

## COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

February 2, 2022

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz & Colby Mills, DS Consulting

*The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions, and actions, as well as point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings; it is not intended to be the "record" of the meeting. Official minutes can be found on the TMT website: <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2022/>. Suggested edits for the summary are welcome and can be sent to Colby at [colby@dsconsult.co](mailto:colby@dsconsult.co).*

### Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes

TMT Members approved the facilitator's summaries for the January 5 and 19 meetings; official meeting minutes from the January 5, 19 and 26 meetings, as well as the facilitator's summary from January 26, will be reviewed at the next TMT meeting.

### Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps, reported on the chum operation. As coordinated through TMT, the incubation phase is being implemented (since December 24, 2021). During the incubation phase the Bonneville Dam will operate to a minimum tailwater elevation of 13 feet all hours. This operation will continue through April 9, until the beginning of spring spill on April 10, unless otherwise coordinated at TMT. Bonneville tailwater elevation was 17.10 feet, with a total outflow of 206.40 kcfs this morning.

Official Water Supply Forecasts (WSF) will be posted on the TMT website by close of business on February 3 and will be reviewed at the next TMT meeting on February 16. Tony Norris, BPA, noted that information on redd elevations will also be presented at the February 16 TMT meeting.

### Zero Generation

Tony reported that conditions have been temperate since the cold period in December 2021. As such, zero generation operations have not been implemented since December.

### Power System Emergency Action Plan: Contingency Actions List

Tony reported that BPA received comments from Salmon Managers on the Contingency Actions List in the Power System Emergency Actions Plan. BPA will review the recommendations and follow up with Jonathan Ebel, FPAC Chair, if there are questions or recommendations that are not incorporated.

Tony reminded the group that the Contingency Actions List includes the very last potential steps taken prior to having to shed load and shut lights off. He followed up on a TMT request for more information on the WECC processes that lead to the need for the WECC emergency alert levels; the link to the Standard EOP-002-2 Capacity and Energy Emergencies is posted to the TMT website.

### Operations Review

*Reservoirs:* Joel Fenolio, Reclamation, reported on Bureau of Reclamation projects:

- **Grand Coulee:** midnight elevation was 1,277.2 feet, with average releases last night of 128,000 cfs, and flows of 120 kcfs.
- **Hungry Horse:** midnight elevation was 3,542.2 feet, dropped releases to 3 kcfs, and will drop further to target Columbia Falls minimums this weekend or early next week. Inflows are averaging at 1 kcfs.

Lisa Wright, Corps, reported on Corps of Engineers projects:

- **Libby:** midnight elevation was 2,383.7 feet, with average inflows of 6.6 kcfs, and outflows of 15 kcfs;
- **Albeni Falls:** midnight elevation was 2,051.2 feet, with average inflows of 14 kcfs, and outflows of 12 kcfs;
- **Dworshak:** midnight elevation was 1,525.8 feet, with average inflows of 1.7 kcfs, and outflows of 6.2 kcfs.

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- **Lower Granite:** average outflows of 29 kcfs;
- **McNary:** average outflows of 186 kcfs; and,
- **Bonneville:** average outflows of 198 kcfs.

*Water Quality:* Dan Turner, Corps, reported that generally water quality has been good; TDG values at McNary Dam did exceed 110% yesterday from lack of turbine capacity spill.

*Fish:* Claire McGrath, NOAA, reported that Bonneville is the only project with adult counts now; video counts indicate low numbers of steelhead (205 total in January).

Dave Swank, USFWS, reported on bull trout counts for 2021 (data available on DART/ FPC website). There was a net total of 8 counted bull trout at Corps projects: 3 at Little Goose (1 each in April, May, November), 3 at Lower Granite (2 in June, 1 in July), and 2 at Lower Monumental (1 each in May, June). Dave noted that these numbers are low compared to counts at projects in the upper Columbia River; Rock Island counted 26; Rocky Reach, 60; and Wells, 30.

*Power System:* Tony reported that temperatures have been cool, but generally mild. He noted that on BPA's Balancing Authority data graph, the green line formerly labeled "wind" is now labeled "VER," which is the official term for Variable Energy Resources (inclusive to wind and any other variable energy resources on the system).

**Questions or comments from members of the public:** there were no questions or comments from members of the public

**The next scheduled TMT meeting is a conference call on February 16, 2022, at 9:00 AM.**

## **Columbia River Regional Forum**

### **Technical Management Team**

### **OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**February 2, 2022**

**Minutes: Melissa Haskin, BPA (contractor, FLUX Resources)**

Today's TMT meeting was held via conference call and WebEx, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. A list of today's attendees is available at the end of these minutes.

#### **1. Review of Official Minutes and Summaries**

The facilitator's summary from the January 5 and January 19 meetings were approved with no additional edits. Minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

#### **2. Chum Operation – Doug Baus, Corps**

Doug Baus, Corps updated the TMT on chum operations coordinated at TMT and available on the TMT website. As coordinated, the chum operation transitioned from spawning to incubation on December 24 at 0001 hours with a Bonneville Dam minimum tailwater elevation of 13 feet at all hours. Incubation will continue until the start of spring spill on April 10, unless coordinated otherwise at TMT.

There have been no changes to the operation since the last update.

The Bonneville Dam tailwater elevation at 0600 was 17.1 ft. Outflow was 206.4 kcsf.

Baus commented that the official February water supply forecasts will be posted by the end of the day tomorrow, February 3, and on the agenda for the next TMT meeting.

Norris will provide information on redd elevation at the next TMT.

#### **3. Zero Generation – Tony Norris, BPA**

Tony Norris, BPA, reviewed the current summary of zero generation usage from December 17, 2021, through February 1, 2022. There is not much to report since the last meeting. The operation has not been utilized since the cold snap ended January 8. Weather conditions have been temperate, he noted.

#### **4. Power System Emergency Action Plan - Contingency Actions List – Tony Norris, BPA**

Norris reported on the Power System Emergency Action Plan Contingency Actions List. The list is available on the TMT website and is used as a last resort. The steps indicated in the action plan are the last actions taken to avoid interrupting transmission and power delivery to the region.

Last month, Tony requested comments on the actions list. BPA did receive comments from salmon managers. Requested changes will be implemented as best possible. BPA has some additional questions, which will be addressed offline with salmon managers. Should there be a request BPA cannot implement, Tony will coordinate with the FPAC chair. Tony reminded the group that BPA needs the list prior to the start of spill season.

The last time the list was visited at TMT, there were some questions about how the decision is made to implement the list. Tony provided a link to Appendix 1 of the Water Management Plan

as well as information on the definitions used for emergencies. He linked to the WECC reliability standard operations for emergencies list, for those who wanted additional information.

## 5. Operations Review

### 5a. Reservoirs – Joel Fenolio, Reclamation; Lisa Wright, Corps

#### Reclamation projects:

**Grand Coulee** – Midnight elevation 1,277.2 ft. Average outflows 128 kcfs and inflows 120 kcfs. **Hungry Horse** – Midnight elevation 3,542.2 ft.; releases were dropped to 3 kcfs and will be dropped to Columbia Falls minimums over the weekend or sometime early next week. Inflows have been near 1 kcfs.

**Corps Projects: Libby Dam** – Midnight elevation 2,383.7 ft., yesterday’s average inflows 6.6 kcfs and outflows 15 kcfs. **Albeni Falls** – Midnight elevation 2,051.2 ft., inflows 14 kcfs and outflows 12 kcfs. **Dworshak Dam** – Midnight elevation 1,525.8 ft., inflows 1.7 kcfs, and outflows 6.2 kcfs. **Lower Granite** – Yesterday’s average outflows were 29 kcfs. **McNary Dam** – Yesterday’s average outflows were 186 kcfs. **Bonneville Dam** – Yesterday’s average outflows were 198 kcfs.

### 5b. Water Quality – Dan Turner, Corps

TDG is below the 110% water quality criteria, except McNary exceeded 110% yesterday due to forced spill from lack of turbine capacity.

### 5c. Fish – McGrath

**Adults:** Adult counts are currently only being conducted at Bonneville Dam. Video counts are indicating low numbers of steelhead passing Bonneville. So far this year, 205 have been counted. Dave Swank, USFWS, reported on bull trout counts for 2021, as reported on DART. A total of 8 bull trout were counted: 3 at Little Goose (1 in April, 1 in May, and 1 in November), 3 at Lower Granite (2 in June and 1 in July), and 2 at Lower Monumental (1 in May and 1 in June). These numbers are low compared to upper Columbia projects such as Rock Island (26 counted), Rocky Reach (60 counted), and Wells (30 counted). It is typical to have low numbers, he added.

### 5d. Power – Norris

Tony showed the graph of “BPA Balancing Authority Load and Total VER, Hydro, Fossil/Biomass, Nuclear Generation, and Net Interchange” and pointed out that the green line previously labeled “Wind” is now “VER” for variable energy resources which accounts for wind and any other variable energy resources on the system. Temperatures have been mild, lately.

### Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Claire McGrath, Trevor Conder
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill

<b>Agency</b>	<b>TMT Representative</b>
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	
Colville Tribe	Kirk Truscott
Warm Springs Tribe	Jen Graham
Kootenai Tribe	
Spokane Tribe	

**Other Attendees (non-TMT members):**

Corps –Aaron Marshall, Dan Turner, Willow Walker, Jon Roberts, Leon Basdekas, Scott St. John

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

BPA – Melissa Haskin (CONTR, FLUX Resources, Notetaker)

Oregon DEQ – Marilyn Fonseca

Snohomish PUD – Jesse Preuss

Chelan PUD – Jay Finch