

**4-16-08 Conference Call Summary - *Approved 5/21/08***  
**RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)**  
**NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008**

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Dave Harris (ODFW)  
Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)  
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)  
Ed Meyer (NMFS)

Also Present

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

Absent

Chris Stine (ODEQ)  
Gina Freel (USDA-FS)  
Craig Tuss (USFWS)  
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)  
John Ouimet (USDA-FS)  
Merina Christoffersen (COE)  
Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS)  
Robert Hall (BLM)

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**Introductions, Agenda, Old Business**

**Member Updates**

PacifiCorp Energy – Ed Meyer requested that Monte Garrett describe recent conversations that PacifiCorp has had with certain Policy Group representatives related to the benefits of off-site and on-site habitat enhancement compared with benefits of fish passage at Soda Springs Dam. Stillwater Sciences initiated this conversation with PacifiCorp, bringing forward additional information that has been developed since the settlement agreement was signed in 2001. Further discussion by the Policy Group is planned during a conference call toward the end of April.

**Public Information Opportunities**

The unusual snowpack conditions create a public information need to let people know that high lakes (i.e., Lemolo Reservoir) may not be accessible for opening weekend. ODFW has been unable to access it and other high lakes to stock hatchery fish as scheduled, so they are working on a press release regarding snow conditions, access, and fish stocking changes to go to the media prior to opening day.

**RCC Action: Finalize and approve March 19 meeting summary**

Ed Meyer suggested an edit to the Soda Springs Fish Passage Design FPD TWG update. After making the change, Beth Bendickson will e-mail the new version which will be considered the official approved version.

**Public Comments**

*No public comments at this time.*

**Current Project Updates**

**Fish Creek**

Rich Barney gave the following update on the screens and canal shutoff & drainage projects:

The Contractor has been snowed out from mid-January until April 14 when some of the work re-started.

Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage – The contractor still needs to complete the air-burst system for the canal head gate control. Once it's in place, the t-screens will be installed. PacifiCorp had expected final completion after an assumed July 1 outage; however, the contractor will install the screens in the wet to accelerate the job. A mid-May completion date is now scheduled for the air system and t-screens, with testing to occur in late May if possible, dependent on receiving the radio license. A radio license was approved for data transmission, but will require shutting down if it interferes with voice transmission. PacifiCorp has requested the license include voice transmission and anticipated its approval around mid-May. The communication testing will follow.

PacifiCorp is providing a retrofit on both drainage gates. A low voltage mechanical actuator will be used instead of an explosive detonating device. Contractor needs to complete the fabrication and installation at the two sites. Two adjacent monitoring site installations may continue to be delayed due to snow. The radio system works under a daisy-chain signal path and since two adjacent sites are not operational, testing will have to wait for at least one installation. The major mechanical holdup is the air supply for the head gate. The objective is to get as much accomplished in May and then invite the RCC out for a system test. The RCC will be invited to view the testing. Ed Meyer suggested that as it gets closer to testing time, throwing out some dates to make sure it gets on everyone's calendars.

**Macro-invert Ladder**

*Status remains unchanged from last month.*

### **Slide Creek Diversion Instream Flow Facility**

Modifications to the Obermeyer gate are planned for construction next week. Additional testing is scheduled for April 29-30, which is when modification to ramp rates will occur as previously approved by the agencies via email.

### **TWG Project Updates**

#### **FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)**

At the April 11 TWG meeting, Stillwater Sciences presented the draft predator report and ODFW presented the draft Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) report. Both reports are currently in TWG review, with comments on the predator report due to Stillwater by the end of this week, and comments on the LTM report due to ODFW by the end of this month. Final reports are expected from Stillwater by April 30 and ODFW by May 31 for RCC distribution.

Ed indicated that Stephanie Burchfield had comments on the predator report, which Ed will incorporate into his comments before he forwards them to the TWG and Stillwater.

Grost summarized the predator report as indicating that the predator population was larger than previously estimated, and that potential predation on smolts is substantial. Estimated smolt survival thru the reservoir ranges from about 50 to 9%, however many uncertainties remain regarding fish abundance, growth, predation on fish, and response to actual anadromous fish introductions. The TWG plans to address some of this uncertainty by resampling predators in the reservoir during several days in summer 2008. Stillwater was asked to provide a cost estimate for assisting in field and/or analysis and reporting elements of this work. It is expected to fall within the existing RCC-approved budget for 2008.

#### **FPD (Fish Passage Design)**

Soda Springs Fish Passage Design – Monte Garrett reviewed the April 9 follow-up meeting by TWG members and on the current status of the 60% designs. He also reviewed the status of the need for modeling the outstanding design issue of the screen facility. PacifiCorp is about to contract with ENSR. A report is expected to be completed by July. Results will be reviewed to decide whether to modify the design. It could delay completion of the final designs beyond the September 30, 2008 deadline. PacifiCorp will request support from the RCC for an extension from the FERC, if needed.

Regarding design specifics, Ed expressed concern that the flow dissipation structure designed for the temporary instream flow release outlet from the penstock may be an attraction to fish and cause jumping. Ed will follow up with Tim Hemstreet, who will pass it on to consultant.

#### **F&R (Flows & Ramping)**

As an FYI, Rich Grost described a workshop organized for PacifiCorp engineers and Toketee operators to improve their understanding of the ever-evolving instream flow system, alarms, and

responses; to further reduce the potential for instream flow and ramping events. More workshops will occur as warranted as part of an ongoing training and refresher process.

Hydrology Issues – As is obvious from the persistent, deep, and dense snowpack in the upper North Umpqua basin, and as verified by Joe Cooper at the Douglas County WaterMaster Office, we're facing a very unusual hydrologic year. As cold weather patterns continue, melting of the unusually heavy snowpack is delayed such that the runoff does not correspond to usual re-fill periods for Lemolo Reservoir. This condition has PacifiCorp's hydrologists and water managers concerned, and of the opinion that a slow refill of the reservoir will allow the capture of more snowmelt and minimize the amount of uncontrolled spill through the project when the snowmelt finally does occur.

PacifiCorp has been working with USFS and the Resort to plow open and extend the boat ramps, but still can't guarantee that they will be usable for opening weekend. Currently the snow depth is about 4-5 ft at the reservoir, the reservoir water level is about 4,132 ft, and it will probably need to be about 4,138-40 ft for boats to launch (Rich will survey the boat ramps relative to water level later this week). If the next week brings warm weather and snowmelt, the reservoir will likely be high enough for boat access – but if the weather remains cold, the refill will be further delayed, the ramps may not be usable, and the reservoir may still be frozen over. The SA (Section 9.3) allows for slower refill and boat ramp inaccessibility during unusual hydrologic conditions without need for RCC or agency approval.

ODFW may not be able to stock fish as it had planned if the ramps are inaccessible or the lake remains frozen. Currently it is unable to access most of the high lakes and is revising its planting schedule accordingly. There currently is no intention to delay opening day; however Craig Kohanek asked if public safety was a concern if the lake remains somewhat frozen on opening weekend. The USFS and ODFW may want to post signs at access points warning of weak snow/ice and unusual boat ramp conditions.

### **CSD (Canal Shut off & Drainage)**

14.2 Clearwater 2 – The 100% civil design will go out to RCC for final review by the end of the week; final designs will be filed with FERC on April 30, 2008. Signature sheets will be sent parties whose approval is required by the settlement agreement. The electrical and communication aspects are delayed by about a month. Fiber installation is being proposed to meet facility communication requirements, with Watson Ridge as a back-up. July 15 is the planned outage start date.

14.2 Lemolo 2 – Eric Hansen will be the project manager on the project. After he gets the consultant lined up, the TWG group will convene. Final design anticipated by February 28, 2009.

**Action: Monte will send out an e-mail to RCC, formally requesting support for a change in schedule for the Lemolo 2 CSD to be constructed in 2009 as previously agreed by the RCC during meetings in 2006 and again during the January 2008 planning session.**

### **Lemolo Lake Water Quality**

At the April 1 meeting, MaxDepth Aquatics presented results of recent modeling to help the TWG compare alternatives for reducing the potential for BGA blooms during 2008. The TWG preferred the

scenario of operating three-four feet lower than normal during summer months, with normal being about 4,147-47.5 ft MSL. This would leave a “bathtub” ring of exposed pumice around the lake and increase access around the banks. Both boat ramps should be usable at the lower level following the extensions to these ramps that have occurred or are occurring. The main trade off of this action is that it reduces the volume of water stored and available for fall drawdown, which is typically used to augment flows below Soda Springs for spawning Chinook salmon, and also generates power for heating homes as weather cools. PacifiCorp is currently reviewing scenarios to see if the lower lake level can be achieved without sacrificing the storage and fall flows. The best scenario may involve filling the reservoir to normal recreation range (4,145-4,148.5 ft MSL) for Memorial Day weekend, keeping it fairly full in June (with late snowmelt a June bloom is unlikely), and dropping the level to the 4-ft lower target for July and August (the hot months when blue green algae is most likely to bloom). The tradeoff for lost storage would be an allowance to draw the reservoir further down than normal – to about 4,114 ft MSL instead of 4,123.5 ft MSL.

**Action: When internal review is complete, PacifiCorp will draft a written proposal for deviating from normal SA requirements for summer water levels and for modifying the fall drawdown limits for TWG and RCC review.**

**Other Topics:**

*None.*

**The next RCC Conference Call is scheduled for May 21, 10:00 AM**

**Adjourn**