

# COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 31, 2011 Conference Call

## Facilitator's Summary

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.*

TMT members in attendance: Doug Baus, **COE**; Scott Bettin, **BPA**; Russ Kiefer, **Idaho**; Jim Litchfield, **Montana**; John Roache, **Reclamation**; Paul Wagner, **NOAA**; Dave Wills, **USFWS**

### **Dworshak Operations:**

Doug Baus, Division COE, and Steve Hall, Walla Walla District COE, reported on Dworshak operations. The project was continuing to manage to TDG due to high runoff volumes this year, and as had been reported at previous TMT meetings, would end at an elevation higher than 1535' at the end of August. The project is holding at 13.4 kcfs day average, which should result in elevation 1541.5' by midnight on 8/31. Temperature modeling graphs showed a cooling trend and no issues with temperatures had occurred to date. The project will continue to target elevation 1535', likely around 9/5, at which time the project will follow Dworshak Board recommendations to ramp down to full powerhouse, and from there, will ramp down to minimums (1.5 kcfs) by around 9/21. TMT will receive updates on Dworshak operations during the Operations Review portion of the TMT meetings every two weeks.

### **Ice Harbor MOP Operations**

Doug Baus said this item was on today's agenda as follow up to an email sent to TMT on 8/23 informing them that the COE had to increase the pool elevation at Ice Harbor to 437.5-438.5' to address a passage safety concern at the entrance of the navigation lock in the tailwater of Lower Monumental due to that pool being too low. This change, Doug noted, remained consistent with August 2010 operations coordinated with TMT and with operations specified in the 2011 Fish Operations Plan. Steve Hall also shared that a gauge was added to the Lower Monumental navigation lock area which allowed the COE to have an accurate reading of the pool elevation.

In response to a question, Steve shared that the Lower Granite survey data has been collected and is in 'post-processing'. After it is received by the District and coordinated internally at the COE, TMT will receive the survey results. Steve and Doug will keep TMT apprised of this process/schedule.

### **Spillway Weirs Removal**

Doug Baus and Lisa Wright, Division COE, reported that removal of spillway weirs at John Day and Little Goose were scheduled for today – John Day would likely be out by noon; Little Goose might be delayed to tomorrow morning due to high wind conditions.

### **Libby Operations**

Doug Baus, Division COE, and Kristian Mickelson, Seattle District COE, reported on Libby operations. As was discussed at the last TMT meeting, daily average outflows from 8/15 through 8/31 were around 14 kcfs. Kristian said 14.6 kcfs flows were ramped down to 14 kcfs; then to 12 kcfs on 8/30; and would ramp down to 10 kcfs today. Flows will be further reduced to 6 kcfs after Labor Day. A graph depicting this operation was also provided. TMT members will receive Libby updates during the Operations Review portion of the meetings every two weeks.

### **Grand Coulee Operations**

John Roache, Reclamation, reported that Grand Coulee was at elevation 1280.3' and would reach 1280' by midnight this evening. September will see a slow refill of the project until it reaches elevation 1283' or higher by the end of September. Again, regular two-week updates on Grand Coulee operations will be shared with TMT at future meetings.

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

**August 31, 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 USFWS, NOAA, BOR, COE, Idaho, Montana, BPA and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

***2. Dworshak Operations***

Baus gave an end of August update. Due to high runoff volume, the COE has been managing discharges at Dworshak within the Idaho water quality standard of 110% TDG. As TMT discussed previously, this would result in an August 31 elevation above the BiOp draft target of 1535 feet. Current elevation is 1,543.14 feet, with inflows of 1.3 kcfs and releases of 13.4 kcfs.

The operation is limited by TDG concerns to 13.4 kcfs discharges, Steve Hall, COE Walla Walla, said. The end of month elevation is expected to be around 1,541.5 feet. The operation will continue at full powerhouse until elevation 1,535 feet is attained sometime around September 5. At that point discharges will be reduced to full powerhouse. Temperatures in general are cooling. TMT will revisit Dworshak operations at its next meeting on September 14.

***3. Ice Harbor MOP Operation***

On August 23 the COE notified TMT that the COE would increase MOP operations at Ice Harbor by 0.5 feet, changing the elevation range from 437-438 feet to 437.5-438.5 feet. The COE is continuing that operation to ensure safe entrance to the Lower Monumental Dam navigation lock, Baus said. This operation is consistent with the Ice Harbor 2010 operation coordinated with TMT, and it was identified in the 2011 summer FOP.

In the past, a similar situation at Lower Granite was addressed by placing a gage at the navigation lock entrance to verify adequate clearance over the sill, Hall said. Since then, gages have been added at each lower Snake project including Lower Monumental this summer. All gages are up and running now. In August, data from the gages verified that Lower Monumental Dam tailwater had dropped below the required minimum elevation of 437.0 feet. The gages will be used to monitor navigation conditions at the Snake River projects.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, asked whether the channel survey at Lower Granite has been completed. Data are being processed now, Hall replied. The COE will keep TMT informed of Lower Granite operations.

#### **4. Removal of Spillway Weirs at John Day and Little Goose**

On August 17 the COE told TMT the spillway weirs at John Day and Lower Granite would be removed on August 31, Baus said. Lisa Wright, COE, reported that the John Day weir will be removed today as planned. However, high winds at Little Goose could delay weir removal until tomorrow morning.

#### **5. Libby Dam Operations**

The COE is implementing the Libby operation of 14 kcfs outflows (day averages from August 15-31), as TMT discussed on August 24, Baus said. Releases were at 14.6 kcfs on August 15, ramping down to 14 kcfs on August 26, to 12 kcfs on August 30, Kristian Mickelson, COE Seattle, said. The rampdown will continue to 10 kcfs tonight and 6 kcfs on September 5. There was agreement that Libby operations can proceed successfully without further TMT consultation, even if a major rain event occurs. Further updates on Libby operations will be covered as part of the standard operations review.

#### **6. August Grand Coulee Operations**

Current reservoir elevation is 1,280.3 feet, on track to hit 1,280 feet by midnight, John Roache, BOR, reported. September's operation will be a slow refill, targeting 1,283 feet or higher by end month.

#### **7. Next TMT Meeting**

TMT will meet next in person on September 14.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Lisa Wright	COE
Dave Wills	USFWS
Paul Wagner	NOAA
John Roache	BOR
Steve Hall	COE Walla
Dave Benner	FPC
Russ George	WMC
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Bruce McKay	hydropower consultant
Shane Scott	PPC
Richelle Beck	Grant PUD
Kristian Mickelson	COE Seattle
Barry Espenson	CBB
Ruth Burris	PGE
Mike Shapley	Snohomish PUD
Russ Kiefer	Idaho

Jim Litchfield  
Scott Bettin

Montana  
BPA