

3-19-08 Conference Call Summary – *Approved 4-17-08*
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)
Gina Freel (USDA-FS)
Craig Tuss (USFWS)
Robert Hall (BLM)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Derek Ibarguen (UDSA-FS)

Also Present

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

Absent

Ed Meyer (NMFS) – proxy given to Dave Harris
Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)
John Ouimet (USDA-FS)
Merina Christoffersen (COE)
Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS)

Introductions, Agenda, Old Business

Member Updates

USFWS - Kemper McMaster is retired; Matt Kales is his acting replacement for 60 days
BLM – Ariel Hiller is the new community planner who will eventually take over as RCC representative
DSL – Bob Lobdell is Cory Engel’s replacement.

Public Information Opportunities

It was noted that the video updating our progress in implementing the North Umpqua settlement agreement has been completed. RCC members should look for opportunities to showcase our efforts.

RCC Action: Finalize and approve previous meeting summary

The February 20 conference call summary was approved by consensus.

Public Comments

None at this time.

Current Project Updates

Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier

Project is complete and functioning. Methods and equipment are being developed for flow balancing measurements, expected to be completed this spring.

Fish Creek

Screens – T-screens and control building are heading for a July completion. Evaluation is dependent on facility completion and the plan indicates evaluation at full diversion flow of 150 cfs – thus the facility may not be ready for evaluation until 2009.

Canal Shutoff & Drainage – A license for use of the radio communication system is expected this spring, at which time testing of the dump gates may be possible.

Macro-invert Ladder

Construction started in 2007; however, work was discontinued due to weather. Project is scheduled for a June 2008 completion. FERC has been contacted and concurs with this change of final completion date.

Slide Creek Diversion Instream Flow Facility

The weir built last year was designed to provide for a steady control of instream flow and also prevent ramping fluctuations, but additional modifications are needed for it to properly function. The weir gate is being modified and a more functional gate is expected by late April. Gate tests, similar to those done in February, were originally planned for late March but are now scheduled for either April or May. The RCC had documented via an email string that modified ramping was allowed for these limited March test events.

Action Item: Extend modifications to ramping limits to allow for gate testing into April and May. RCC approved this extension. Grost will notify RCC in advance when specific dates are set.

TWG Project Updates

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

SA 19.3, 7.2 – USFS upper Slide Creek bypass habitat project and Gravel Augmentation below Soda Springs Dam – A contractor visited these sites in March and will provide ideas and cost estimates. This will help revise the long term gravel augmentation program.

19.2 – The Predator Study is in progress at Stillwater Sciences and expected prior to the April 11 meeting. Long-term Monitoring data for 2007 has been reviewed and ODFW is drafting the annual report for TWG review in a few weeks. It will be submitted to the RCC by July.

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Soda Springs Fish Passage Design – Discussion at the 60% design review meeting resulted in a request to re-design the bypass system to avoid the long, deep, narrow concrete channel portion that may be rejected by fish. New alternatives were subsequently developed and discussed via conference calls. A preferred design has been selected which stays within the original footprint, but there are concerns regarding hydraulic conditions related to the flume – pipe transition. The concern is the velocity may cause hydraulic issues that could stress or damage the fish. Modeling is proposed to test and improve the design. MWH will contract with ENSR to build and run a model to describe the resulting hydraulics. This may delay the 90% design process and require shifting the project schedule and date for final designs to FERC, as well as the construction schedule. The intent is to stay on our current schedule if at all possible. But, should a delay be necessary due to the need to resolve this design issue, the construction date may be moved a year to 2010. The completion date for a fully functional facility would still be 2012.

Action Item: Acknowledge and approve proposed schedule changes if necessary. Craig Tuss mentioned that the TWG had originally built a buffer into the schedule that provided for a fully functional facility by 2012; this goal should not be affected by this change. Everyone agreed it was best to build a facility that does not need to be fixed after construction is complete. The objective of the modeling is to prevent construction of a flawed facility. RCC verbal approval today - March 19, 2008. Monte Garrett will distribute a signature sheet within the next two months, if necessary, for an RCC request for change of schedule with FERC.

F&R (Flows & Ramping)

Flow Monitoring Plan Revision – Filed with FERC the week of February 25.

CSD (Canal Shut off & Drainage)

14.2 Clearwater 2 – 90% design review meeting held on March 12. Better progress is being made on the civil design part of this project than the electrical/communications part. A dual procurement process may be necessary. The civil work might start first, with wiring/communication work happening late in the year or early next year. It is anticipated that FERC DC will approve of this; FERC PRO has already agreed with this process. Final designs will be submitted to FERC DC in late April.

14.2 Lemolo 2 – Rich Barney will convene the group to start the design process this year, although a reality check may be needed to verify whether the design process may start this year, or if construction is possible in 2009.

Lemolo Lake Water Quality

At the February 28 TWG meeting, the group continued its review of new and existing information as well as revised reservoir model results from MaxDepth aquatics. The following conclusions resulted:

- The monitoring plan drafted by Grost is a good start and is getting additional input from ODFW and USDA-FS.
- A deeper drawdown this winter/spring is not recommended because it wouldn't have a significant impact on lake nutrients, and would tend to entrain brown trout as well as tui chub.
- Although tui chub do not seem to be driving the BGA blooms, it was considered useful to reduce the number of tui chub from a fish management perspective. ODFW is exploring opportunities for a control program using trap netting. If brown trout are captured, they can be released alive.
- Water level management or mixing in summer may be useful to reduce BGA bloom potential, but related impacts and tradeoffs must be considered and allowed for. Options are:
 - Maintain a lower pool level in summer 2008 (e.g. 4-6 ft lower than normal; boat ramp still useable)
 - Blocking off part of intake to canal; water drawn from higher level in lake; combo of two options
 - Mechanical mixers near resort & campground -- if they reduce blue green algae, the Department of Human Services MAY be able to allow recreation in these parts of the reservoir?

A follow up meeting is scheduled for April 1. Clear understandings are needed from ODFW, ODEQ, & USDA-FS on impacts to downstream water volume and temperature, and which options are viable from a regulatory standpoint. Suggest having ODEQ TMDL modeling crew work with Joe Eilers on temperature issues. Derek asked if it was definite that the lake wouldn't be lowered by more than four feet. Rich Grost said Eilers' modeled different scenarios from 4 to 10 ft lower than normal summer pool, and the greatest benefit derived from the greatest drawdown, but there is an effort to keep boat ramps useable if possible.

For monitoring Lemolo Lake water quality in 2008, USDA-FS approved use of some SA 19.3 mitigation funds, and a DEQ 319 grant may contribute more funds. ODFW is exploring options to fund tui chub removal.

Other Topics:

A site visit and meeting is scheduled for March 26 with the USDA-FS, to begin the Clearance and Notice to Proceed Processes for 2008 projects.

The next RCC Conference Call is scheduled for April 16, 10:00 AM

Adjourn