

Columbia River Regional Forum

Technical Management Team DRAFT OFFICIAL MINUTES

Friday, September 18, 2020

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

Today's unscheduled TMT meeting was called to coordinate an unplanned powerhouse outage at Little Goose Dam. The meeting was held via conference call and webinar and chaired and facilitated by Doug Baus, Corps. DS Consulting was unable to attend the meeting. See the end of these minutes for a list of attendees.

1. Little Goose Dam Operations - Doug Baus, Corps-NWD, Trevor Conder, NMFS

Doug Baus, Corps-NWD updated the TMT on an unplanned powerhouse outage that occurred at Little Goose Dam.

On Wednesday, September 16, generation started at 12 kcfs and ramped up to 24 kcfs in the afternoon before dropping to 0 at 1900. At that time, spill increased to 36.4 kcfs. This was due to an unplanned relay trip on T1 (Units 1-4). Since T2 (Units 5-6) was already out for Doble testing and repairs, the project was at full spill. On Thursday, generation was still 0 but at 1800 spill dropped back to 0 and generation increased to 29.5 kcfs as T1 came back online. By that time, today's meeting had been scheduled to discuss possible operational adjustments during the outage due to concerns for adult fall Chinook passage.

Ann Setter, Corps, shared a possible explanation for the outage. She said it is believed that the ongoing repairs at T2 caused a sudden pressure change that tripped T1, and some circuits may have been damaged.

Scott Bettin, BPA, added that because of this, there may be a potential that T1 may have to go out of service again next week or the week after. He is awaiting more information.

Jonathan Ebel, ID, noted that adult passage at Little Goose dropped by two-thirds from the day before.

Setter noted that the fish pumps are driven by turbines at Little Goose and thus only 1 pump was offline for about an hour and a half. She said impacts to fish should have been minimal, adding that the fishways at Little Goose and Lower Granite are very similar with only minor differences in the pumps. Lower Granite is able to meet criteria with only 2 pumps. Little Goose does not have a backup pump and at times needs all 3 pumps to meet criteria. Only certain elements of these pumps require outside electricity, which is why fish pump 2 was out for approximately an hour and a half – its oiler requires electricity.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, shared that tailrace conditions are of concern, as is adult fish passage at the project, given its history. He reiterated the significant drop in passage at the project between Wednesday and Thursday adding that the fish managers will need to look at today's passage to see if fish make it up again.

Looking forward, there is another powerhouse outage planned for 0530 to 1530 on Tuesday 9/22 to bring T2 back online. Bettin noted that it may be worth pushing this back a week or two for fish passage.

Trevor Conder, NOAA, inquired for future reference, if it would be possible to run a unit at speed no load when the transformer is out. His thinking is that it could provide 5kcfs flow through the powerhouse to provide some attraction flow to the ladder.

Bettin said since the line was completely out, they had to use a diesel generator for station power. Normally when they do a powerhouse outage, like when they're returning a line to service, they operate a unit at speed no load for station service. Dan Turner, Corps, added that running at speed no load can actually increase TDG more than the spill in some situations.

The group reviewed the spill pattern that was used during the outage. Conder inquired why the pattern was different than the Fish Passage Plan. Setter replied that there is no teletype in emergency situations and the project did the best it could. There was one person onsite trying to control everything at the project while passing water safely. The staff tries to follow FPP patterns, but in emergencies that does not always happen. Baus added that when the project is handling an emergency situation in real time that staff are often trying to achieve multiple objectives at once. He will follow-up with the control room ahead of the outage for next week to coordinate the spill pattern, which should be consistent with the FPP Table LGS-10 with no ASW.

After today's discussion, the TMT decided it would be best to convene another unscheduled TMT on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 so that the group could be updated on Little Goose Dam operations and coordinate any necessary operations.

Today's Attendees:

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

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

Corps – Dan Turner, Ann Setter

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

DS Consulting – Absent