

Final (Approved 1/16/13)
12-19-12 Meeting Summary
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-1927)

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)

Also Present

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

Absent

Anne Shirley (BLM)
Rob Burns (USFWS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member/Organizational Updates

PacifiCorp – Bob Roach replaces Diane Barr as the new Compliance Analyst, providing support for the southern Oregon and California hydro projects. Bob will assist in permitting tasks.

RCC Action: Review and approve the November 14, 2012 Meeting Summary – **Approved 12-19-12**

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Soda Springs Fish Passage

The fish screen sustained damage during a rapid high flow event on December 2, 2012, and has been shut down since that time. It's been dewatered and the bulkheads are in place. PacifiCorp is working on an estimate and proposal to return the screens to operability. It could take several months to repair. In the meantime, as allowed for in the O&M Plan during high flow conditions, the north intake is being used to supply generation and control flows to the wild and scenic reach. There was no damage to the dam, and the fish ladder is operating well, with auxiliary water being provided from the 20" low-level outlet pipe (about 90 cfs). NMFS and ODFW

were immediately notified of the fish screen damage, and support this interim operation while plans are developed for repair.

PacifiCorp is investigating whether it is practical to make temporary repairs while the full repairs are being planned. It may be possible for partial, temporary operation of the screen to supply the fish ladder's full auxiliary water system flow, which would allow the screen's spillway to be functional if needed for a very high flow event.

Pam asked if steelhead kelts would be able to get back down safely after spawning. Rich said it's unlikely they would try to go through the north intake because the trashrack spacing is only 3 to 4 inches. Most kelts would end up going through the spillway when open for snowmelt, or the fish screen if it gets repaired and/or open for partial service.

Monte said the event elucidated just how fast the debris build-up can overwhelm the facility and that Operations is planning how to avoid something like this in the future. Although the investigation is preliminary, it appears that the fish screen went from a status of proper operation to complete plugging and failure within five minutes, faster than any response from emergency systems.

The incident was reported to FERC, as there was damage to the fish screen structure. Over the next several months, if the repairs incorporate any changes from the original approved design, such changes will be provided to the approval agencies for review.

Rich verified that he observed coho spawning upstream of Soda Springs dam. Smolts from this first batch of spawning will be moving downstream in spring 2014, and we anticipate a fully functional screen with better operational procedures by that time.

Scott anticipates a repair-design package will be ready by the end of January. Chris inquired if a 60% design could be ready by the January RCC planning meeting.

Rich added that overall, the intent is to build it back to the original design, with some minor possible modifications such as:

1. Lifting primary brushes off the screen at the downstream end;
2. Plugging two of the 12" gaps in the trashrack with 4" space bars; and
3. Replacing some fixed screens with emergency relief panels.

Aside from screen repairs, several other minor punch list items are also being worked on, and the fish monitoring station is being outfitted with a camera system. We will talk more about this in the January 2013 annual planning meeting.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier (Status)

Scott is working on the actuators with the consultant Exlar. There was a fault found with the electronic board. Modifications have been made to the deck grating that will allow easier access and safer working conditions. The lifting beam will be more functional for cleaning of the picket screen panels. There will be a site visit at the end of next week. He also reported that the actuators will be fixed well in advance of hydraulic balancing planned for spring 2013.

Fish Creek Fish Screen Hydraulic Improvement

The redesign/repair for hydraulic issues is complete, as is maintenance on the weir gate to the fish return pipe. Diversion headgate seals are also being modified which is scheduled for completion within the next few months. This work involves diving and the right conditions are needed. PacifiCorp is operating the Fish Creek diversion when flows allow compliance with the new minimum flow of 130 cfs.

There is greatly improved communication in the canyon for the dump gate system. If PacifiCorp can get the programming done, then testing and a demonstration of the dump gate system may be provided to the RCC in 2013.

Lemolo 1 Forebay Operations

Rich has received a draft report from Joe Eilers (MaxDepth Aquatics). Joe's analysis is still in progress, but Rich is hoping to have a completed report in time for the work session in January. Chris asked if it was a draft report or a provisional report. Rich said it's incomplete because the analysis is still continuing.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

FHS TWG

- ODFW Update on Electrofishing Boat (pending proposal)

The electrofishing boat was used on Lemolo Lake in 2012 for brown trout and chub monitoring. Sam Moyer and Kirk Haskett had problems with the boat powering up. They could restart it, but want to get the issues taken care of. They also want to update the lights to LEDs. They took the boat to Smith-Root and are currently awaiting a diagnosis and cost repair estimate. The boat is currently being stored in the ODFW shop. Once they get the repair estimate, Dave will bring it to the RCC for proposed 19.2 funding. Rich suggested getting preliminary RCC approval for up to \$10K for needed maintenance/repair of the e-boat.

RCC Action: Approve preliminary “up to \$10K” maintenance/repair expenditures from SA 19.2 fund – ***Approved December 19, 2012***

Wetland TWG (ODFS, USDA-FS, USFWS, PacifiCorp)

The Floodplain wetland at Stump Lake was confirmed as a wetland enhancement site for 2013, as well as the Stump Lake pothole site.

Operational Updates

Soda Springs – Planned outage from January 13 – 31, 2013. The powerhouse will be shut down for routine maintenance.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The next RCC meeting will be the Annual Planning meeting on January 16, 2013, 10AM – 3PM at the ODEQ in Eugene, OR (Willamette Room). Monte indicated that the 2013 Rolling Action Plans will be ready for signing at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned.