

**COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL EXECUTIVES DIALOGUE
WITH STATES AND TRIBES
Facilitator's Meeting Summary
June 15, 2001 Conference call**

The following are the facilitator's summary notes from the June 15 Regional Executives conference call. These notes are meant to capture the general discussion of those on the call. They are not meant to be a verbatim transcript or a "record" of events. Instead, they are intended to both remind people of the discussion points and keep the process moving by highlighting action items. These notes should not be construed to be final policy statements of any agency or government. Corrections may be made at the next meeting.

I apologize in advance if I did not hear your name or if I spelled it incorrectly. Please help me out with this! Thanks.

Present by Telephone:

Paul Norman, BPA
Jim Kempton, Idaho
Jim Fodrea, BOR
Bill Shake, USFWS
Fred Olney, USFWS
Donna Darm & Jim Ruff, NMFS
Keith Hatch, BIA
John Fazio, NWPPC, OR
Bob Heinith & Rob Lothrop, CRITFC
Judy Danielson, NWPPC ID

Dan Opalski, EPA
Deb Louie, Colville Tribe
Jim Litchfield, Montana
Christine Mallette & Michael Bryant, OR
Bob Nichols, WA Governor's Office
Eric Bloch, OR
Tom Karier, NWPPC-WA
WittAnderson & Mike White, COE
Charlie Grist, NWPPC, OR

Technical Staff and Others:

Steve Kerns, BPA
Bill Kinsey, BPA
Claudia Andrews, BPA
Jim Curtis, BPA
Craig Sprankle, BOR
Ken Pedde, BOR
Scott Corwin, PNGC Power
Rob Walton, PPC

Kevin Rosenbaum, Colville Tribes
Pat McGrane, BOR
Shauna McReynolds, PUNCC
John Kober, NWF
Andrew Englander, Save Wild Salmon
Bill Branch, COE
Liz Hamilton, NW Sport Fishing Industry Assoc.
Bill Rudolph, Tim Peddne, Shannon Opus,
Bureau of Indian Affairs

*The following discussion focused on an package of information sent out by BPA prior to the meeting, which can be found on the following web page: <http://www.salmonrecovery.gov>, www.salmonrecovery.gov. Presentations were made on these reliability, financial, and biological analyses.

Update on Reliability Analysis:

Steve Kerns of BPA reported on this analysis. BPA concluded that a decision about summer spill can't be made yet given the uncertainties surrounding reliability. This is the most constraining of the three analyses. Eric Bloch reminded the group that the northwest Power Planning Council made no recommendations for storage, but council staff did a study on the risks involved with 1,500 MW/mos used for storage. Some commented that the reliability analysis could be more fine-tuned and other storage options considered.

Update on Financial Analysis:

Claudia Andrews of BPA spoke to this analysis. She told the group that the study was done based on the 600 MW/mos of spill already used and 600 more incremental mw/mos. In conclusion, BPA could spill up to 600 MW/mos without violating financial criteria.

ACTION:

Members of the group asked for more details on this analysis, so an informal meeting was set for Monday, June 18 to address this issue. See details below.

Paul Norman said that rates will be announced by June 29, and while this has an impact on financial criterion, it may not impact decisions on summer spill.

Update on Biological Analysis:

Jim Ruff (NMFS) showed a relative difference in survival of listed and some non-listed species when comparing no spill to spill requirements in the Biological Opinion. Ruff pointed out that few studies have been done on transport, but this operation appears to be less beneficial to fish than other migration operations. Hanford Reach stocks were not included in the third table for lack of information. However, some would like to see them included.

ACTION:

Donna Darm will take the request to include Hanford Reach information under advisement and check to see if enough data exists to include Hanford Reach fish. Rob Lothrop (CRITFC) said they may have some data to submit regarding this matter.

Discussion on Effects for Summer Spill:

Paul Norman began by saying that reliability factors are too unclear to make decisions on summer spill and hopefully some uncertainty will dissolve by the June 29 meeting. BPA posed two questions to the group to consider:

1. What alternatives exist to compensate biologically for no spill or modified spill?
2. Are there comments on the three updated analyses? After some discussion, it was agreed that BPA would revise these two questions and post them on the web page for people to respond to.

ACTION:

Comments, especially to the two revised questions should be sent to: sbcooper@bpa.gov, sbcooper@bpa.gov, by Friday, June 22.

Questions came up over prices and Norman stated that the analyses are very close to existing market prices. Eric Bloch requested more information on the Grant PUD swap.

ACTION:

BPA will consider the Grant PUD swap regarding this matter in the next two weeks..

Rob Walton (PPC) asked NMFS about impacts on adult fish. Ruff replied that, due to all the assumptions and uncertainties, NMFS is reluctant to run those studies.

Bob Heinith (CRITFC) asked what information BPA is looking for in the next couple weeks that will help make summer spill decisions. Norman said reliability is the main concern, which includes Fall rates as affected by the load reduction campaign, updates on the run-off forecast, and more certainty on the inactive nuclear power plant. He also noted that BPA is currently purchasing power, which is ensuring the 1,280 level at Grand Coulee. Paul Norman also acknowledged the Colville Tribe's concerns about maintaining the Lake Roosevelt pool.

Next Steps:

Jacqueline Abel (Facilitator) summarized next steps from today's conference call:

1. Send your comments by June 22 to sbcooper@bpa.gov. BPA will compile these comments. Refer to the two revised questions addressed to the group which BPA will post on the web page ASAP. Those questions are:
 - a. Are there alternative actions that may have comparable or better biological benefits if no summer spill or a modified amount of summer spill is available within the criteria?
 - b. Do you have comments on the updates to the biological, financial, and reliability analysis and conclusions? (We are not seeking comment on the power emergency criteria or methodologies.)
3. Financial analysis information: more details will be made available on the web page as to assumptions used for the analysis. There will be a meeting Monday, June 18, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at BPA room 594, for those interested in more details. Call-in number (503-230-3344), pass code 9469. You may also call Tracy Smith (503-230-4044) with questions.
4. NMFS will take under advisement whether they can include Hanford Reach information in Table 3 of the biological analysis update presented today
5. The Grant PUD swap is to be considered by BPA, among other factors, over the next two weeks

Next scheduled Regional Executives' Meeting: Friday, June 29th, 2001, 9-1 p.m., Portland Airport Embassy Suites Hotel (unless notified otherwise). Please let us know if you have any agenda items that you wish to be included. The current proposed agenda item is: Decision on Summer Spill.

Changes or corrections to these notes may be requested at the next meeting

Thank you for your continued participation in these regional discussions.