

8-19-09 Meeting Summary * Approved 9-16-09 *
RESOURCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RCC)
NORTH UMPQUA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT- FERC #1927-008

RCC Members or Alternates Present

Also Present

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

Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy)

INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA, OLD BUSINESS

Member Updates

RCC members discussed implications of constrained budgets, with emphasis on furlough days (state) and travel and staff time restrictions (feds). This could affect work coming up this fall (TWG meetings, other on-site activities). Plan to avoid furlough days and schedule events such that they can be completed within a 12-hr day, travel included and no overnight lodging needed.

Update by Sighting on the status of the Williams Creek Fire. Some concern regarding T&D management of hazard trees (fire affected) in the vicinity of “hot spots”, starting additional fires. A request has been made to T&D to discontinue this vegetation management for two weeks until these hot spots have cooled down. The fire and related transmission line damage had the entire NUHP shut down from 7/28 – 8/16, the longest entire-project shutdown in recent history.

RCC Action: Review and approve 7/15/09 draft meeting summary. *Approved 8-26-09, contingent on final review by NMFS.*

Public Information Opportunities

Mary Wagner (USFS Regional Director) will be on the North Umpqua, as part of the pyrolysis demonstration at the Sand Shed, but will also visit the Soda Springs dam and discuss with staff (Jeff Dose) the planned fish passage project.

The revision of the North Umpqua implementation video is ongoing, with Mark Brown (contracted videographer) on site recently to record video footage of our new implementation projects and update the status of previously completed projects. The revision of the video will be completed in 2010.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Garrett and Grost presented a brief slide show of ongoing implementation projects, highlighting work on the Lemolo and Fish Creek developments. There was good discussion on the modified schedule for the Lemolo 1 forebay, as well as the recently completed evaluation studies at the Fish Creek screens and the Soda Springs tailrace barrier.

Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Status

The USDA-FS recently issued the following NTPs:

- Lemolo 1 forebay toe drain pipes
- Soda Springs fish passage project (2009 activities)
- Slide Creek tailrace barrier exploratory borings

Fish Creek (Screens and Canal Shutoff & Drainage System) – PacifiCorp’s internal test in July was successful, and a demonstration for the agencies is planned upon water-up in the fall. The last round of fish evaluations was completed at the screen in July, results will be provided to the TWG this fall. Chris inquired about ways to address the buildup of snow in the canal during periods of winter shutdown due to low natural inflows. Rich explained that PacifiCorp may need to keep some flow (e.g. 5 cfs) in the canal even during low natural inflows to avoid heavy snow buildups, which caused a snow-jam and erosion event last winter when diversion was gradually restored after a low-flow-induced shutdown. PacifiCorp will monitor flows and snow this winter to better identify minimum flow needs.

Lemolo 2 Canal Shut-off & Drainage System – Project is on schedule to be completed by the end of November this year. No problems have been encountered with this project, which is very similar to the facility completed in 2008 at Clearwater 2.

Lemolo 2 Forebay Dredging/Lemolo 2 Plant Overhaul – Dredge material is currently being removed from the forebay and deposited in the clearcut site. Based on discussions between PacifiCorp and USDA-FS technical staff, the dredge disposal site will be planted with a native seed mix afterward to provide a big game forage plot. ODFW and the USFS reiterated that they would like to see fish habitat provided by placing about 40 rootwad stumps in about 10 clusters of 3-5 in the dredged area, not to block navigation from the boat ramp.

Lemolo 1 Forebay – The schedule for the Lemolo 1 forebay construction has been modified for completion of the facility in 2010, due to redesign of the forebay to address FERC-PRO specifications for berm fill material. BMPs will be utilized to ensure the disturbed area will be protected, consistent with the NTP and 1200-C permit, during the over-winter period. The wetland will be completed in 2009 as currently designed.

Soda Springs Tailrace Barrier (Baffle Prototype Test) – The technical memo prepared by AECOM to describe results of the June test of prototype baffles has been distributed to ODFW and NMFS for comment and further planning. Discussion centered on the need to evaluate the debris loading issue after construction of the fish screen, so as to better appreciate what the long-term O&M will be. Until that time, some periodic testing of the prototype baffles and monitoring of fish behavior may be

conducted as opportunities occur. Ed suggested that one prototype baffle be left in place routinely if possible, to learn more about debris, bedload, and handling issues. Rich will check with operators to see if this is practical.

Soda Springs Fish Passage – The RCC discussed in some detail the results of the July 29 conference call to review final construction plans for the fish passage facilities. This call resolved that the minimum instream flow facility will be a temporary structure (sized for 100 cfs) to minimize the amount of armoring necessary; this area will be later modified to provide an appropriately designed fish outfall. However, issues related to the fish evaluation building were targeted for RCC discussion. Three scenarios have emerged within the TWG regarding the evaluation building: 1) construction of the building in the currently planned location, 2) construction of a facility in the location of the ODFW holding ponds, and 3) eliminating the evaluation building and instead conducting an evaluation study by trapping fish at the fish return outfall. After weighing the relative impacts and trade-offs for all 3 options, the RCC concluded that:

- 1) proceeding with the evaluation building in its currently-planned location is the preferred option and will provide the best consistency with SA requirements for both the screen evaluation and the 19.2 long-term monitoring program requirements, while avoiding potential difficulties associated with sampling in-river or converting the ODFW ponds (e.g. fish return pipe to through a landslide area, returning fish to the river, minimum bypass flow issues);
- 2) the presence of riprap will be mitigated by bioengineering it to provide habitat benefits (e.g. topping with native material below OHW and planting the riparian area above OHW);
- 3) riprap treatments will be monitored and maintained as part of the annual monitoring and periodic maintenance program already in place for the SA 8.3 habitat project, which this facility is adjacent to; and
- 4) future TWG meeting will focus on the more detailed hydraulic and mechanical issues still remaining with the evaluation facility and fish return system.

Slide Creek Instream Flow – The gage site in the Slide Creek bypass reach needs to be moved to a downstream location to better gauge flows provided by the Obermeyer weir at the dam. Discussions within PacifiCorp and USGS are determining the new location of that gage site, and Rob suggested also coordinating with Craig Street concerning his ongoing instream habitat work in that area. Rich explained that a test is planned during September to verify the feasibility of the new gage site, and that modification of ramp rates in the Slide Creek bypass reach will be needed in order to complete this test.

RCC Action: Approve modification of ramp rates (expected flow range 50-300 cfs) in the Slide Creek bypass reach for one day during September to verify the feasibility of the new gage site **RCC approved -- Rich Grost will send an email to notify Flow and Ramping TWG.**

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Aquatic Connectivity

Designs for three aquatic site reconnections were distributed to ODFW and USDA-FS. PacifiCorp is planning to complete fewer sites in 2009, in order to complete site-specific designs in order to complete site-specific plans and a schedule for construction of all aquatic sites (55 sites).

L2R (Lemolo 2 Reroute)

The geotechnical investigation is complete. PacifiCorp is moving the previously accepted conceptual design to a 30% design, which will be reviewed at the first design meeting now planned for September. The target is a 60% design by year-end or early next year, with permitting in 2010 and construction in 2011.

FHS (Fish Habitat Studies)

19.2 Monitoring Program – smolt traps are removed from Calf and Copeland creeks due to low flow, and Soda Springs bypass due to mechanical problems. PacifiCorp and ODFW are arranging smolt trap removal for repair. The crew is currently doing SA 19.2 fish population surveys in stream reaches upstream of Soda Springs dam, concentrating in the lower 3.2 miles of Fish Creek so far, and moving to Slide bypass and full-flow reaches next. They also assisted with tui chub surveys in Pit Lakes and Lake Creek.

FPD (Fish Passage Design)

Soda Springs fish passage – see above “project update” discussion. The next TWG meeting was agreed to be held in conjunction with the Slide Creek TRB kick-off meeting on September 3, 0900-1600 hrs, with the location changed to PacifiCorp’s Green District Office (to facilitate travel). The first half of the day will be a Soda Springs discussion, and the afternoon will focus on conceptual designs for the Slide Creek tailrace barrier.

Lemolo Reservoir (met 7/28)

Public health algae monitoring resulted in a health advisory going into effect 7/23, and being lifted 8/18. All indications were that the magnitude and duration of this bloom were both less than during blooms of the last 3 summers. Comprehensive water quality monitoring is proceeding on schedule. Tui chub removal by trapnetting is proceeding with monthly pilot efforts by electrofishing and daily trapnetting by Lemolo Resort. Trapnetting is being scaled back to one net since catches have dwindled even more since summer (total removed about 60,000 fish). At the last meeting the TWG supported the concept of PacifiCorp and USFS using some of their “earmarked matching funds” to pay Lemolo Lake Resort for the final amount (about \$7k) needed to make up the difference between the Title II funds provided, the matching funds payment already made, and the original budget estimate of \$71k for 77 days of trapnetting effort (equivalent to netting 5/26-8/7).

The next RCC meeting will be a teleconference on September 16, 2009; 10:00 AM - Noon.

Meeting adjourned.