

**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR  
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

**COORDINATION TITLE** – 15WVP01 Use of Power Pool

**COORDINATION DATE**- 20 August 2015

**PROJECT**- Willamette Valley Projects

**RESPONSE DATE** - 22 September 2015

**Description of the problem**

Limited water supply may necessitate use of water stored in the Willamette Valley power pools to maintain minimum tributary streamflows. Flows below BiOp minimums have been previously coordinated throughout the dry season to save stored water. Despite this effort, forecasts indicate a high likelihood of drafting Willamette Valley reservoirs to their minimum conservation pools in the early fall. If fall rain does not develop, the plan is to use power pool water to maintain minimum streamflows.

**Type of outage/operation required**

Use of stored water in power pools.

**Impact on facility operation**

Should drought conditions persist, diminished generation or a complete lack of generation may reduce the voltage support that the Hills Creek/Look Out Point/Dexter system provides to the transmission system in the southern Willamette Valley. This is most likely to occur if there is a cold snap in October or November when the power pools will be drafted.

**Dates of impacts/repairs/operation**

Use of power pools will begin as reservoirs are drafted to minimum conservation pool this fall (late Sep/early Oct). The Corps will operate to prioritize maintaining generation in the Hills Creek/Look Out Point/Dexter system within the context of maintaining flows for ESA-listed species for as long as possible if dry conditions continue.

**Expected impacts to fish**

The operation will benefit ESA listed fish by maintaining streamflows during the drought.

**Comments from agencies**

-----Original Message-----

From: Spear, Daniel J (BPA) - PGB-5 [mailto:djspear@bpa.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 3:30 PM

To: Scullion, Mary K NWP; Nicholas, Laurie A NWP

Cc: Chane, Ian B NWP; Walker, Christopher NWP; Petersen, Erik S NWP;

BPA Scott Bettin; Teed, Tina J NWP; Taylor, Gregory A NWP; Wells,

Elizabeth R NWP; Bengtson, Dustin E NWP; Turner, Daniel F NWP; Tackley,

Kathryn; Sweet, Jason C (BPA) - KEWR-4

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Willamette generation. power pool flows, SOR  
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Hi Mary-Karen:

BPA concurs with the SOR to draft into the Power Pools in the fall, if necessary, to maintain conservation flows for ESA-listed fish downstream.

As I noted in my earlier e-mail, in analyzing the proposal we learned that reaching MCP may have transmission impacts. If at all possible within the confines of maintained conservation flows, we would like to see generation extended as long as possible at HCR and LOP in order to maintain voltage support in the southern Willamette Valley should drought conditions persist.

I have attached a few edits to the SOR description in the word document.

Thank you for coordinating this operation.

Have a good weekend.

Dan Spear

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Domingue - NOAA Federal  
[mailto:richard.domingue@noaa.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 4:32 PM  
To: Walker, Christopher NWP; Elise Kelley; Anne Mullan - NOAA Federal;  
Stephanie Burchfield - NOAA Federal  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: 2015 drought, streamflows, and power pool

Chris, NMFS would like to get good spawning flows (1,200 or so) downstream from Foster and Big Cliff during Chinook spawning. Given the heat, spawning may not begin early this year. We accepted lower flows during steelhead spawning in part to provide a higher probability of providing good spawning conditions for Chinook this fall. For our next meeting, could the Corps model an operation that provides 1,200 from Sept 15 to Oct 15 at both locations and BiOp incubation flows thereafter to see where the reservoirs would be on Oct 15?

We very much appreciate the Corps' and BPA's willingness to dig into the power pools to meet agreed-upon discharge rates and wholly support the operation.

I am sure you are familiar with "normal" el Nino outcomes - a fairly dry winter - so there is a fair chance we'll be doing this dance again next year.

On Thu, Aug 20, 2015 at 3:03 PM, Walker, Christopher NWP  
<Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil> wrote:

FYI - Limited water supply may necessitate the use of water stored in the Willamette Valley power pools to maintain minimum tributary streamflows. Forecasts indicate a high likelihood of drafting WV reservoirs to their minimum conservation pools in the fall. If fall rain does not develop, the plan is to use power pool water to continue minimum streamflows.

Please contact me with any questions.

Chris Walker

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Operations Division  
Fish Biologist  
w: 503-808-4316  
c: 503-887-6452

---

## **Final results**

If fall rain does not develop, power pool storage will be used to maintain minimum streamflows.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Chris Walker  
NWP Operations Division Fishery Section  
503.808.4316  
[Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil](mailto:Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil)