

4-25-12 Meeting Summary * * Approved 5-16-12 * *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Jim Thraikill (USFWS)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Stephanie Burchfield (NFMS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
John Huston (USDA-FS)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Anne Shirley (BLM)

Also Present

Beth Bendickson (PacifiCorp Energy)
Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)
Mike Blum (PacifiCorp Energy)
Louis Collier (PacifiCorp Energy)
Scott Schevenius (PacifiCorp Energy)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

USDA-FS – John Huston is acting Diamond Lake District Ranger until Viva Worthington arrives in early June and becomes the permanent Diamond Lake District Ranger. The fish biologist position (Roseburg) is still open and will eventually be filled.

USFWS – Monty Knudson has retired; Jim Thraikill will be the temporary policy group member.

OWRD – The replacement for John Unger is expected to happen in mid to late June.

PacifiCorp Operations – Pete Sukraw is now the Hydro South Director; two new maintenance people are on board at the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project.

BLM – Katrina Symons is the new District Manager.

Policy Group Meeting

A policy group meeting was held on April 12. Monte presented an overview of the implementation projects. It was a good exchange of information and no concerns or outstanding issues were raised by meeting attendees.

Notice-to-Proceed Process – The USDA-FS staff is currently working on these.

Public Information Opportunities - *None at this time*

RCC Action: Review and approve the March 21, 2012 Meeting Summary – *Approved 4-25-12.*

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

The civil work (concrete) will be mostly completed by the end of May. Great strides are being made on the fish ladder. The screens should be completed in May, and installed during June. The testing and water up plan will be implemented in September, just in time for fish to go upstream and enjoy the new flows in the bypass reach by late October. Monte said PacifiCorp is not expecting effective passage until the facilities are evaluated during 2013 and 2014. The penstock realignment project is close to being finished. The right abutment work is complete. The process of moving the mechanical equipment on top of dam will happen in 2013. Pam inquired a bit more on this, to which Monte replied it is due to a FERC mandated modification to protect equipment on top of the dam in case of very high flow events where water would crest the dam (18,000 to 20,000 CFS). PacifiCorp expects such events to occur very infrequently. During high-flow events, one wall of the fish screen structure will serve as a weir to pass water, thereby acting as a spillway. But, if enough debris clogs up the trash rack during such an event, overtopping of the dam may occur. As part of the Emergency Action Plan, steps have been taken to ensure public safety at downstream campgrounds during flood events.

Rich reported on the gaging at the Soda Springs bypass. The temporary gage on the opposite side of the river was damaged during recent high flow events and is unsafe to repair due to flows and cliffs. Instead, the original gage will be rebuilt on the road-side of the river in the next few days in anticipation of the powerhouse coming online next week.

Ed mentioned he would like to do inspections. Monte suggested setting up schedule. As we get closer to key milestones, it could be a good time to plan visits. Ed would rather do a number of small inspections rather than one big one at the end. Rich will coordinate these with Ed based on the contractor's schedule.

Aquatic Connectivity Sites (2012 Status) – *Nothing new to report from last month.*

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier (Status and Hydraulic Balancing)

The structure is in place. Progress has been stymied by high flows, so gravel cleaning can't be performed, nor can any modifications be made to the structure. This will happen in the summer. Hydraulic balancing will be postponed as well and be done in the fall or early 2013. Balancing may need to be pushed to next spring during snowmelt as we need high, sustained flow for the two weeks of balancing. Some of the picket panels aren't all the way down, as there is gravel in the way. The jobsite requires cleaning from the bottom up, so gravel doesn't fall back into the panels.

Fish Creek Communication Upgrade

This upgrade will install fiber optic cable to improve communication and control of the canal shutoff and drainage system and the fish screen. Assuming everything is operable, we will schedule a test of the canal shutoff and drainage system later this year. The fiber optic cable will be installed next month.

Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvements

Rich is consulting with NMFS and ODFW to work out the final details. Ed said the draft design does not meet NMFS criteria for sweeping velocity; the criteria call for velocity to stay steady or slightly increase as it goes down to the bypass. A conference call to discuss this with the design engineer is scheduled for April 26.

The work would be done when the diversion is shut down this summer.

L1 Forebay Operations

Chris Stine has been consulting with Rich regarding the pH issue and solutions, and agrees that operation modifications to increase water exchange in the forebay are the best approach to try in 2012. Monte said sampling will continue during summer 2012 and, if there is still a pH issue, we'll look into further modifications or actions for 2013.

Instream Flow Increases (10-18-12) – Slide Bypass to 240 CFS/Fish Creek Bypass to 130 CFS

Rich reminded that by October 18, 2012, the new higher minimum flows indicated above will be required and provided, and that the higher flows should be considered before working in those reaches.

Lemolo 2 Reroute Pipe – Safety Improvement at Outlet (Leave Man-Rack Open)

The pipe outlet was designed and built with a manrack to keep people and debris out of the pipe. During the first winter of operation, the center portion of the manrack bars broke off due to harmonic vibration underwater. After a thorough safety review, PacifiCorp considers it safer to

leave the rack in its present condition rather than replace the broken bars. The rationale is that the opening in the manrack allows egress for any person who may get into the pipe from upstream, whereas replacing or repairing the rack would create a trap preventing egress from the pipe outlet and causing almost certain fatality. It is considered unlikely that anyone would swim into the pipe since no one swims in the vicinity anyways due to cold water. But if someone did, they would be able to get out the same way they went in. Also, both the inlet and outlet areas are fenced off. The RCC agreed that it makes sense to keep the manrack in its current “open” condition, but Pam will check further within the USDA-FS and get back to PacifiCorp.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

NU Lake Management Group (3/16 Meeting Summary Final)

Rich noted there are a set of notes from the last meeting. If anyone wants copy, let him know and he will e-mail them.

FHS TWG

- SA 19.2 Baseline Conditions Report

This report is currently in TWG review, with comments due May 18.

Stillwater Sciences put information together from the last six years of long term monitoring/predator control study. It's an analysis to give us good statistics to compare post construction monitoring. It's also a summary of what we've learned. It gives anadromous fish estimates, redd counts, etc. The budget provided to Stillwater is pretty well used up. Rich ask everyone to keep this in mind as each agency submits comments. Low magnitude comments can still be factored into the final report. ODFW has worked closely with Stillwater in the drafting of the report.

- SA 7.2 Revised Implementation and Monitoring Plan

This revised plan is currently in TWG review, with comments due May 16.

In 2003 and 2004, two separate plans were compiled. At this point, we have completed everything the plans talk about. In the interim, Stillwater has done several bouts of monitoring, as has the TWG. All the information was combined (both plans into one) – what was done and what we will do in future. Stillwater's technical memo was distributed in February. The April plan weaves their memo into more detail on what we will do in the future. The plan is different from most things we're dealing with now. In the early years, FERC modified our original plans. When we get done, they wanted to see results and want to approve any new plan made. After TWG comments, it will go to RCC for approval, before it goes to FERC for their approval. Rich asked if anyone had

looked at it. Dave said it's pretty straight forward and doesn't see any issues. Rich then asked everyone to review it and submit informal comments so the plan can be revised if need be.

- SA 8.3 Soda Springs Fish Habitat Maintenance Work 2012 (PCN is "in")

The permit applications have been submitted. DSL confirmed that this work is considered exempt from needing a DSL permit. We are awaiting a Notice-to-proceed from the USDA-FS and permit from the ACOE. Since the last meeting, Rich has received a bid from Weekly Bros. The bid price is \$77,962, slightly less than Rich had estimated. Because of all the Soda Springs issues, limited access, safety concerns and the fact that they are mobilized in the area, we don't think it prudent to solicit bids from others. The biggest expense is the 800 cubic yards of spawning gravel. PacifiCorp will provide \$50,000 as agreed in July 2011 (\$15,000) and as Flume 12 mitigation (\$35,000). It is proposed to use the RCC SA 8.3 funds to cover the balance.

RCC Action: Approve the following:

- 1) Use Weekly Bros. **Approved 4-25-12.**
- 2) Use RCC SA 8.3 fund to pay for the balance of project (beyond the \$50,000 that PacifiCorp will provide). **Approved 4-25-12.**

Fume 12 Remediation Plan

This plan has been finalized. It will provide for continuation of monitoring for five years into the future (2011 – 2016). It includes new procedures for watering up the canal.

To finish up the baseline monitoring, Rich is hoping to get out into the field for rainbow trout/redds in June or July. He feels it may be best to do habitat measurements in early November as flows are too high now due to snowmelt.

Operational Updates

The Clearwater 2 plant is still down but will be up in a few days. Soda Springs is also down but will be fired up next week. When PacifiCorp ramps 1,600 CFS into the penstock, there still will be about 1,500 CFS in the bypass due to natural high flows. It won't get down anywhere near the spawning gravels. There is not much edge habitat in the bypass but Rich will still monitor for fish stranding during periods of daytime ramping, as agreed earlier.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Lastly, Rich reported that Joe Ferguson, Steamboaters president, called him seeking an update on some of the anadromous fish passage and habitat projects over the last decade, for an article

about steelhead management on the North Umpqua for “The Osprey” – the quarterly newsletter of the Steelhead Committee of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Rich provided basic information about Soda Springs fish passage work, tailrace barriers, and fish habitat and gravel augmentation work; including the USDA-FS work upstream of Fish Creek..

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on May 16.

Meeting adjourned.