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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF OREGON  
PORTLAND DIVISION

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, *et al.*

Plaintiffs,

v.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES  
SERVICE, *et al.*

Defendants.



Civil No. 01-640-RE

**PROPOSED ORDER  
FOR 2011 SUMMER  
OPERATIONS**

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Federal Defendants submit the following (Proposed) Order for 2011 summer fish operations for the Federal Columbia River Power System ("FCRPS").

In 2005, this Court granted in part, and denied in part, Plaintiffs' motion for

preliminary injunctive relief seeking to alter FCRPS operations during the spring and summer of 2006. See Doc. 1221. The Court adopted the Federal Defendants' proposals for the amount and timing of spring and summer spill at FCRPS dams with two exceptions. Id. at 11. After commencement of spill, Federal Defendants were directed to provide the court with a monthly written report describing the implementation and progress of the spill program. Id.

Similar spring and summer operations were implemented in 2007 pursuant to an agreement between the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation. See Doc. 1347 at 3. On May 23, 2007, the Court adopted the 2007 operations agreement as an order of the Court. See Opinion and Order (May 23, 2007).

At a December 12, 2007 status conference, Federal Defendants offered to continue the 2007 spring and summer operations if Plaintiffs would agree to not seek a preliminary injunction until after issuance of the 2008 BiOp. In agreeing to work toward this goal, Plaintiffs' recognized that any agreement for 2008 operations "would essentially continue - subject to discussion of limited changes necessary to accommodate new structures and perform essential research - the court-ordered operations from 2007." See Plaintiffs' January 11, 2008 Letter. The 2008 Fish Operations Plan, incorporated into the Court's Order on 2008 Operation, recognized the operational adjustments necessary to perform this research and accommodate

structural changes. See Doc. 1409, Attachment 1. On February 25, 2008, this Court entered the joint proposed order for 2008 spring and summer operations. Doc. 1423.

In a February 18, 2009 letter to counsel, the Court asked Federal Defendants to agree to “continue recent court-ordered spill operations for Spring 2009.” See Doc. 1682 at 2. At the March 6, 2009 hearing, counsel represented that Federal Defendants would abide by the Court’s request to continue court-ordered spring spill operations subject to modifications necessary to accommodate new structures and perform essential research. See Tr. at 167. On April 10, 2009, the Court entered an order adopting the parties proposed order. See Doc. 1694.

On February 19, 2010, the Court entered an order granting Federal Defendants’ request for a limited, voluntary remand and directed Federal Defendants to complete this remand within three months. On May 20, 2010, Federal Defendants submitted a notice of completion of remand and on June 9, 2010, the Court entered a litigation scheduling order for review of the Supplemental Biological Opinion. Doc. 1766. In the interests of maintaining this litigation schedule, Federal Defendants submitted a nearly identical proposed order for 2010 summer operations as they did in 2009, and the Court entered that order on June 14, 2010. See Doc. 1768. Consistent with past practices and in the interests of resolving the merits of this litigation, Federal Defendants have attached a proposed order for 2011 summer fish operations.

THEREFORE, in light of this prior history and in the interests of avoiding further litigation, the undersigned parties stipulate as follows:

1. Scope: The Court's entry of the proposed order on summer 2011 fish operations shall not be construed as a concession or preliminary assessment of the merits of any parties' claim concerning the 2010 Supplemental Biological Opinion, Action Agencies' Amended Records of Decision, 2008 Biological Opinion, Adaptive Management Implementation Plan (AMIP), or Action Agencies' 2008 Records of Decision as set forth in the parties' pending cross-motions for summary judgment and supplemental cross-motions for summary judgment.

2. Operations: FCRPS summer 2011 fish operations shall be conducted as set forth in the 2011 Summer Fish Operations Plan, incorporated herein by reference. To the extent hydro-power operations are not specified in the 2011 Summer Fish Operations Plan, Federal Defendants shall operate the FCRPS consistent with the Supplemental Biological Opinion, 2008 Biological Opinion, and/or other operative documents necessary to implement that Biological Opinion, unless otherwise specified herein.

3. Timing: This Order applies to summer spill operations for 2011 only and shall continue until August 31, 2011, unless this Court issues an opinion on the pending cross-motions and supplemental cross-motions for summary judgment prior to that transition date. If the Court issues an opinion granting, in whole or in part, the plaintiffs' pending motions for summary judgment, this Order shall remain in effect until replaced by a further order of the Court or August 31, 2011. If the Court issues an opinion granting the federal defendants' pending cross-motion for summary judgment, this

Order shall terminate on the date the Court issues such a ruling without prejudice to the right of any party to seek emergency or other appropriate relief in any forum.

4. In-Season Adjustments: As set forth in the 2011 Summer Fish Operations Plan, Federal Defendants will utilize the existing Regional Forum committees to make in-season adjustments.

5. Standard Reporting Requirement: Federal Defendants shall provide the court with a written report describing the implementation of the 2011 Summer Fish Operations Plan, beginning July 15, 2011, and monthly intervals thereafter until satisfaction of the earlier of the conditions in Paragraph 3. Should the agencies encounter a situation similar to that which occurred on April 3, 2007, which the Court characterized as "placing power needs before the needs of listed species", Federal Defendants shall notify the Court and the other parties promptly and shall propose mitigation measures, if any, that may be appropriate as soon as practicable.

6. Emergency Reporting Requirements: Federal Defendants shall take all reasonable and practicable steps to notify the Court and the parties prior to any declared system emergency. If unforeseen circumstances arise that preclude Federal Defendants from notifying the Court and the parties prior to a declared system emergency, they shall report those actions directly to the court as soon as practicable.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 2011.



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James A. Redden  
United States District Judge

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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United States Department of Justice  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to Local Rule Civil 100.13(c), and F.R. Civ. P. 5(d), I certify that on June 13, 2011, the foregoing will be electronically filed with the Court's electronic court filing system, which will generate automatic service upon on all Parties enrolled to receive such notice. The following will be manually served by overnight mail:

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/s/ Michael R. Eitel



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
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June 2011

## **2011 Summer Fish Operations Plan**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The 2011 Summer Fish Operations Plan (FOP) describes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) planned operations for fish passage at its mainstem Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) dams during the 2011 summer fish migration season, generally June through August. The Action Agencies are committed to the summer spill measures and achieving mainstem FCRPS project hydro performance standards contained in the 2010 NOAA Fisheries Supplemental Biological Opinion (2010 Supplemental BiOp)<sup>1</sup> as supported by the BiOp analyses. The Action Agencies are also interested in expeditious resolution of the case challenging these opinions; therefore, for summer 2011, the agencies support adoption of the project operations contained in the Order for 2010 Summer Spill Operations. The 2011 Summer FOP adopts project operations in the Order for 2010 Summer Spill Operations.

The 2011 Summer FOP provides for adaptive management and is consistent with the 2010 Supplemental BiOp and the Corps' Record of Consultation and Statement of Decision Document (ROCASOD) adopting the project operations contained in the 2010 Supplemental BiOp. As in the 2010 Summer FOP, operations described herein may be adjusted to address in-season developments through discussion and coordination with regional sovereigns. Other FCRPS water management actions and project operations not specifically addressed in this document shall be consistent with the 2010 Supplemental BiOp and other guiding operative documents including the 2011 Water Management Plan (WMP), seasonal WMP updates, and the 2011 Fish Passage Plan (FPP).

The following sections describe factors that influence management of fish operations during various runoff conditions, including: total dissolved gas (TDG) management, spillway operations, minimum generation requirements, operations under low flow conditions, navigation safety, juvenile fish transportation operations, specified summer operations for fish at each mainstem project, protocols for fish protection measures related to operational emergencies, coordination with regional entities, and monthly reporting.

### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FISH OPERATIONS**

For planning purposes, the Corps' 2011 Summer FOP assumes above average runoff conditions. As a result of above average runoff, performance standard testing at Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams has been canceled due to a likely inability to

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<sup>1</sup> The 2010 Supplemental BiOp incorporates the NOAA 2008 BiOp

maintain target spill levels during the test period. However, because actual runoff conditions vary in timing and shape and may be higher or lower than average, adjustments in fish transportation and/or spill operations (kcfs discharge levels, spill percentages, or spill caps) will be adaptively managed in-season. These in-season changes will be coordinated through the Technical Management Team (TMT) and other appropriate regional forums, to avoid or minimize poor juvenile or adult fish passage conditions, navigation safety concerns, or to accommodate powerhouse and/or transmission system constraints.

### **Management of Spill for Fish Passage**

The Corps will manage spill for fish passage to avoid exceeding 120% TDG in project tailraces, and 115% TDG in the forebay of the next project downstream.<sup>2</sup> These levels are referred to as “gas caps.” The project maximum spill discharge level that meets, but does not exceed the gas cap, is referred to as the spill cap. Gas caps are constant, whereas spill caps may vary daily depending on flow, spill pattern, temperature, and other environmental conditions.

As noted above, the spill levels presented below in Table 2 are planned spill operations and assume average runoff conditions; however, adjustments to these spill rates may be necessary. Reasons for these adjustments may include:

1. Low runoff conditions that may require adjustments in spill level while still meeting project minimum generation requirements.
2. High runoff conditions where flows exceed the powerhouse hydraulic capacity with the specified spill rates.
3. Navigation safety concerns.
4. Generation unit outages that reduce powerhouse capacity.
5. Power system or other emergencies that reduces powerhouse discharge.
6. Lack of power demand resulting in an increase of spill level.

The Corps’ Reservoir Control Center (RCC) is responsible for daily management of spill operations responsive to changing TDG conditions. In order to manage gas cap spill levels consistent with the states’ TDG saturation limits, the RCC establishes the spill caps for each project on the lower Columbia and Snake rivers on a daily basis throughout the fish passage season. These spill caps are set so that resultant TDG percent saturation levels are not expected to exceed the 120%/115% TDG limits measured as the average of the highest 12 hourly readings each day.

Within any given day, some hours of measured TDG levels may be higher or lower than the gas caps due to changing environmental conditions (wind, air temperature, etc.). The process of establishing daily spill caps entails reviewing existing hourly data at each dam (including flow, spill, temperature, and TDG levels) and taking into consideration a number of forecast conditions (including total river discharge, powerhouse discharge,

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<sup>2</sup> For 2011 summer operations, the Corps will continue to manage TDG to 120% in the tailwater and 115% in the forebay of each mainstem project, consistent with summer 2010 court ordered operations.

wind and temperature forecast, etc.). These data are used as input variables into the System TDG (SYSTDG) model. The SYSTDG model estimates TDG levels expected several days into the future and is a tool integral to daily decision-making when establishing spill caps at individual dams. Spill caps set by RCC and contained in the daily TDG production curves will be met at the projects using the individual project spill pattern(s) contained in the FPP Sections 2 through 9, which most closely correspond to the specified spill level (i.e. may be slightly over or under the specified spill discharge or percent value). During periods when river discharge is greater than project powerhouse hydraulic capacity or a lack of power demand results in an increase in the spill level, the Corps will attempt to minimize TDG on a system-wide basis. In this case, spill caps are also developed for 122%, 125%, 127%, 130%, or 135% saturation as a means of minimizing TDG throughout the system.

The Corps will transition to summer spill operations at 0001 hours, or shortly after midnight, at each of the projects on the start dates specified in the project sections below. Spill caps will be established at the specified levels and will continue unless conditions require changing to maintain TDG within the upper limits of 120% in the tailwater of a dam and 115% in the forebay of the next project downstream (and at Camas/Washougal from July 21 – August 31, following the alternating spill operation at Bonneville Dam). Operations to manage TDG will continue to be coordinated through the TMT.

### **Spillway Operations**

The Action Agencies will meet the specified spill levels to the extent feasible; however, actual hourly spill quantities at dams will be slightly greater or less than specified in Table 2 below. Actual spill levels depend on the precision of spill gate settings, flow variations in real time, varying project head (the elevation difference between a project's forebay and tailwater), automatic load following, and other factors.

#### **Operational Considerations:**

- **Spill discharge levels:** Project spill levels listed in Table 2 coincide with specific gate settings in the FPP project spill pattern tables. Due to limits in the precision of spill gates and control devices, short term flow variations, and head changes, it is not always possible to discharge the exact spill levels stated in Table 2, or as stated in RCC spill requests (teletypes) to projects that call for discrete spill discharges. Therefore, spillway gates are opened to the gate settings identified in the FPP project spill pattern tables to provide spill discharge levels that are the closest to the prescribed spill discharge levels.
- **Spill percentages:** Spill percentages are considered target spill levels. The project control room operator and BPA duty scheduler calculate spill levels to attempt to be within  $\pm 1\%$  of the target percentage for the following hour (or more than  $\pm 1\%$  at The Dalles and Little Goose dams as specified in FPP Sections 3 and 8 spill pattern tables). Prescribed or specified percentages in Table 2 may not always be attained due to low discharge conditions, periods of minimum generation, spill cap limitations,

temporary spill curtailment for navigation safety, and other unavoidable circumstances. Operators and schedulers review the percentages achieved during the day and will attempt to adjust spill rates in later hours if necessary, with the objective of ending the day with a daily average spill percentage that achieves the specified spill percentage.

### **Minimum Generation**

The Corps has identified minimum generation flow values derived from actual generation records when turbines were operating within  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency (Table 1). Values stated in Table 1 are approximations that account for varying head or other small adjustments in turbine unit operation that may result in variations from the reported minimum generation flow and spill amount. Conditions that may result in minor variations include:

1. Varying pool elevation: as reservoirs fluctuate within the operating range, flow rates through the generating unit change.
2. Generating unit governor "dead band": the governor controls the number of megawatts the unit should generate, but cannot precisely control a unit discharge; variations may be 1-2% of generation.
3. System disturbances: once a generator is online and connected to the grid, it responds to changes in system voltage and frequency. These changes may cause the unit to increase discharge and generation slightly within an hour. Individual units operate differently from each other and often have unit specific constraints.
4. Generation control systems regulate megawatt (MW) generation only; not discharge through individual turbine units.

All of the lower Snake River powerhouses may be required to keep one generating unit on line at all times for power system reliability under low river discharge conditions, which may result in a reduction of spill at that project. All of the Snake River projects have two "families" of turbines with slightly different capacities – small and large. In most cases during low flow conditions, one of the smaller turbine units (with reduced generation and flow capabilities) will be online. The smaller turbine units are generally numbered 1–3 and are the first priority for operation during the fish passage season. If smaller turbine units are unavailable, larger units may be used instead. At Little Goose, turbine unit 1, the first priority unit during fish passage, typically operates near the upper end of the  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range for the purpose of providing tailrace conditions that are favorable for juvenile and adult fish passage.

During low river discharge events, generally the operating unit runs at the lower end of the  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range. However, at Lower Monumental, turbine unit 1, which is the first priority unit during fish passage, has welded blades and consequently cannot operate at the low end of the design range. Ice Harbor turbine units cannot be operated at the lower end of the  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range. At generation levels near the lower end of the  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range, excessive cavitation occurs, which can damage the turbine runner and also be detrimental to fish. Therefore, Ice Harbor turbine units

will operate at a generation level somewhat higher than the lower  $\pm 1\%$  limit. Additionally, Ice Harbor unit 2 has welded blades affecting minimum generation for that unit. Minimum generation flow ranges at McNary, John Day, and The Dalles are 50-60 kcfs; and 30-40 kcfs at Bonneville as shown in Table 1.

Table 1.— Minimum generation ranges for turbine units at the four lower Snake and four lower Columbia River dams.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Turbine Units</b>	<b>Minimum Generation (kcfs)</b>
Lower Granite	1-3	11.3-13.1
	4-6	13.5-14.5
Little Goose	1-3	11.3-13.1
	4-6	13.5-14.5
Lower Monumental	1	16.5-19.5
	2-3	11.3-13.1
	4-6	13.5-14.5
Ice Harbor	1, 3-6	8.5-10.3
	2	11.3-13.1
McNary	N/A	50-60
John Day	N/A	50-60
The Dalles	N/A	50-60
Bonneville	N/A	30-40

**Low Flow Operations**

Low flow operations at lower Snake River projects are triggered when inflow is not sufficient to meet both minimum generation requirements and planned spill levels in Table 2. In these situations, Snake River projects will operate one turbine unit at minimum generation and spill the remainder of flow coming into the project. Columbia River projects will also operate at minimum generation and pass remaining inflow as spill down to minimum spill levels under low flow conditions. As flows transition from higher flows to low flows, there may be situations when flows recede at a higher rate than forecasted. In addition, inflows provided by non-Federal projects upstream are often variable and uncertain. The combination of these factors may result in instances where unanticipated changes to inflow result in forebay elevations dropping to the low end of the Minimum Operating Pool (MOP). Consequently, maintaining minimum generation and the target spill may not be possible on every hour since these projects have limited operating flexibility.

During low flow conditions when the navigation lock is being emptied at some projects, the total spill volume remains constant, but the spill reported as a percent of total flow may be temporarily reduced below the target spill percentage. This occurs because the volume of water needed to empty the navigation lock during periods of low flow is a greater percentage of the total flow than when river flows are higher.

At Little Goose Dam, when daily average flows in the lower Snake River are  $\leq 32$  kcfs, achieving 30% spill requires switching turbine operations between operating 2 units at the low end of the  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range to operating one unit at the high end of the  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range. This operation is incompatible with the more constant discharge upstream at Lower Granite Dam. It is also often difficult to achieve the FOP prescribed spill level downstream at Lower Monumental Dam and maintain MOP operations. In 2010, through coordination with TMT during low flow periods, Little Goose spill operations changed from 30% to a flat spill level of approximately 7-11 kcfs to smooth out Little Goose discharges, meet Lower Monumental spill levels, and maintain the MOP operating range at Little Goose. In accordance with the 2011 FPP Section 8 spill pattern tables, when daily average discharge drops below 35 kcfs in the summer while the spillway weir (SW) is installed at the high crest position and flow is forecast to remain below 35 kcfs for at least three days, the SW will be closed for the remainder of the spill season. Spillway weir removal allows allow finer control of spill discharge during periods of low river discharge. If necessary in 2011, additional operational adjustments at Little Goose may be implemented during low flow periods after coordination with FPOM/TMT.

### **Operations during Rapid Load Changes**

Project operations during hours in which load and/or intermittent generation changes rapidly may result in not meeting planned hourly spill level because projects must be available to respond to within-hour load variability to satisfy North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) reserve requirements (“on response”). This usually occurs at McNary, John Day and The Dalles dams. In addition to within-hour load variability, projects on response must be able to respond to within hour changes that result from intermittent generation (such as wind generation). During periods of rapidly changing loads and intermittent generation, projects on response may have significant changes in turbine discharge within the hour while the spill quantity remains the same within the hour. Under normal conditions, within-hour load changes occur mostly on hours immediately preceding and after the peak load hours, however, within-hour changes in intermittent generation can occur at any hour of the day. Due to the high variability of within-hour load and intermittent generation, these load swing hours may have a greater instance of reporting actual spill percentages that vary more than the  $\pm 1\%$  requirement than other hours.

### **Turbine Unit Testing around Maintenance Outages**

Turbine units may be operationally tested for up to 30 minutes by running the unit at speed no load and various loads within the  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range to allow pre-maintenance measurements and testing and to allow all fish to move through the unit. Units may be operationally tested after maintenance or repair efforts but before a unit comes out of a maintenance or forced outage status. Operational testing may consist of running the unit for up to 30 minutes before it is returned to operational status. Operational testing of a unit under maintenance is in addition to a unit in run status (e.g. minimum generation) required for power plant reliability. Operational testing may

deviate from unit operating priorities and may use water that would otherwise be used for spill if the running unit for reliability is at the bottom of the  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range. Water will be used from the powerhouse allocation if possible, and water diverted from spill for operational testing will be minimized. The Corps will coordinate this testing with the region through the FPOM.

### **Navigation Safety**

Short-term adjustments in spill may be required for navigation safety, primarily at the lower Snake projects, but may also be necessary at the lower Columbia projects. This may include changes in spill patterns, reductions in spill discharge rates, or short-term spill stoppages. In addition, unsteady flow at Little Goose and Ice Harbor dams during low flow conditions may impact those projects' reservoir elevation and cause inadequate navigation depths at the downstream entrances to the Lower Granite and Lower Monumental navigation locks. Therefore, adjustments to pool elevation in the Little Goose pool and Ice Harbor pool, of up to 1.0 ft. above the MOP operating range may be necessary to accommodate safe entrance to the navigation locks at Lower Granite and Lower Monumental dams during periods of low flow (approximately 50 kcfs or less) and will be coordinated in TMT. These adjustments may be necessary for both commercial tows and fish barges. Additionally, to accommodate safe navigation, the Lower Granite pool will be operated up to MOP+2 ft. depending on river flow. This operation was requested through System Operational Request (SOR) 2011-01 during implementation of the 2011 Spring FOP, and coordinated through the TMT on March 31, 2011 available here: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/sor/2011/>

This operation will continue through the remainder of MOP operations in 2011.

### **JUVENILE FISH TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM OPERATIONS**

The following describes the juvenile fish transportation program under all runoff conditions and is consistent with the 2010 Summer FOP transport operations. The lower Snake River projects are described first, followed by McNary project operations. Detailed descriptions of project and transport facility operations, including the transition from barges to trucks when fish numbers decrease in the summer, are contained in FPP Appendix B.

#### **Lower Snake River Dams - Operation and Timing**

The 2011 Spring FOP provides information about the initiation of transport at the lower Snake River collector projects. Summer transport operations at the lower Snake River collector projects will continue as specified in the Order for 2010 Summer Spill Operations. Starting on or about August 15, fish will be transported by truck, dependant on numbers of subyearling Chinook collected. Transport operations will be carried out concurrent with FOP spill operations at each project and in accordance with all relevant FPP operating criteria. Fish transportation operations for the lower Snake River collector projects are described in FPP Appendix B.

Fish transportation operations are expected to continue through approximately October 31 at Lower Granite and Little Goose dams, and through September 30 at Lower Monumental Dam. Transportation operations may be adjusted due to research, conditions at the collection facilities, or through the adaptive management process to better match juvenile outmigration timing or achieve/maintain performance standards.

### **McNary Dam - Operation and Timing**

Transportation will be initiated at McNary Dam between July 15–30 per the 2010 Supplemental BiOp (RPA 30, Table 4) and in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and the TMT. Fish will be transported from McNary Dam by barge through August 16, then transported by truck every other day. All fish collected will be transported except those marked for in-river studies. Fish are expected to be transported through September 30. The presence of factors such as excess shad, algae or bryozoans that can clog screens and flumes may result in discontinuing transport operations at McNary Dam before September 30. Detailed criteria for McNary transport are contained in the FPP, Appendix B.

Transportation operations may be adjusted for research purposes, due to conditions at the collection facilities, or as a result of the adaptive management process (to better match juvenile outmigration timing and/or to achieve or maintain performance standards). If new information indicates that modifying (or eliminating) transportation operations at McNary Dam is warranted, adaptive management will be used to make appropriate adjustments through coordination with the FPOM/TMT.

## **SUMMER SPILL OPERATIONS**

### **Lower Snake River Projects**

Summer spill will begin on June 21 at Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams and continue through August 31 at all four Snake River projects. Summer spill levels are shown in Table 2.

### **Lower Columbia River Projects**

Summer spill will begin June 16 at Bonneville Dam, June 20 at McNary Dam, and July 1 at John Day and The Dalles dams and continue through August 31 at all four Columbia River projects. Summer spill levels are shown in Table 2.

## **PROJECT SUMMER OPERATIONS**

The following sections describe 2011 summer spill operations for each project. The Corps, regional fishery agencies, and Tribes are interested in the continuation of project research studies under the Corps' Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program (AFEP). These studies have been evaluated through the annual AFEP review process with the regional fishery agencies and Tribes, with the study designs being finalized prior to initiation in

2011. The studies are intended to provide further information on project survival that will help inform the region in making decisions on future operation and configuration actions to improve fish passage and survival and meet BiOp performance standards at the lower Snake and Columbia River dams. The current river flow forecast indicates much higher than normal river flow conditions will likely limit the ability to conduct all research as planned. In the event that actual river flow conditions change, the Action Agencies, in collaboration with regional sovereigns, will consider whether continuing any planned research is warranted.

Table 2.— Summary of 2011 summer spill levels at lower Snake and Columbia River projects.<sup>3</sup>

<b>Project</b>	<b>Planned 2011 Summer Spill Operations (Day/Night)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Lower Granite	18 kcfs/18 kcfs	Same as 2010
Little Goose	30%/30%	Same as 2010
Lower Monumental	17 kcfs/17 kcfs	Same as 2010
Ice Harbor	<b>June 21-July 13:</b> 30%/30% vs. 45 kcfs/Gas Cap <b>July 13-August 31:</b> 45 kcfs/Gas Cap (approximate Gas Cap range: 75-95 kcfs)	Same as 2010
McNary	50%/50%	Same as 2010
John Day	<b>July 1-July 20:</b> 30%/30% and 40%/40% <b>July 20-August 31:</b> 30%/30%	Same as 2010
The Dalles	40%/40%	Same as 2010
Bonneville	<b>June 16-July 20:</b> 85 kcfs/121 kcfs and 95 kcfs/95 kcfs <b>July 21-August 31:</b> 75 kcfs/Gas Cap	Same as 2010

### **Lower Granite**

**Summer Spill Operations June 21 – August 31:** 18 kcfs 24 hours per day. Spill patterns as described in FPP Section 9 will be used in 2011.

#### **Changes in Operations for Research Purposes:**

- Summer research operations: There will be no special spill operations for research in 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Table 2 displays in summary form the planned summer spill operations. More specific detail governing project operations is included in project specific sections.

### **Operational Considerations:**

- Lack of power load or unexpected unit outages could cause involuntary spill at higher total river discharges that could result in exceeding the gas cap limits.
- During periods when involuntary spill occurs, there may be instances when certain spill levels create hydraulic conditions that are unsafe for fish barges crossing the tailrace and/or while moored at fish loading facilities. If such conditions occur, spill may be reduced temporarily when fish transport barges approach or leave the barge dock or are moored at loading facilities. If conditions warrant a spill reduction, the MOP elevation range at Lower Granite will be exceeded temporarily to enable the barge to exit the tailrace safely.
- Unit outages may occur for required or emergency unscheduled maintenance activities described in FPP Appendix A. Dates are subject to change.

### **Little Goose**

**Summer Spill Operations June 21 – August 31:** 30% spill 24 hours per day. Spill patterns as described in FPP Section 8 will be used in 2011.

### **Changes in Operations for Research Purposes:**

- Summer research operations: There will be no special spill operations for research in 2011.

### **Operational Considerations:**

- Daily average flows in the lower Snake River of  $\leq 32$  kcfs can result in discharge rates from Little Goose Dam that are incompatible with operations and may cause spill quantity fluctuations at Lower Monumental Dam. Alternative Little Goose operations to resolve this issue are described in the Low Flow Operations section above and will be coordinated through the FPOM/TMT.
- Unit outages may occur for required or emergency unscheduled maintenance activities described in FPP Appendix A. Dates are subject to change.
- Turbine Unit 1 Operation: In 2011, operating range will be set within the GDACS program for Little Goose Dam to restrict Turbine Unit 1 operation to approximately the upper 25% of the 1% of best efficiency range (about 16-17.5 kcfs). If low flow conditions occur in the summer, the full  $\pm 1\%$  of best efficiency range may be restored to minimize impact on spill levels.

### **Lower Monumental**

**Summer Spill Operations Approximately June 21 – August 31:** 17 kcfs 24 hours per day. Spill patterns as described in FPP Section 7 will be used in 2011.

### **Changes in Operations for Research Purposes:**

- Summer research operations: There will be no special spill operations for research in 2011.

### **Operational Considerations:**

- Consistent with adjustments made in 2011 spring operations, when total river flow is likely to exceed turbine capacity and spill over the 120% TDG spill cap (occurs at a total river flow of ~140 kcfs) for three or more days, the project will use the uniform spill pattern. This may also occur if spill over the 120% TDG spill cap is required due to “lack of demand” spill at any river flow level. See Corps’ Summary of Decision on SOR 2011-02 at: [http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2011/0511\\_Agenda.html](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2011/0511_Agenda.html)
- Daily average flows of  $\leq 32$  kcfs can result in incompatible operations with Little Goose Dam and may cause spill quantity fluctuations.
- Transit of the juvenile fish barge across the Lower Monumental tailrace, then docking at and departing from the fish collection facility, may require spill level to be reduced due to safety concerns. The towboat captain may request that spill level be reduced or eliminated during transit. During juvenile fish loading operations, spill is typically reduced to 15 kcfs, but can be reduced further if necessary for safety reasons. Barge loading duration can be up to 3.5 hours. Because of the time needed to complete loading at Lower Monumental, the Little Goose Project personnel will notify the Lower Monumental personnel when the fish barge departs from Little Goose. This ensures that BPA scheduling is provided advance notice for spill control at Lower Monumental Dam. Reducing spill may cause the Lower Monumental pool to briefly operate outside of MOP conditions.
- Unit outages may occur for required or emergency unscheduled maintenance activities described in FPP Appendix A. Dates are subject to change.

### **Ice Harbor**

**Summer Spill Operations June 21 – August 31:** Spill operations will continue from spring at 30% 24 hours per day vs. 45 kcfs day/Gas Cap night until July 13 at 0500 hours, then 45 kcfs day/Gas Cap night through August 31. Spill patterns as described in FPP Section 6 will be used in 2011.

### **Changes in Operations for Research Purposes:**

- Summer research operations: There will be no special spill operations for research in 2011.

### **Operational Considerations:**

- Spill operation treatments may be rearranged within a week throughout the season. If rearrangement of treatment occurs, the total number of each spill level treatment for

the spring season will not change. The flexibility to rearrange treatments during periods of higher power demand may alleviate the need to declare a power emergency.

- Unit outages may occur for required or emergency unscheduled maintenance activities described in FPP Appendix A. Dates are subject to change.

### **McNary**

**Summer Spill Operations June 20 – August 31:** 50% spill 24 hours per day without spillway weirs, using the spill patterns contained in Table MCN-10 in FPP section 5.

#### **Changes in Operations for Research Purposes:**

Summer research operations: There will be no special spill operations for research in 2011. Nighttime velocity reduction testing on adult lamprey may be initiated in mid-June in the Oregon shore ladder to test entrance and passage success.

#### **Operational Considerations:**

- Spill will be curtailed as needed to allow safe operation of fish transportation barges near collection facilities downstream of the project.
- Unit outages may occur for required or emergency unscheduled maintenance activities described in FPP Appendix A. Dates are subject to change.

### **John Day**

**Summer Spill Operations July 1 – August 31:** Spill operations will continue from spring at 30% and 40% spill 24 hours per day and continue through approximately July 20. Spill levels will alternate in a four-day block with two-day treatments (30% or 40% spill). Spill treatment changes will occur at 0600 hours. Once the alternating spill treatment schedule concludes, 30% spill 24 hours per day will continue July 20 through August 31. Spill patterns contained in FPP section 4 will be used during summer.

#### **Changes in Operations for Research Purposes:**

- Summer research operations: Performance standard testing at 30% and 40% spill planned for summer 2011 at John Day Dam has been canceled due to expected high river flow.

#### **Operational Considerations:**

- Spill operation treatments may be rearranged within a week throughout the season. If rearrangement of treatment occurs, the total number of each spill level treatment for the spring season will not change. The flexibility to rearrange treatments during periods of higher power demand may alleviate the need to declare a power emergency

- Unit outages may occur for required or emergency unscheduled maintenance activities described in FPP Appendix A. Dates are subject to change.

### **The Dalles**

**Summer Spill Operations July 1 – August 31:** 40% spill 24 hours per day. Spill patterns developed for use with the new spillwall and included in FPP section 3 will be used.

#### **Changes in Operations for Research Purposes:**

- Summer research operations: Performance standard testing at 40% spill during summer 2011 at The Dalles Dam has been canceled due to expected high river flow.

#### **Operational Considerations:**

- At no time is spill recommended on the south side of the spillway (Bays 14-22) as this creates a poor tailrace egress condition for spillway-passed fish.
- Spill bays 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, and 23 are not operational due to wire rope, structural and concrete erosion concerns.
- Unit outages may occur for required or emergency unscheduled maintenance activities described in FPP Appendix A. Dates are subject to change.

### **Bonneville**

**Summer Spill Operations June 16 – August 31:** Summer spill operations will alternate every two days between 85 kcfs/121 kcfs and 95 kcfs 24 hours per day. The alternating operation will begin at 0430 hours approximately June 16 and continue through July 20. Spill changes will occur according the daytime spill schedule contained in Table BON-5 in FPP section 2. Following the alternating spill operation, a 75 kcfs/Gas Cap operation will begin on July 21 and continue through August 31. Spill patterns in FPP section 2 will be used.

#### **Changes in Operations for Research Purposes:**

- Summer research operations: Performance standard testing during summer 2011 at Bonneville Dam has been canceled due to expected high river flow.
- Spill duration for alternating spill operation: Approximately June 16 – July 20. Spill at 85 kcfs/121 kcfs and/or 95kcfs/95 kcfs will be unconstrained by the Camas/Washougal fixed monitoring TDG station.

#### **Operational Considerations:**

- The current minimum spill level is 50 kcfs per prior Fish Operations Plans and Fish Passage Plans. In view of the best biological information, alternative minimum spill

operations are currently being examined. If an alternative minimum spill operation is developed, changes will be coordinated through regional processes.

- Actual kcfs spill levels at Bonneville Dam may range up to 3 kcfs lower or higher than levels specified in Table 2. A number of factors influence this including hydraulic efficiency, exact gate opening calibration, spillway gate hoist cable stretch due to temperature changes, and forebay elevation (a higher forebay results in a greater volume of spill since more water can pass under the spill gate).
- The second powerhouse corner collector (5 kcfs discharge) will operate until the afternoon of August 31.
- Unit outages may occur for required or emergency unscheduled maintenance activities described in FPP Appendix A. Dates are subject to change.
- High river flow and excessive debris load at the second powerhouse may require removal of submersible traveling screens (STSs) and vertical barrier screens (VBSs) according to criteria described in FPP Section 2 in coordination with the FPOM.
- Pending further coordination with regional sovereigns, implement an extended turbine operation range at powerhouse one (from 7.3-9.8 kcfs to 7.5-11.5 kcfs). This expands the current operating range of powerhouse one turbine units to a “best geometry” configuration which may be beneficial for juvenile salmonids passing powerhouse one.

## **COORDINATION**

To make adjustments in response to changes in conditions, the Corps will utilize the existing regional coordination committees. Changes in spill rates when flow conditions are higher or lower than anticipated will be coordinated through the TMT. This could include potential issues and adjustments to the juvenile fish transportation program. Spill patterns and biological testing protocols that have not been coordinated to date will be finalized through the Corps’ AFEP subcommittees, which include the SRWG, FPOM, and FFDRWG.

## **REPORTING**

The Corps will provide periodic in-season updates to TMT members on the implementation of 2011 fish passage operations. The updates will include the following information:

- the hourly flow through the powerhouse
- the hourly flow over the spillway compared to the spill target for that hour
- the resultant 12-hour average TDG for the tailwater at each project and for the next project’s forebay downstream

The updates will also provide information on substantial issues that arise as a result of the spill program (e.g. Little Goose adult passage issues in 2005 and 2007), and will address any emergency situations that arise. The Corps will continue to provide the following data to the public regarding project flow, spill rate, TDG level, and water temperature.

- Flow and spill quantity data for the lower Snake and Columbia River dams are posted to the following website every hour:  
<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/report/projdata.htm>
- Water Quality: TDG and water temperature data are posted to the following website every hour: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/report/total.html>. These data are received via satellite from fixed monitoring sites in the Columbia and Snake rivers every hour, and placed on a Corps public website upon receipt. Using the hourly TDG readings for each station in the lower Snake and Columbia rivers, the Corps will calculate both the twelve highest hourly (OR method) and highest consecutive twelve-hour average (WA method) TDG levels daily for each station. These averages are reported at:  
[http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/ftppub/water\\_quality/12hr/wa/](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/ftppub/water_quality/12hr/wa/)