# Fish Passage Plan (FPP) Change Form

**Change Form # & Title**: 23MCN004 – Fall Surface Spill in 2023

**Date Submitted**: 30-AUG-2023

**Project**: McNary Dam

**Requester Name, Agency**: Lisa Wright, Corps RCC

**Final Action:**

**FPP Section**: MCN section 2.2. Spill Management.

**Justification for Change**: Shifts the start date of fall surface spill in 2023 to September 1, as was implemented in 2022 pursuant to the *Term Sheet for Stay of Preliminary Injunction Motion and Summary Judgement Schedule*.

**Proposed Changes**: *EDITS TO EXISTING FPP TEXT IN “TRACK CHANGES”*

**2.2.3. Spill for Adult Steelhead Overshoots.** Surface spill will be implemented at McNary and the four lower Snake River dams as a means of providing non-powerhouse downstream passage for adult steelhead that overshoot natal tributaries prior to spawning or that strive to repeat a subsequent reproduction cycle (iteroparity). This operation is pursuant to non-discretionary terms and conditions in the 2020 NOAA Fisheries Columbia River System (CRS) Biological Opinion[[1]](#footnote-1), which calls for surface spill via the spillway weir at each of the five projects **March 1–30 and October 1–November 15, three times each week on non-consecutive days for four hours in the morning** (generally between 05:00 and 11:00). This operation is also considered in the 2020 USFWS CRS Biological Opinion[[2]](#footnote-2) as a means of providing safe and effective downstream passage for adult steelhead and other fish.

**i.** In 2023, spring surface spill will continue through the start of spring spill for juvenile fish on April 10, and fall surface spill will begin on September 1, to comply with the Agreement for short-term operations of the Columbia River System.[[3]](#footnote-3) As such, in 2023, surface spill for adult steelhead will occur at McNary Dam **March 1–April 9 and September 1–November 15, three times each week on non-consecutive days for four hours in the morning**.

**ii.** McNary surface spill will occur via the TSW in spillbay 20. To start TSW spill on September 1, the project will need up to 3 workdays to remove the standard spill gate section from spillbay 20 and reinstall the TSW. Spill will be maintained at the FOP summer spill level of 20 kcfs and shifted to available spillbays through August 31.

**COMMENTS**:

**RECORD OF FINAL ACTION**:

1. NOAA CRS BiOp, section 2.17.4.G, “*Reduce Take of Overshoot Adult Steelhead*”: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/109136871> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. USFWS CRS BiOp, section 5.7.4, “*Off-season Surface Spill for Downstream Passage of Adult Steelhead*”: <https://ecos.fws.gov/tails/pub/document/17101031> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Stay Agreement: [pweb.crohms.org/tmt/JointMotion\_TermSheet\_CourtOrder\_and\_Extensions\_2023\_0831.pdf](https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/JointMotion_TermSheet_CourtOrder_and_Extensions_2023_0831.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)