition on SOR 2011-01 (March 23, 2011/Towboaters' Association) was still needed. Steve Hall will look in to the survey schedule and report back to TMT at the next meeting.
- **TMT Chair:** Steve Barton shared that he will be leaving his position at the COE at the end of July to take a position at BPA doing modeling work. As such, the new TMT chair will be Doug Baus, beginning next week. TMT members expressed appreciation for Steve's service and leadership on the team, and wished him well.

Next Meeting, 7/13 Conference Call

NOTE NEW TIME: 8:00 am

Agenda items include:

- Upper Snake Flow Augmentation – Reclamation
- Dworshak Operations Update – COE
- Libby Operations – COE
- Lower Granite MOP Operations/Update on Survey Schedule – COE

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

July 6, 2011

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Steve Barton, COE, and facilitated by Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting. Representatives of BPA, BOR, the COE, Washington, Oregon, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, NOAA, Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe 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. Barton announced today that he will be stepping down as chair, and Doug Baus, COE, will serve beginning next week.

2. Dworshak Operations

Steve Hall, COE Walla Walla, discussed inflows and current operations at Dworshak. On July 4, the reservoir elevation reached 1,589.4 feet; it is now 1,598.4 feet. In response to high inflows, now at 16.9 kcfs, the COE has been raising average daily discharges steadily through the weekend – from 9.5 kcfs to 12 kcfs on July 3-4, and up to 13.5 kcfs at present. Remaining snowpack in the basin is only around 6%, but inflows have been high and the COE is monitoring inflows carefully. The recession limb at Dworshak and in other areas apparently has more “staying power” this year than normal. Based on the latest inflow projections, the reservoir will reach full elevation on July 9. If all goes well, outflows will match inflows by July 10 when the reservoir is full.

The current operation is to pass inflows through July 15, then begin drafting after July 15 toward elevation 1,535 feet by August 31. This year, flow augmentation will drive releases rather than temperatures. High inflows are having a cooling effect; temperatures are not expected to become an issue until mid July. COE water temperature modeling indicates that the Lower Granite tailwater (which is now around 59.6 degrees F) will not approach 62-63 degrees F until July 13. At present, the main focus of Dworshak operations is to manage refill while balancing against the effects of high inflows. The COE has been running the Dworshak temperature model on a daily basis and will continue to run it at least biweekly throughout the summer. Temperature modeling results will be posted to the TMT web page beginning next week.

There were no objections from TMT members to this operation. Passing inflows seems like a reasonable plan, said Paul Wagner, **NOAA**, and Russ Kiefer, **Idaho**, strongly endorsed it. TMT will revisit Dworshak operations next week.

3. Other

Rick Kruger, Oregon, asked whether the COE is planning a survey of river bathymetry in preparation for **Lower Granite MOP operations** this year in light of last year's SOR regarding navigation concerns. Hall said he would check on the availability of crews to perform the survey and report back to TMT next week. If crews are able to perform the survey as planned, the COE will share the resulting data with TMT.

Dave Statler, Nez Perce, asked how strong TMT's commitment is to finding out whether channel elevations have shifted up or down. The intention is to coordinate Lower Granite MOP operations in a system-wide manner, especially when the Lower Granite pool is in the MOP+1.5 or MOP+2 category, Barton replied. Inflows at Lower Granite are currently around 140 kcfs. The COE operates the project for flood control at Lewiston until flows drop to 120 kcfs.

A meeting participant asked about the status of **Grand Coulee** operations. Lake Roosevelt is around 1,285 feet elevation and spilling slowly, John Roache, BOR, replied. Refill is expected to occur late this weekend or early next week, followed by summer flow augmentation.

4. Next TMT Meetings

There will be a conference call on July 13 to discuss Libby operations; refill operations; the shaping of flows into August and September; Lower Granite MOP operations; and a full operations review. The next regular TMT meeting in person will be July 20.

Name	Affiliation
Scott Bettin	BPA
Tony Norris	BPA
John Roache	BOR
Richelle Beck	DRA
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Russ George	WMC
Cindy LeFleur	Washington
Alex Cibarra	Grant PUD
Steve Barton	COE
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Ruth Burris	PGE
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Donna Silverberg	DS Consulting
Dave Statler	NPT