

**COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

September 21, 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 official meeting minutes and facilitator's summaries from September 7.

**Steelhead Spill Operations** – Dan Turner, Corps, reported that the Corps Walla Walla district will take over TDG gauge maintenance from USGS for all gauges within the district (lower Snake and into the lower Columbia). Dan doesn't anticipate this shift to result in any changes in data frequency and entry into the database, or generated reports. The only change of note is that data will no longer be available on the USGS website. TMT Members are welcome to contact Dan with any questions about how to use the public-facing data viewing/analyzing tools. Temperature gauges located with the TDG gauges will also shift to the Corps network. However, it was noted that USGS will continue to record temperature data at Anatone.

Regarding steelhead spill operations, the default operation of 4-hour spill blocks for 3 days/week has resulted in TDG exceedances at some projects. Those still on the 4-hour blocks include Little Goose, Ice Harbor, and McNary. Lower Granite saw exceedances and so spill had been split into two 2-hour blocks for 3 days/week; the Corps is considering one 2-hour block for 6 days/week if there are continued exceedances. Lower Monumental is operating with a soft constraint on the forebay, between 537-538 feet, to reduce flow over the surface weir. This has brought down TDG to 110-111%. Dan noted that the Corps generally waits until there have been 2 days of exceedances in a row before trying a different operation, as well as 2 days in a row below 110% TDG before reverting back to original operations.

In response to a query from Jay Hesse, Nez Perce Tribe, Dan noted that the Corps has not received any follow-up or response back from the state Water Quality agencies, following the memo that was sent out last week.

**Water Management Plan** – Doug Baus, Corps, provided an update on the 2023 Water Management Plan (WMP), noting that the Corps will post the draft(s) to the TMT website, along with all submitted comments. Draft 1 of the 2023 WMP will be posted by October 1; comments on this draft are due to Action Agencies by October 24. Draft 2 of the 2023 WMP will be posted by November 10; comments due by November 17 (a shift up from last year's date). The final WMP will be posted by December 31.

The Corps requested that TMT Member comments and recommended edits be made in tracked changes, and be written as specific as possible. Comments can be submitted to the following AA TMT representatives: Joel Fenolio (Reclamation), Scott Bettin, Tony Norris (BPA), and Doug Baus (Corps). Scott suggested that the draft 2023 plan be used as a guiding document for operations between October and December.

**Questions or Comments from Non-TMT Members** – There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

**The next scheduled TMT meeting is on October 5 at 9:00 AM.**

**Columbia River Regional Forum  
Technical Management Team  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Wednesday, September 21, 2022  
Minutes: Andrea Ausmus, BPA (contractor, CorSource Technology Group)**

Today's TMT meeting was held via conference call and webinar, 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 Meeting Summaries & Minutes – 9/7**

- Approved September 7 Meeting Summaries and Minutes

Questions and Comments:

None

**2. Steelhead Spill Operations - Dan Turner, Corps NWD**

a. General Update:

- The Corps Walla Walla District will take over maintenance of TDG gauges from USGS. The Corps will no longer contract that work out to USGS.
- These include the gauges within Walla Walla District along the Lower Snake and into the Lower Columbia.
- The maintenance and reporting should occur at the same frequency and there will not be any noticeable change.
- The Corps reports will be the same but the data will no longer be available on the USGS website.
- Any co-located temperature gauges along with the TDG gauges will also move to the Corps. Anatone will still come in through the Corps network.
- USGS will keep the temperature gauges going outside of spill season (when it is not a TDG gauge).

Questions and Comments:

Willow Walker, Corps, commented in the chat that USGS will continue to record temperature data for Anatone.

Charlie Morrill, WA, asked if this will add to the cost for the Corps or if it would be more cost neutral.

Jonathan Roberts, Corps, said that they are covering the gauges because the cost increase per year to contract USGS made it so they could not maintain all the gauges. To cover the

maintenance of the gauges during the seasons that they need them they are moving it to be a Corps project.

b. TDG Tracking September 2022

- Steelhead spill standard operation is for 4-hour spill blocks, 3 days/week.
- Spill has resulted in exceedances of the 110% TDG criteria.
- When there are two consecutive exceedances on spill days, the Corps modifies the operation as needed to manage TDG.
- Currently, the 4-hour block is being implemented at Little Goose, Ice Harbor, and McNary with no exceedances.
- Due to exceedances at Lower Granite and Lower Monumental, the operation has been modified.
  - Lower Granite:
    - Spill is in two 2-hour blocks, 3 days/week
    - TDG is still exceeding 110% on the tail end of the operation.
    - If exceedances continue, the next step might be to spill in one 2-hour block, 6 days/week.
  - Lower Monumental:
    - Spill is in one 4-hour block with a forebay operating range soft constraint of 537-538 feet to reduce the flow over the surface weir.
    - It has brought down TDG to between 110 and 111%. The Corps will continue this operation and believes TDG will lower naturally.
- If the modified operation results in TDG below 110% for two consecutive spill days, the Corps will consider going back to the 4-hour block.

Questions and Comments:

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, shared that a memo was sent to state water control agencies last week. He asked whether there has been any follow up about that with the Corps.

Turner has not heard any correspondence from the state agencies.

**3. Water Management Plan - Doug Baus, Corps NWD**

Doug Baus, Corps, wanted to let TMT know the 2023 Water Management Plan – Draft 1, will be posted prior to the next TMT meeting on October 5. The 2023 WMP review schedule is the same format as in previous years with two draft and comment periods prior to finalization. This format was coordinated with the TMT in an effort to complete the majority of the coordination prior to the month of December

when so many people are unavailable because they are on annual leave. Based on feedback last year the AAs did make some adjustments to the review schedule to avoid a deadline on the Friday following Thanksgiving.

The following is the 2023 WMP review schedule that is posted on the 2023 WMP website.

1. AAs will post the 2023 WMP, draft 1, by October 1.
2. TMT comments on draft 1 are due by October 24.
3. AAs will post the 2023 WMP, draft 2, by November 10.
4. TMT comments on draft 2 are due by November 17.
5. AAs will post the final 2023 WMP by December 31, 2022.

Questions and Comments:

Hesse offered thanks for making the adjustments in the review dates.

He asked which plan to consider the guiding operations document come October 31, the draft 2023 plan or the 2022 WMP.

Scott Bettin, BPA, recommended going with the draft because every year is different and they will use the draft to make the changes for what will come up in 2023.

Baus said that no matter how we approach it if there are issue of note they will address any operational or policy issue on case-by-case basis.

**4. Public Comments:**

None

**5. Set agenda for next meeting - October 5, 2022**

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**Today's Attendees:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>TMT Representative(s)</b>
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (chair), Lisa Wright, Julie Ammann
Bonneville Power Administration	Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Chris Runyan
NOAA Fisheries	Trevor Conder, Kelsey Swieca
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Tom Lorz
Colville Tribe	
Warm Springs Tribe	

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
Kootenai Tribe	
Spokane Tribe	

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

Corps – Dan Turner, Aaron Marshall, Chris Peery, Willow Walker

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

BPA – Ben Hausmann, Andrea Ausmus (note taker, Contractor with CorSource Technology Group)

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Clatskanie PUD – Ian Bledsoe

Grant PUD – Peter Graf

Snohomish PUD – Jesse Pruess