

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 10, 2011

Facilitator's Summary of Conference Call

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

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

Doug Baus, COE and Steve Hall, Walla Walla District COE, shared an update on Dworshak operations and the latest temperature modeling results since last week's TMT meeting. The COE has been managing to meet the request of dropping temperatures at DWK. As a result, temperatures have been continuing on a downward trend since the shift to cooler water. After questions about TDG levels/management at DWK, the downward temperature trend at Anatone, and the Clearwater temperatures, no concerns were raised about the operations at DWK.

ACTION: Year End Review Topic – Provide a retrospective on temperatures in the Lower Granite Pool at MOP to look at the impacts of actions.

Libby Operations:

The COE reported that it had coordinated with all remaining TMT members about the SOR put forward by the Kootenai tribe last week. There were no objections to the SOR, so the COE began implementing it last week. At this point, the forecast models indicate that with the current implementation plan the project should meet the 2449' elevation by the end of August. No concerns were raised.

Grand Coulee Operations:

John Roache, BOR reported that GCL is at 1289.5', higher than usual for this time of year. He noted that McNary is still in excess of the weekly flow objective of 200kcfs at this time with no need of a GCL draft. Because of this, BPA has a proposed August operation for Grand Coulee on which the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) would like TMT feedback prior to internal BOR leadership discussions. Tony Norris, BPA proposed an operation of GCL:

Proposal: Draft GCL only as needed to meet a weekly flow objective of 200 kcfs at McNary, but no lower than 1280' by August 31.

Questions:

- What is the draft projection if following the proposal?
 - Based of the latest STP model run, 1282-1283'
- How much below the 200 kcfs weekly average might we see on a daily basis?
 - The Action Agencies plan to meet the weekly average flow at McNary following the 80% rule as described in the Water Management Plan - which could drop flows on weekends below 200 kcfs.

- What is the plan for September?
 - The reservoir will be at elevation 1283' or higher at the end of September.

After discussion, TMT members were polled for their initial input on this proposal:

- Idaho –No objection
- Oregon – Needs to review with FPAC and internally
- Washington – Needs to review with FPAC and internally
- Montana – not present
- Salish Kootenai Tribe – no objection
- Colville Tribe – no objection
- Nez Perce - No objection
- CRITFC – Needs to review with FPAC
- USFWS –not present
- NOAA – Needs to review documents. If okay there, will be okay with the action
- COE – this proposal is not a Corps operation, but the Corps will support BOR's decision.
- BPA – Support

Action/Next Steps: FPAC will meet Wed. 8/10 in the afternoon for a call.

CRITFC, OR, WA and NOAA will all coordinate their responses with BOR.

- John will email the resulting BOR decision to TMT by Friday a.m., 8/12.
- Doug will forward the decision to the TMT interested parties list.

Next Face to Face Meeting, 8/17

Agenda items include:

- Dworshak Operations
- Libby Operations
- Grand Coulee Operations
- Other?

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

August 10, 2011

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Donna Silverberg, DS Consulting. Representatives of BPA, the COE, Washington, Nez Perce Tribe, NOAA, BOR, Colville and Salish-Kootenai tribes, Idaho, Oregon, 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. Dworshak Operations

During the August 3 TMT meeting the COE received FPAC's request to reduce Dworshak discharges to 45 degrees to manage temperatures in the Lower Granite tailwater. Steve Hall, COE Seattle, gave an update on the status of the implementation of this request. Attachment 2a shows water temperature comparisons between Dworshak releases and Lower Granite tailwater. The COE has had to work to keep Lower Granite tailwater temperatures below 68 degrees, but temperatures are expected to go down. The current Dworshak elevation is 1,575.07 feet, with inflows of 2.3 kcfs and discharges of 13.2 kcfs.

Dave Statler, Nez Perce Tribe, asked whether the downward trend in temperatures is weather-related. Yes, Hall said, it's normal for the first two weeks of August to be warmer than the last two weeks. From mid August on, temperatures at Anatone tend to cool. However, temperatures on the Clearwater tend to stay high longer. The modeled results shown in attachment 2a are the most predictable through August 16. After that, projections become uncertain.

Tom Lorz, CRITFC/Umatilla, asked whether the COE planned on picking up discharge at Dworshak since TDG was only 108.2%. Hall indicated that we have been trying to pick up discharges at Dworshak in an effort to manage closer to 110% but this is very difficult due to structural limitations of the RO gates. As a matter of fact in an effort to manage closer to 110% yesterday TDG saturation was 110.1% (on one hour) and the day before even higher at 111.2% (on one hour). It's difficult to fine-tune the Dworshak operation to follow the gas cap closely because the RO gates tend to make flow errors of 200-300 cfs each time they are adjusted, although he plans to experiment with some daily flow shaping next week. Russ Kiefer, Idaho, asked whether the COE had modeled what Dworshak release temperatures would be if the project spilled more through the spill gates at 49 degrees F. Raising the temperature of Dworshak releases would have a significant impact on tailwater temperatures at Lower Granite, Steve Hall replied.

NOAA approves of this operation, Paul Wagner said. He asked when Dworshak is expected to reach elevation 1,535 feet. Based on STP values, the reservoir should be around 1,540 feet elevation on September 1. Depending on inflows, it will reach 1,535 feet about 3 days later, Karl Kanbergs replied.

Statler asked whether the model factors in depth or volume at Lower Granite pool; Hall said it does. Statler suggested the COE give a retrospective at the TMT year-end review showing what the temperatures in Lower Granite tailwater would have been had the project operated at MOP. Charles Morrill, Washington, asked whether spill associated with the powerhouse outage at Lower Granite has an effect on downstream temperatures. It does because spill pulls water from the upper half of the pool, while the powerhouse releases water from the bottom layer, Hall replied. There were no objections today to the plan for Dworshak operations.

3. Libby Operations

Joel Fenolio, COE Seattle, gave an update on the operation of Libby to fulfill SOR 2011-04 presented by the Kootenai Tribe at TMT last week. Attachment 3a is a graph of projected operations from July 1 through September 30. Inflows peaked last week and the reservoir is starting to draft; current releases are 11.9 kcfs. Based on latest STP inflows, the reservoir is expected to reach elevation 2,449 feet by end August, operating under the limitation of two unit outages beginning August 15. The COE plans to release 16 kcfs through August 15, and then powerhouse capacity (with only 3 units available) (14-14.4 kcfs) through the end of August, and then 6 kcfs in September as the tribe has requested for its habitat restoration work. TMT had no questions today on this operation.

4. August Grand Coulee Operations

The Grand Coulee reservoir elevation is within the top foot at 1,289.5 feet, which is unusually high for this time of year, John Roache, BOR, reported. McNary flows are still expected to exceed the 200 kcfs summer flow objective through end August. The Grand Coulee draft limit for end August is 1,280 feet elevation to support the summer flow objectives.

Given the strong likelihood that McNary flows will exceed 200 kcfs on a weekly average basis through the rest of this summer, BPA proposed to TMT that Grand Coulee be drafted as needed to meet the McNary flow objective through end August. This could result in the Grand Coulee elevation being above its draft limit on August 31. Based on model data, the reservoir could be at 1,283-4 feet elevation by August 31. The BOR plans to keep the reservoir elevation at no lower than 1,283 feet by September 30 for the sake of resident fisheries.

The purpose of this proposal is to preserve volume for flows in September for the fall chum operation and winter refill, as well as other river uses, Tony Norris, BPA, explained. For the purposes of system planning, BOR and BPA need to know by noon tomorrow whether TMT approves of the proposal.

Kanbergs noted that DOD Navy divers will be doing maintenance work in August and need Priest Rapids flows to be limited to 150 kcfs during daylight hours while they are working. This adds to the need for a quick decision on whether to implement the proposal. He further added that the Navy had other options but just needed to know what expected flows were going to be as soon as possible. Keeping flows under 150 kcfs at Priest Rapids could be a problem, Norris said.

Due to insufficient information on the proposal, not all TMT members were ready to state their views for the record today.

- **Washington** – Not ready to vote; needs time to review.
- **Idaho** – No objection.
- **Colville Tribe** – No objection.
- **Salish-Kootenai** – No objection.
- **NOAA** – Gave provisional approval as long as the proposed operation is consistent with language in water management plans and other relevant documents. Needs time to review these before giving final approval.
- **Nez Perce** – No objection based on what is known at present.
- **Oregon** – Needs more information before voting.
- **CRITFC/Umatilla** – Needs to see load projections before giving approval. The caveat here is to avoid abrupt drawdowns.
- **COE** – This proposal is not a Corps operation, but the Corps will support BOR's decision.

Washington, NOAA, Oregon and CRITFC will email their views to the BOR as soon as possible. The BOR and BPA will coordinate with USFWS which was not represented on today's call. Richelle Beck, Grant PUD, asked whether the operational decision could be sent to all interested parties, not just TMT members. BOR and the COE will coordinate to email information on this operation to all recipients on the broader TMT list.

5. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next in person August 17, with updates on the same agenda topics covered in today's meeting.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Doug Baus	COE
Tony Norris	BPA
Charles Morrill	Washington
Dave Statler	Nez Perce
Paul Wagner	NOAA
John Roache	BOR
Steve Smith	Colville
Stu Leavitt	Salish-Kootenai
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Dan Feil	COE
Mike Shapley	Snohomish PUD
Jason Mays	EWEB
Joel Fenolio	COE Seattle
Bruce McKay	hydropower consultant
Richelle Beck	Grant PUD
Russ George	WMC
Dave Benner	FPC
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Ron Boyce	Oregon
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla