CENWP-OD 27 July 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**TITLE** - 21BCL03 MFR Spill Gate Misoperation

**PROJECT** - Big Cliff Dam

**RESPONSE DATE** - 10 August 2021

**Description of the problem**

At 1726 hours on 21 July 2021, the operator on duty at Detroit Dam intended to lower a spillway gate at Big Cliff Dam to reduce flow from the observed 1,114 cfs closer to the 1,000 cfs BiOp minimum. The operator hit the wrong button and lowered the spillway gate to the fully closed position, cutting off all flow downriver. At 1733 hours, the operator realized his error and began raising the Big Cliff spillway gate to restore river flow.

Over a 30 minute period from approximately 1730-1800, flows at BCLO dropped as low as 730 cfs, well below the minimum flow of 1,000 cfs. The stage height ranged from 3-ft to 2.52-ft during the event (USGS 14181500 NORTH SANTIAM RIVER AT NIAGARA, OR), deviating from down ramp rate BiOp criteria (-0.2-ft daytime) criteria during the event.

**Type of event**

A closed spill gate due to a misoperation decreased flows (730 cfs) below minimum BiOp criteria and exceeded down ramp rate BiOp criteria (-0.2 ft daytime) criteria during the event.

**Impact on facility operation**

TBD, waiting to discuss with Greg Grenbemer (Minto Fish Facility Manager)

**Expected impacts on fish**

Adult spring Chinook are currently in the system and are migrating upriver for spawning.

**Comments from agencies**

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)