

**FINAL Meeting Notes
Lewis River License Implementation
Aquatic Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting
September 13, 2012
Merwin Hydro Control Center**

ACC Participants Present (8)

Kimberly McCune, PacifiCorp Energy (via conference)
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Energy
Peggy Miller, WDFW (via conference)
Shannon Wills, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Eric Kinne, WDFW
Diana Gritten-MacDonald, Cowlitz PUD
Adam Haspiel, US Forest Service
David Hu, US Forest Service (via conference)

Calendar:

October 11, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro
November 8, 2012	ACC Meeting	Merwin Hydro

Assignments from September 13, 2012 meeting	
Wills/Rose: Schedule Acclimation Pond Subgroup meeting and report back to the ACC on or before the ACC meeting on October 11, 2012.	Met on 9/25/12; meeting notes attached
Kinne: H&S Supplementation Program – Determine location and installation method for screwtrap placement in the lower river.	Pending
Kinne: H&S Supplementation Program – Set up meeting in the next week or two to define roles, responsibilities and logistics of coho surveys along with fall Chinook carcass counts and surveys.	Complete

Assignments from August 9, 2012 meeting	
Shrier: Contact Diana Perez (US Forest Service) to see what the consensus is regarding use of the Lower Falls campground site for acclimation.	USFS said that the Lower Falls campground site is a go. Complete 9/13/12
Frazier: Follow up with the H&S Subgroup and report back to the ACC regarding if natural origin fish are captured at Merwin trap what is to be done with them.	Complete - 9/13/12
Shrier: Look at the gage table for August 1, 2012 and report his findings to Halseth.	Complete – 8/9/12

Shrier: Ask PacifiCorp management about adding flow information to the Lewis River website and report back to Halseth.	Complete – 9/13/12
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Assignments from July 12, 2012 meeting	
McCune: Email last version of Project Delay Schedule to the ACC.	Complete – 7/12/12
Kinne: PacifiCorp needs a budget for coho and fall Chinook from WDFW, sooner than later.	Complete
Lesko: Contact Kinne to set up a date and time to discuss the use of Ponds 15 as a temporary release pond site.	Complete – Meeting held on 9/7/12; WDFW provided sketches to PacifiCorp
Shrier: Lewis River Hatchery Ladder Dredging – Obtain written approval from WDFW, NMFS and USFWS for reducing flows to 600cfs for one day during the work period.	Complete

Assignments from June 14, 2012 meeting	
Shrier: Confirm if modifications to FSC screens have been completed yet and report results to Eric Kinne (WDFW).	100%
Rose: Schedule an Acclimation Pond Subgroup meeting to include appropriate Forest Service staff to discuss FS concerns, timing, etc. for the Crab Creek Alternative site.	Complete – Meeting took place on 8/3/12

Assignments from January 12, 2012 meeting	
Coordinate a summer tour of the Swift Downstream Collector Construction for the Cowlitz tribal council. (One month delay was recommended. Shannon Wills to confirm with Tribe leadership). <i>June 2012: Frank Shrier added that it might be easier, and better for access, to wait until the trestle has been floated down.</i>	Pending as of 9/13/12– Shrier will update Wills on the best timing for the tour.

Assignments from March 8, 2012 meeting	
Murdock - indicated that she will email literature to Shrier regarding Yakama Nation acclimation reports. <i>September 2012: Shrier is still awaiting information.</i>	Pending as of 9/13/12
Kinne - will get some information for the ACC on the White River acclimation and any other information his agency might have.	Pending as of 9/13/12

Opening, Review of Agenda and Meeting Notes

Frank Shrier (PacifiCorp) called the meeting to order @ 9:10 a.m. Shrier requested all attendees identify themselves for the benefit of all attendees on the conference call. The ACC reviewed the agenda and no new topics were added. The pending assignments were reviewed and updated as follows:

The August 9, 2012 meeting notes were reviewed and accepted with one minor housekeeping change to modify NMFSS on page 4 to read as NMFS. Notes were approved at 9:30am.

The assignments below are indicated complete, however, additional clarification was provided by the assignee as follows:

1.

Assignments from August 9, 2012 meeting	
Frazier/Kinne: Follow up with the H&S Subgroup and report back to the ACC regarding if natural origin fish are captured at Merwin trap what is to be done with them.	Complete - 9/13/12

Note: Kinne communicated that all fish handled in the Merwin trap will be wanded for coded wire tag (CWT) so that there is a known number of CWT/non-CWT fish transferred to the upper basin. During upper river stream monitoring all natural origin fish (non-CWT) will have scales sampled.

2.

Assignments from August 9, 2012 meeting	
Shrier: Ask PacifiCorp management about adding flow information to the Lewis River website and report back to Halseth.	Complete – 9/13/12

Note: Shrier expressed that all flow information is on the Ariel gage website in real time http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv?site_no=14220500

PacifiCorp posts as much info as possible but cannot provide information as to planned operations on a day-to-day basis ahead of time due to competition for non-firm power markets.

Kim McCune (PacifiCorp) will finalize the August 9, 2012 meeting notes for posting to the Lewis River website.

Acclimation Pond/Crab Creek Discussion (*Update on Subgroup Activities, site selection discussions and update on initial engineering visit*) -

Shrier informed the ACC that there is no Subgroup activity to report, however, he has conversed with the Forest Service (Diana Perez), Bob Rose (Yakama Nation) and Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) in an ad hoc fashion to address the Crab Creek alternatives. . Related to the email sent to the ACC on Sept. 5th, Shrier indicated that he has not received any emails of objection. Shrier also informed the ACC that he arranged a site visit to look at the feasibility of alternative sites to Crab Creek, which took place on August 30, 2012 and included himself, Nathan Higa (PacifiCorp), Briana Weatherly (PacifiCorp), and Derek Nelson (McMillen, LLC). The results of said site visit are provided in [Attachment A](#), as a technical memorandum from McMillen, LLC included in an email from Frank Shrier dated September 5, 2012.

Shrier provided a brief overview of the McMillen memorandum to include emphasis that the costs associated with the road restoration at the abandoned road alternative, i.e., excavation, rock hauling fees is upwards of \$600k, which does not include gate installation or the cost of constructing a pond. All of which is cost prohibitive. Another significant outcome of the site visit is that there is not enough drop in elevation at the Lower Falls campground site. Nelson pointed out during the site visits that the minimum depth of the pond would be 3 feet so we

would need at least 6 feet of head to supply an adequate amount of water via gravity feed. There was not enough drop in the entire immediate area to provide that much head.

During the site visit the attendees discussed such things as a mechanical in-water paddle pump and other means of getting water to the pond but Nelson reminded the group that spring flows are likely to bring in large enough debris to take out whatever we place in the mainstem without some sort of permanent protection. Shrier expressed to the ACC today that in case the pump failed overnight, we could not respond timely enough to save the fish.

Shrier informed the ACC that PacifiCorp has a 15-year temporary water right at this site which can be renewed. Members of the ACC expressed that direct release was not an ideal alternative.

Adam Haspiel (US Forest Service) suggested that perhaps we can go back to Crab Creek and do it earlier in the year. Shrier responded that snow access is an issue if we were to try and acclimate earlier in the spring. In addition the WDFW identified disturbance of wintering elk with the use of snow machinery.

The ACC determined that a Acclimation Pond Subgroup should meet as soon as possible. Shannon Wills (Cowlitz Indian Tribe) will contact Bob Rose (Yakama Nation) and schedule a meeting date and time and report back to the ACC on or before the ACC meeting on October 11, 2012.

Eric Kinne (WDFW) expressed for point of clarification that Crab Creek is a fall release. The fish were programmed for this; two different size fish. He questioned Shrier as to whether or not PacifiCorp wanted to tag these fish with a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT-tag) and, if so, who would do it. Shrier said that it seemed worthy of consideration to tag 10% of the fish programmed for Crab Creek but that he wanted to check with other staff on this issue.

The ACC recommended to PIT-tag 10% of fish to be directly released at each site during the fall 2012 and spring 2013 timeframe.

Study Updates

Hatchery & Supplementation Program

Erik Lesko (PacifiCorp) provided the following written communication in his absence for use at the meeting, which was presented by Shrier. Two main issues are pressing at the moment. First, the location and installation method for screwtrap placement in the lower river needs to be defined. This determination needs to be made with assistance from WDFW staff in Olympia. Pat Frazier (WDFW) or Eric Kinne (WDFW) need to follow up with this. Secondly, the coho surveys will be starting soon and WDFW has been contracted to meet this need along with fall Chinook carcass counts and surveys. A meeting should be set in the next week or two to define roles, responsibilities and logistics of this effort. As of September 13, approximately 140 coho have been transported upstream.

The ACC expressed concern regarding transport if all the fish come in at once with the trucks PacifiCorp and WDFW have available at this time. Wills communicated that arranging to borrow or share truck time would not be that difficult. Shrier said that PacifiCorp and WDFW have exhausted their ideas for additional trucks. Shrier further stated that if the coho run is less than 1,200 a day, PacifiCorp and WDFW can handle the transport of these fish numbers with the

trucks available now. Alternatively, if more than that enter the traps in one day, it is feasible they could be held until the following day for transport upstream.

Hatchery Upgrades -

Lewis River Hatchery Upstream Intake (USI)

All in-water work has been completed and the project was completed on September 12, 2012. Divers found that the blowoff system missing some pieces and is in bad shape and will need to be replaced in the near future due to corrosion. Missing pieces were replaced, but it is a temporary fix. All screen guides were replaced which was a deviation of the original scope, but this will provide additional support to the structure. In addition, several voids in the concrete sill were repaired. NW Underwater Construction completed the work on time and did a great job.

Merwin Rearing Ponds

Work has started on completing the two rearing pond headers at Merwin hatchery. Completion is scheduled for the end of this month.

Pond 15 at Lewis River Hatchery

PacifiCorp requested that several items be repaired to the Pond 15 sorting facility and holding ponds. Namely, installation of floor drains and repairs to the high pressure water lines that froze during last winter need repaired and installation of drainage valves.

Hatchery projects expected to be completed in 2013

- Lewis River Hatchery – Modifications and structural support for the downstream intake
- Merwin Hatchery – Upgrades to the PLC, metering and alarming at the ozone facility
- Speelyai Hatchery – Modifications to the intake structure
- Speelyai Hatchery – Conversion of Pond 14 to raceways

Woodland Release Ponds

This project is delayed pending the Section 7 consultation between FERC and NMFS related to Eulachon smelt, a listed species. PacifiCorp needs to start in-water work by June 1, 2013.

M&E Plan Implementation

As part of the upper river surveys for coho which started on September 10, 2012, a change was made with respect to scale sampling. Although the M&E plan states that all fish will be sampled for scales this does not make sense for hatchery coho. No scales are obtained from hatchery coho because most, if not all, are either 2 or 3 year olds. Scale samples would be taken from wild coho in the upper basin consistent with methods for lower river surveys.

Merwin Upstream Construction Status

Sorting building outside is complete. PacifiCorp has taken over operations, trapping Monday – Friday; and taking coho directly upstream from there. Fall Chinook and sockeye go downstream.

Swift Downstream Collector Construction Status

Ballasted the Floating Surface Collector (FSC) down and rotated around for attaching to the mooring tower. The FSC is down to operating level and fully powered up. As soon as the FSC is anchored on the mooring pilings then the net transition structure attachment will follow. During the week of November 7, 2012 a week long test of the entire facility will take place for hydraulic evaluation. The crew is prepared to take care of fish that come in. We may see a few coho, fry and rainbow. The project is moving along well. No schedule for tours has been set yet.

Future Fish Passage Facilities New Information - Status

Contractor selected but contract not signed yet. Need minor adjustments to budget which Shrier is working on.

Yale Spillway Barrier Net

Work window through September 2012. PacifiCorp may need an extension into October 2012.

Lewis River Fish Passage Issues

Shrier provided the following update to the ACC via email on August 23, 2012 ([Attachment B](#)) regarding two issues:

Two issues have cropped up on the Lewis River fish program. First, WDFW has lost availability of one of their hauling trucks – their hauling tank completely collapsed during a fish water transfer test. In addition, PacifiCorp has a second hauling truck on order but completion has been delayed until sometime in Nov. or Dec. So the gist of that is we are down two hauling trucks and will not have them available for the coho run. That leaves just two trucks to haul at least 9,000 S-coho.

Second, WDFW is short two workers due to long term medical and injury. This reduces worker numbers to process fish at the Lewis River Hatchery ladder and to conduct other hatchery-related duties.

The coho passage program has a target of 9,000 coho. The two trucks can haul up to 160 coho per tank so that means it will take 56 trips, in the historically short return window of about 7 weeks, which is about 8 trips per day. With fish being hauled to the Swift boat ramp, it takes an estimated 3 hours per load so each truck will need to make four trips per day. That's a 12-hour day for two drivers. One way to reduce the strain on too few trucks and too few drivers is to shorten the trip time so, WDFW and PacifiCorp brainstormed some ideas this week. The best idea is to haul the coho to the alternative release adult chute at Swift dam – this saves 1.5 hours per trip. The chute is complete and could be used at any time. Past experience shows that many coho travel downstream in Swift reservoir as well as upstream so the thought is there would not be a great deal of change in distribution.

So, PacifiCorp is asking for approval of using the chute for this year's S-coho return instead of the Swift boat ramp. This would help alleviate both issues this year.

Note: this request is no longer an issue and does not require a response from the ACC.

On another note, there was talk about the acclimation program for 2013. Since the ponds will not be in place for this spring, neither WDFW nor PacifiCorp could see the value in PIT-tagging those fish to check survival from each pond site this coming year. Nor did it make a great deal of sense to distribute the releases this spring between the three sites. The proposal then is to not PIT-tag the acclimation fish this year and to just plant them at one of the sites. Crab Creek stands out as the best option for planting being it is highest in the basin. Please provide comment – this will be a topic of discussion at the next ACC.

When those spring Chinook out-migrate this spring, they will be the only Chinook coming from the upper watershed. Some of them will be intercepted at the Eagle Cliff Screw trap and tagged for evaluation purposes so we will still be gathering some valuable data from the release this spring.

Other

Kinne informed the ACC that Pat Frazier (WDFW) has accepted a position with Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB). Frazier will remain with WDFW until mid October 2012.

<10:25 a.m. meeting adjourned >

Agenda items for October 11, 2012

- Review September 13, 2012 Meeting Notes
- Aquatic Fund Pre-proposal Review
- Study/Work Product Updates
- Acclimation Pond Subgroup Update

Public Comment

None

Next Scheduled Meetings

October 11, 2012	November 8, 2012
Merwin Hydro Control Center	Merwin Hydro Control Center
Ariel, WA	Ariel, WA
9:00 a.m. – Noon	9:00 a.m. – Noon

Meeting Handouts & Attachments (sent via e-mail)

- Notes from 8/09/12
- Agenda for 9/13/12
- **Attachment A** – Crab Creek alternative Site Assessment email, dated September 5, 2012 and McMillen Technical Memorandum dated August 31, 2012
- **Attachment B** – Lewis River Passage Issues email, dated August 23, 2012

McCune, Kimberly

From: Shrier, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 10:00 AM
To: Bob Rose; Kinne, Eric B (DFW); Diana Perez; Hu, David -FS; Haspiel, Adam I -FS; Shannon Wills; LouEllyn Jones; Michelle Day; Frazier, Patrick A (DFW)
Cc: Olson, Todd; Lesko, Erik; Doyle, Jeremiah; Karchesky, Chris; Samagaio, James; Ferraiolo, Mark; McCune, Kimberly; Weatherly, Briana
Subject: Crab Creek alternative site assessment
Attachments: TM No 007 - 09-05-12 Crab Alts.pdf

Hi Folks,
On August 30th, I met with Derek from McMillen and our engineer Nathan Higa to look at the Lower Falls campground as a potential acclimation pond site. I've attached Derek's technical memorandum documenting the visit. We looked over the site thoroughly including areas upstream of the proposed location. The water was considerably lower than our first visit and it was evident that the rock shelf falls upstream of the site did not span the entire stream and was primarily on the bank opposite the pond site. In addition, there was not enough drop in elevation. That last point surprised me but Derek pointed out that the minimum depth of the pond would be 3 feet so we would need at least 6 feet of head to supply an adequate amount of water via gravity feed. There was not enough drop in the entire immediate area to provide that much head. We discussed such things as a mechanical in-water paddle pump and other means of getting water to the pond but Derek reminded us that spring flows are likely to bring in large enough debris to take out whatever we place in the mainstem without some sort of permanent protection.

After the initial shock of that news, I decided to revisit the Crab Creek area to see if any other ideas might emerge. Still no new ideas there. We then went down to the Abandoned Road site a couple of miles downstream of Crab Creek. We walked in about ½ mile when Derek stopped us and shared some information after looking around and inspecting existing culverts and ground conditions. He said the reality is that the road would need new culverts of higher capacity. We would also need to scrape off the top 12" of road and build it back with compacted road base that would hold up to the heavy fish trucks. He had just finished a similar road restoration project in Idaho with similar conditions and remoteness. He said the mobilization costs, excavation, and rock hauling fees pushed that project to \$600k. That doesn't include the costs to install a gate and the cost of constructing a pond. I turned the group around at that point because that is simply too much money to spend on a project with a 15-year life.

I am back to square one and fresh out of ideas. The Settlement Agreement does not say how many ponds PacifiCorp needs to construct and leaves that up to the ACC and the Supplementation sub-group. Still I do not see any other option except helicopter direct release or direct release at the Crab Creek site.

We can talk about this some more or just bring up the discussion at the next ACC.

McMILLEN, LLC

To:	Nathan Higa PacifiCorp	Project:	Lewis River Acclimation Ponds
From:	Derek Nelson	Cc:	Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp Mort McMillen, McMillen LLC
Date:	August 31, 2012	Job No:	1039.06
Subject:	Acclimation Ponds – Feasibility of Alternatives to Crab Creek		

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.01 Purpose

This memorandum summarizes the discussions and site visit to the upper Lewis River watershed to determine the feasibility of three alternative acclimation sites to the original Crab Creek site. The site visit was conducted on August 30, 2012 by Frank Shrier, Briana Weatherly, and Nathan Higa of PacifiCorp and Derek Nelson of McMillen, LLC.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The original Crab Creek site is located on USFS Road 90 near the bridge located approximately one mile downstream from Lower Falls Recreation Site. The acclimation layout and components has been through several iterations since the project began in 2009.

The original layout included an intake on Crab Creek that delivered the water supply to three portable tanks located on the left bank just downstream of the bridge. This layout was abandoned due to the required flows to the acclimation tanks would completely divert all of the flow out of Crab Creek during the fall acclimation period.

An alternative to provide an in-stream live tank to hold the fish within the Lewis River was analyzed. This was abandoned due to securing the tank in place would require cabling that would extend up river to the bedrock banks. The cabling would be a hazard for boaters and the access to feed and release the fish were major concerns.

The last completed design incorporated an instream holding pond created by excavating the area at the confluence of Crab Creek and the Lewis River and installing large boulders to create a pond. The pond would be filled by subsurface flow by the Lewis River. This alternative was abandoned due to the fact the Lewis River is proposed for Wild and Scenic River designation and the U.S. Forest Service had concerns related to the aesthetics of the pond boulders and potential ground disturbance associated with the yearly maintenance of the pond with heavy equipment.

Upon abandoning of the above alternatives, the solution was determined to be a direct release to the Lewis River from the bridge near Crab Creek. The direct release would be comprised of approximately half of the 30,000 juvenile Chinook to be released at this site. The other half would be incorporated into either of the other two acclimation sites at Muddy River or Clear Creek.

3.0 ALTERNATIVE SITE REVIEW

Three alternative sites were selected as potential alternates to the Crab Creek site. These sites were reviewed in the field on August 30, 2012. The three sites are:

1. Above Lower Falls Site – the site is located just upstream of the Lewis River Lower Falls. There are three stair access points from the Lower Falls Recreation area to the river. The acclimation site is located near the upstream most set of stairs. See Appendix A for photos of the site.
2. Below Lower Falls Site – the location would be located just downstream of the falls.
3. Abandoned Road Site – The turn out to this location is several miles downstream from the bridge near Crab Creek.

The Above Lower Falls site would have an aluminum portable tank with liner system located on the right bank near the stairs. The intake would be approximately two to three hundred feet upstream at the head of a bedrock shelf. (See Appendix A). The tank would require a minimum water depth of three feet and a foot of freeboard. It was determined at the site that there is not adequate head available to supply a tank at this location or anywhere along the river bank adjacent to the Lower Falls campground. A minimum water surface elevation change (head) of six feet would be required to deliver flow to the tank to supply the required three feet of water depth. Given that the required head is not available; this site was determined to be infeasible.

The Below Lower Falls site was investigated and determined to be infeasible due to lack of access. The river banks below the falls are inaccessible and would not accommodate installation and removal of an acclimation tank or pipeline and would not allow for safe release of the juveniles from a hauling truck.

The Abandoned Road Site would require re-establishing a minimum of a mile of road. This would include stripping the existing overgrown roadway a minimum of twelve inches and compacting the subbase. A minimum of six inches of gravel base would be imported and graded for the full length of the roadway to provide a stable travel surface for the fish transport trucks. Several culverts would be required along the roadway to pass natural drainage. This site was determined to be infeasible due to the cost of re-establishing the road. The actual acclimation site was not investigated as the roadway cost was determined to be prohibitive at this site.

APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1. Above Lower Falls – looking Upstream, bedrock shelf on D/S left bank.



Photograph 2. Above Lower Falls – looking Downstream

McCune, Kimberly

From: McCune, Kimberly
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 2:01 PM
To: 'Adam Haspiel (ahaspiel@fs.fed.us)'; 'Bart Stepp'; 'Bill Bakke'; 'Bob Rose (rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov)'; 'Bryan Nordlund'; 'Craig Olds (colds@cowlitz.org)'; 'David Hu'; 'Diana MacDonald'; Doyle, Jeremiah; 'Eric Kinne'; 'gghalseth@gmail.com'; 'Jeff Breckel'; 'Jim Malinowski'; Karchesky, Chris; 'Kathryn Miller (kmiller@tu.org)'; Lesko, Erik; 'LouEllyn Jones'; 'Mariah Stoll-Smith Reese (M.Reese@tds.net)'; 'Maynard, Chris (ECY)'; 'Melody Tereski'; 'Michelle Day'; Olson, Todd; 'Pat Frazier (frazipaf@dfw.wa.gov)'; 'Patrick Lee'; 'Paul Pearce'; 'peggy.miller@dfw.wa.gov'; 'Rhidian Morgan (rmmorgan@plasnewydd.org)'; 'Ruth Tracy'; 'Shannon Wills'; Shrier, Frank; 'Taylor Aalvik (taalvik@cowlitz.org)'
Subject: RE: Lewis River Passage issues

Attn: ACC Participants

Please see Frank Shrier's email below.

From: Shrier, Frank
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 11:29 AM
To: McCune, Kimberly
Cc: Olson, Todd
Subject: Lewis River Passage issues

Hi All:

Two issues have cropped up on the Lewis River fish program. First, WDFW has lost availability of one of their hauling trucks – their hauling tank completely collapsed during a fish water transfer test. In addition, PacifiCorp has a second hauling truck on order but completion has been delayed until sometime in Nov. or Dec. So the gist of that is we are down two hauling trucks and will not have them available for the coho run. That leaves just two trucks to haul at least 9,000 S-coho.

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experience shows that many coho travel downstream in Swift reservoir as well as upstream so the thought is there would not be a great deal of change in distribution.

So, PacifiCorp is asking for approval of using the chute for this year's S-coho return instead of the Swift boat ramp. This would help alleviate both issues this year.

On another note, there was talk about the acclimation program for 2013. Since the ponds will not be in place for this spring, neither WDFW nor PacifiCorp could see the value in PIT-tagging those fish to check survival from each pond site this coming year. Nor did it make a great deal of sense to distribute the releases this spring between the three sites. The proposal then, is to not PIT-tag the acclimation fish this year and to just plant them at one of the sites. Crab Creek stands out as the best option for planting being it is highest in the basin. **Please provide comment – this will be a topic of discussion at the next ACC.**

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