

11-17-10 Meeting Summary ** Approved 1-17-11 **
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Monte Garrett (PacifiCorp Energy)
Dave Harris (ODFW)
Craig Kohanek (OWRD)
Rob Burns (USFWS)
Ariel Hiller (BLM)
Chris Stine (ODEQ)
Gina Freel (USDA-FS)
Ed Meyer (NMFS)

Also Present

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

Absent

Pam Sighting (USDA-FS)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

USDA-FS: Gina Freel is moving to Washington D.C. office (in January 2011), to be the National Facilities Engineer.

RCC Action: Approve the October RCC Meeting Summary. *Approved 11-17-10.*

Public Information Opportunities - *none at this time.*

Craig Kohanek sent an inquiry to the Oregon Field Guide. He has not heard back yet, but will keep us posted.

2011 Annual Planning Workshop – Chris Stine proposed holding the meeting in Eugene, which would work well with current agency travel restrictions. He tentatively booked a conference room at his office, for January 26, with January 25 as a back-up date.

Settlement Agreement - 10th Year Anniversary (June 13, 2011) - *will be discussed next month.*

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Lemolo Reservoir Drawdown Allowance for Special Maintenance

The low-level outlet valve is closed for several days this week for maintenance, thus requiring water to be released from the Lemolo 1 canal to provide minimum flow in the bypass reach. In order for the manual slide gate in the canal to provide the 50 cfs minimum instream flow, the generator must be operating in the “high end” of its range, thus requiring 22MW worth of water in the canal around the clock. Drawing this amount of water is projected to cause Lemolo Reservoir to drop about 1 ft/day – faster than the usual limit of 0.5 ft/day. This rate of drawdown may also cause the reservoir to drop below the usual minimum pool of 4123.5 ft MSL for several days. Immediately following completion of maintenance PacifiCorp will restore normal operations and gradually raise the reservoir above 4123.5 ft MSL.

RCC Action: Agree that maintaining >50 cfs in the bypass reach is a higher priority than limiting reservoir drawdown or minimum pool, hence drawdown >0.5 ft/day and water level <4123.5 ft MSL is allowed during this maintenance event. *Agreed 11-17-10.*

Lemolo 1 Forebay and Wetland

The forebay is done. PacifiCorp is finalizing the public safety plan. Monitoring of the berm indicates that erosion is minimal and expected to be stable through winter while vegetation takes hold. The wetland is also complete and awaiting amphibians.

Monitoring of pH will commence in August 2011, as is required by the 401 Water Quality Certification.

Soda Springs Fish Passage

There has been no spill at the dam spillgates yet and work is progressing well. PacifiCorp hopes to work as long as possible in the river channel and get the whole work area well-protected before winter high flows occur. As difficult as it was to get started and acknowledging unexpected geotechnical difficulties, a lot has been completed. However, there is still a long way to go before the work area is ready for use of the spillgate #1. When high flows require spill and inundate the in-channel work area, the permitting agencies agreed to consider allowing re-dewatering and fish salvaging of this area if prudent and practical to do so – they would be consulted prior to any such action.

The fish screen area below the dam and fish ladder area above the dam are almost completely coffered-dammed off. The fish evaluation facility will be coffer-dammed off in late November. The fish ladder entrance/scour pad is almost ready for high flows. If we have another month before high flows, we should be able to make great progress and get the whole work area secured. As it stands now, the earliest completion date expected is April 2012. There will be no work below the ordinary high water (OHW) in 2012. Much of the 2011 work will be new penstock tie-ins, which require working below the OHW in 2011.

Ariel Hiller asked what the original completion goal was, to which Monte Garrett replied October 18, 2011. Monte also added that the testing of the new facilities will commence after April 2012 and will continue throughout 2012.

Aquatic Connectivity – The final designs for the more complex sites are still in progress; this will continue in 2011. A total of 55 still need to be done. Monte and Steve Albertelli will view the completed Lemolo 2 waterway sites today.

Slide Creek Tailrace Barrier Design

The 90% design meeting was held on October 14, with comments due by November 15. Comments have been received from both ODFW and NMFS and are being considered in preparation of the 100% designs, which are expected to be completed in early December. There will be a final two-week review. A signature sheet will be completed and submitted to FERC in January 2011. The coffer dam construction is scheduled for April 2011. The schedule remains the same.

It was noted that there will be a heavy construction workload next year comprised of the Slide Creek Tailrace construction, the Slide Creek plant overhaul, and the continued work on the Soda Springs Fish Passage, along with other projects on the hydroelectric project. It should be an interesting year.

Poole Creek Boat Ramp at Lemolo Lake - the project is complete and looking good!

Lemolo 2 Reroute/ Stinkhole Wetland Design

Steve Albertelli is working with the design consultant on finalizing the wetland design. It is still fairly early; we are at nearly 30% right now. We expect to have the design complete in early winter. The wetland will be constructed along with the Lemolo 2 Reroute project. The wetland will be under the power line, near Toketee-Rigdon Road. We expect rapid approval from FERC for the Lemolo 2 Reroute project and will break ground on February 1, 2011.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity/Wetlands – *No change from last month.* Three more wetlands are to be constructed in 2013, 2014, or 2015).

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute) – *Discussed above in Current Project Updates.*

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

19.2 – Dave Harris reported that they are down to conducting spawning ground surveys in Calf and Boulder Creeks, and occasionally Copeland. On November 17, they are floating the North Umpqua, from Soda Springs to Calf Creek. The spring chinook are done spawning now. They are seeing a few coho, and an occasional summer steelhead darting by. They will continue the surveys through December and then the field crew will be done for at least a year. They are currently working on the 2010 data. They are also conducting spawning ground surveys above Lemolo Lake. Brown trout are spawning in Spring Creek, with 20/30 Kokanee found this year. The surveys were completed yesterday. One of the surveyors said it was the most adult brown trout spawning he has ever seen.

Snow will be the factor on the Lemolo survey. Soon they won't be able to access it. The next FHS TWG meeting is coming up on November 23.

6.2 Slide Creek Full Flow Monitoring Plan (Draft)

Comments were received and incorporated into a revised version emailed to the TWG on 11-15-10. This version will be discussed and approved at the 11-23-10 TWG meeting and submitted to FERC by 11-30-10.

FPD (Fish Passage Design) – *See current project update above.* It was noted that there will be no more FPD TWG meetings as the design phases of fish facility projects have been completed.

F&R (Flows & Ramping) – Nothing new to report other than a temporary location and gage installation has been chosen for the Soda Springs bypass reach during construction.

Lemolo Reservoir

The Lemolo Reservoir TWG has been replaced by a larger group called the North Umpqua Lake Management Group to address blue green algae and other lake issues over a larger area. It is a multi-agency group with tag-team leadership but is not an RCC TWG anymore. The initial meeting of this group was 11-10-10, where some discussion involved Lemolo Reservoir.

A deep drawdown of Lemolo Reservoir emerged as the most useful and practical management action not yet attempted to reduce the number of tui chub in the reservoir, based on Joe Eilers recent analysis. Rich had emailed the ODFW and USFS as proposal to do such an experimental drawdown in Jan-April 2011 to a) reduce tui chub numbers, b) help protect the Soda Springs fish passage work from high flows, and 3) provide rationale for PacifiCorp to continue supporting extended monitoring efforts. Tui chub were trapped for three years, but there is still a large population present in the reservoir. In response to this suggestion, Dave said that the ODFW would prefer to do one more year of tui chub trapping before an experimental drawdown. He also said there have been less tui chub that are four inches and above. Scott Lamb does have funds for trapnetting next year. If the number of large tui chub goes back up, then maybe do a deep drawdown in the winter of 2012. ODFW is not against the concept of deep drawdowns, but the agency needs a demonstration of benefits.

If and when a deep drawdown occurs, ODFW suggested monitoring to compare entrainment during normal operations with the deep drawdown period. Rich Grost and Dave have been talking, and Rich will get a draft plan together for potential monitoring of fish entrainment in the canal.

Fish Creek Canal Shut-off & Drainage Test – scheduled for December 1. Craig asked if videotaping could be done for those that cannot be there to witness it.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

The meeting schedule was reviewed.

The next RCC meeting will be a conference call on December 15, 10:00 AM to Noon.

Meeting adjourned.