

12-15-10 Meeting Summary ** Approved 1-19-11 **
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Ariel Hiller (BLM)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)

Absent

Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

USDA-FS: Mikeal Jones is retiring at the end of December.

RCC Action: Approve the November RCC Meeting Summary. *Tentatively approved pending USDA-FS & NMFS approvals.*

Public Information Opportunities - *none at this time.*

Monte noted that the updated implementation video is on schedule to be shown at the 2011 annual planning meeting.

2011 Annual Planning Workshop – The official date is February 3, at the ODEQ office in Eugene.

Settlement Agreement - 10th Year Anniversary (June 13, 2011) – *will be discussed next month.*

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

The construction area was inundated on December 11 as Soda Springs finally went into spill, as has been expected for more than a month. The high water early notification system was implemented to assure personnel and equipment was removed from the site prior to spill.

We are using only spillgate No. 1 to pass inflow in excess of generation capability and bypass flow requirement. Flow through the spillway peaked at about 3,000 cfs on Monday. There was significant inundation in the fish screen area that we hoped would be isolated from the spill, as water entered from an unfinished wall meant to separate the two spillways. We are waiting for the water in this area to subside so contractors can get back to work. We plan to continue working in the fish screen area, fish ladder exit area, and the evaluation facility area throughout the winter.

With the additional time that was expended due to FERC approval delays and unanticipated geotechnical conditions, our long-term schedule includes a four-month extension of the construction completion date. We will try this winter to do as much as possible to gain back some of the lost time.

There is an extensive amount of rebar installation still needed below the OHW, including the penstock tie-in abutment and the fish ladder entrance. The spill resulted in some scaffolding broken off, but it is believed to be salvageable. In addition, the wall separating the two spillways must be completed to isolate the fish screen area from future spills. Overall construction goals include the new penstock connecting the fish screen across the river to the old penstock, which will require a dewatered working condition. Work on fish ladder entrance is still incomplete and requires completion prior to reconnecting the penstock. Therefore, working below the OHW is necessary this winter to avoid an additional period of dewatering in 2012. The contractor expects at least another four months of work before the penstock tie-in is possible.

At this meeting, a proposal was advanced to allow continued work this winter within the ordinary high water area, for which we will need an extension of the in-water work period from several RCC parties, as well as the ACOE and DSL. Dave Harris and Rich Grost viewed the worksite on December 15. They observed a few fish (adult Coho and brown trout) in the inundated construction area, but no juveniles. A fish salvage and re-dewatering of the pool at the base of Soda Springs dam was proposed. Removing fish from this area now would be a good thing, to prevent spawning and the need to salvage fry and juveniles during the Spring/summer 2011 dewatering. There is a chance that we won't need to spill again for a few months. Historically, high flow events tend to be more common in November/December than in January/February. From a fish salvage perspective, Dave agreed that it is wise to do the dewatering and salvage now, rather than deal with the juveniles in the spring.

Rich will prepare a proposal for dewatering the construction area below the OHW and returning to work after the spill subsides, and circulate the proposal for agency approval before seeking DSL and ACoE approvals.

Aquatic Connectivity

Six aquatic site reconnections were completed in 2010. Fourteen "simple" sites will be completed in 2011. The proposed sites will be provided to USDA-FS, in order for them to issue a Notice-to-Proceed.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design

Permitting Update: Rich submitted the joint permit application (JPA) in early November. Public review has been completed for the ACoE process but reviews are still open for the DEQ and DSL processes. He thinks we are still a couple of months out to get all permits.

Monte said that preparatory work for the Slide Creek tailrace barrier project has been completed. This includes the access road behind the powerhouse and the parking lot expansion for the plant overhaul which will be done at same time as the tailrace barrier work in 2011. The tailrace barrier contract request for proposals (RFP) will be issued by the end of the year, with the final contract awarded in February. Cofferdam construction will start in April, with the remainder of the work scheduled to start in May.

Stinkhole Wetland Design

The wetland will be constructed along the power line right of way (ROW) near Toketee-Rigdon Road, upstream of Stinkhole Pond. The 30% design meeting will be held on December 21 (at USDA-FS office in Roseburg). The project is expected to be designed and constructed in 2011.

Lemolo 2 Reroute

PacifiCorp is in the process of reviewing the bid proposals. The contract will be awarded on or shortly after January 1, 2011, with mobilization happening in February. The project is expected to be completed in 2011.

Rolling Action Plan Schedule

Cultural, recreation, transportation, and vegetation rolling action plans have all been completed and will be ready for signatures, at the annual planning meeting.

Fish Creek Canal Shutoff and Drainage Test

Last month, PacifiCorp discovered that the demonstration test could not be conducted due to a broken valve actuator pin at one of the dump gates. The part has been ordered, but winter flow conditions are unreliable so it is best to delay the test until spring snowmelt.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands – *Discussed above in Current Project Updates.* Three more wetlands are to be constructed during 2013-2016, which will make eight completed wetlands as per the Settlement Agreement.

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – *Discussed above in Current Project Updates.* This TWG has completed its design work -- there will be no more TWG meetings.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

The TWG met in late November. The 6.2 Slide Creek Monitoring Plan was finalized and filed with FERC. The actual monitoring will not begin for several years until anadromous fish start to show up in the area.

The next plan to finalize is the Annual Report for 19.2 (for distribution to RCC only). Sam Moyers has been working on the report with Rich.

Long term 19.2 program efforts were also discussed. Rich said that there were three stages of monitoring:

1. Baseline Period (2004- 2010)
2. Interim Period (2013-2024)
3. Post Passage Period (2025-2038)

The only work taking place in 2011 will be working with Stillwater to summarize all the baseline data into a complete baseline condition report. During 2011-12, no field work is anticipated because of abnormal flow conditions and interference from construction at Soda Springs dam and Slide powerhouse, plus the 2011 funding contribution was already advanced and spent in 2010. The interim period will begin in 2013 with effort focused on monitoring at the Soda Springs fish passage facility, with some effort also at continuing redd surveys and possibly smolt trapping in Soda Springs bypass reach. Because much of this and future work will require close coordination and control of the gates and valves of the fish passage facility, the TWG considers it beneficial to have one of the SA 19.2 crew members be a PacifiCorp employee or someone otherwise empowered to directly access and manipulate these PacifiCorp facilities. PacifiCorp will look into options to address this need.

The post-passage period will allow for a longer monitoring period (14 years). We will be able to better manage the budget over this period and avoid the crunch we had during the short baseline period.

SA 7.2 –Stillwater will work with the TWG to update the gravel pulse experiment technical memo from 2006. Rich will use that information to revise and combine the implementation/monitoring plans (2003/2004) for review by the TWG, RCC approval, and eventual submission to FERC sometime in 2011. Dave said the crews are finishing up spawning ground surveys related to these gravel patches. The surveys will then stop for several years as described above.

FPD (Fish Passage Design) –

With the finalization of the Slide Creek tailrace barrier designs, the work of this TWG is now done. 100% designs for the Slide Creek tailrace barrier were submitted to the RCC in late November, with no comments received. Monte will provide a signature sheet for all parties to sign. It will be submitted to FERC at end of January.

F&R (Flows & Ramping) – *Nothing new to report at this time.*

North Umpqua Lake Management Group (Lemolo Reservoir Update)

This group, which includes folks from the former Lemolo Reservoir TWG, met for the first time November 10. Al Johnson provided a recap of Lemolo Reservoir info from the August LRTWG meeting, which was a preliminary summary of Joe Eilers 2010 monitoring. Rich explained that Joe has done additional analysis since then, concluding that a deep winter drawdown would be a useful and interesting action to try.

Rich put together a proposal and sent it to the NULMG /RCC. Right now PacifiCorp is planning to follow normal water level limits, but remains interested in the flexibility to do a deeper drawdown sometime January-April if conditions make it practical. It is more practical from a water management perspective if there is a substantial snowpack with which to refill the reservoir. PacifiCorp is also estimating the costs of rebuilding and operating the canal entrainment monitoring facility, which would help document the results of a deeper drawdown as requested by ODFW. There is currently no promise to do the deeper drawdown, but it is being considered.

** *Late breaking news * **

On December 14, there was a minor overtopping of the Clearwater 2 canal. It was the result of crews cleaning the intake rack and allowing a brief surge of water into the canal. They raised the gate up and a pulse of water went downstream and overtopped a spillway section. For about 30 minutes, approximately five cfs ran into a small drainage intended for overflows in this section of the flume. However, debris prevented the flow from entering a road culvert and the water flowed across the road. No damage, just minor erosion of the road surface. Pam Sighting requested that everyone just be aware of it.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The meeting schedule was reviewed.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on January 19, 10:00 AM to Noon.

Meeting adjourned.