

WAN POOL RAISE CONCEPT ASSESSMENT

Report to Columbia River PAG August 13, 2008

The Concept

The Wanapum Development currently has a maximum operating elevation of 575 ft that can only be used during periods of surcharge when all 12 tainter gates are opened several feet and river flows are very high. Normal maximum operating elevation is at 571.5 ft. An increase of 3.5 ft would provide approximately 70 kaf of additional storage that could serve 2 important purposes. First, the 70 kaf could be used to provide increased storage under RCW 90.90. Second, the 70 kaf of incremental storage would increase operational flexibility for both power and non-power requirements. The concept being discussed is a seasonal pool raise (October through April and mid-June to early July) to minimize negative impacts to listed species.

Scoping of Issues

This concept was first discussed with the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group in the fall of 2007. There was interest in exploring the concept as it has two major advantages over other projects being considered. First it utilizes existing infrastructure which greatly reduces a wide variety of negative effects and second, it could be implemented over a relatively short timeframe compared to development of new storage projects. In addition, it would store water within the Columbia River and the Priest Rapids Project rather than diverting water to off-channel sites.

Issues Identified

The following is a generalized list of the issues that have been raised during stakeholder discussions:

- Anadromous Fish Impacts (downstream and upstream passage, timing, spill)
- Resident Fish and Wildlife Impacts (riparian and shoreline effects)
- Recreation Impacts (Crescent Bar, boat ramps)
- Cultural Resources (inundation and dewatering of numerous sites, mitigation needed)
- Rock Island Encroachment (reduce RIS head, fishway, operational concerns of Chelan PUD)
- Need to Obtain a FERC License Amendment

Evaluation

To assist with the evaluation of the issues described above, Grant PUD is working on 2 primary evaluations:

- 1) A hydraulic model to quantify the effects on reservoir elevation and river flows that would assist with defining and evaluating the natural resource issues; and
- 2) An engineering evaluation of the structural improvements required and their cost.

Status

The preliminary engineering evaluation is complete with an initial cost estimate of approximately \$32 M. The hydraulic modeling is on-going with expected completion by September 1.

Timing and Next Steps

Grant PUD will complete a preliminary issues assessment by the end of summer and prepare a recommendation as to whether to make the seasonal WAN pool raise a formal proposal or to abandon the concept by early October of 2008. Discussions with stakeholders will be on-going to determine if it is possible to obtain a broad base of support for the concept.