Columbia River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL
Adaptive Management Team (AMT) Meeting

09/09/2008
National Marine Fisheries Service
Portland, OR

Attendance: See list at end.

Action Items: AMT members are to provide comments on the Synthesis Paper to Andrew, Ecology, and Agnes, ODEQ, in writing no later than October 6. Comments may be received via email.

Meeting Notes:

WDOE and ODEQ discussed the draft technical paper, *Evalution of the 155 percent Total Dissolved Gas Forebay Requirement*. The Draft file is available on the AMT website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/ColumbiaRvr/ColumbiaTDG.html

Andrew introduced the agenda for the day and requested that comments to the draft be sent in writing or in .pdf format no later than October 6.

A question was introduced. Will comments be posted on the web?
Andrew responded that yes, electronic versions will be posted. Ecology and ODEQ will make changes to the paper based on technical comment they receive.

Andrew discussed the length of the paper was a problem due to the large amount of data involved. It required the condensation of hundreds of pages of information. By necessity, details of each individual analysis were not included. If participants want to look at deeper analysis, they will need to refer back to the source documents, which are all posted on the website.

Agnes took a moment to point out the website information. The website has now been restructured to be easier to navigate with each meetings information or paper presented the comments and response to comments follow under the date the original material was presented.

Andrew said that the paper does not address management issues such as transport, BIOp, spill operators, or how much we should spill. The focus is on the Lower Columbia and the Lower Snake Rivers total dissolved gas. Ecology and ODEQ will reach a decision after looking at commentary on the draft.

BPA advanced a problem with the paper: that management issues are embedded and cannot be separated out; Transport and spill cannot be and should not be left out. Ecology and ODEQ stated that some management issues were built into the analyses presented at the AMT, but it is not Ecology's or ODEQ's intent to decide on these management issues, their focus is narrow to just address the 115% TDG forebay limit.

Next came debate over spill levels. Agnes spoke of how the combination of analysis confused the issues. She referred to Table 2, Page 21, of the Draft, which attempts to identify the assumptions used in each analysis. Agnes asked that the attendees submit their comments on the table's completeness.

Andrew spoke about the "decision" portion of the Draft being left blank until comments are in.

ACOE questioned the perceived change of scope of the paper and asserted that the Draft does not address the Mid-Columbia PUDs and is incomplete. Andrew came back to the point that the paper focuses on what data is currently available. As an example, the Middle Columbia will be looked at later once that data is available. ACOE stated that the Draft needs to include a statement that this will be addressed later and that the missing data does have an impact.

Andrew began to talk about the Draft contents. He began with an overview, background and source documentation. Concentrating next on Spill Volume, he introduced key graphs which showed an FPC's increase in spill 2007 for scenarios B, C, and D. He did the same for USACE and BPA data.

ACOE interjected that these do not appear to be annual averages and that she was unable to duplicate the numbers here. FPC stated that the numbers do not reflect a true annual average. Andrew referred them to the summary and table on Page 21, which includes assumptions.

ACOE interjected again, "Help me understand this table…", it appears to be a conflict of information between Table 4, Table 6, and the table on Page 21. Andrew stated that this is due to the difference in information. Table 6 contains relative differences or a percent relative change. "So this is a percentage of a percentage?" Andrew stated that if an absolute, rather than a relative, is a better way to state that information, let us know.

BPA stated that what is missing is a "weigh –in- on by Ecology and ODEQ on which of these analyses is the most valid" and asked, "What does this mean? What does any particular scenario mean?" Ecology and ODEQ said this sort of information will go in the decision part of the document, written after comments are received.

Next discussed were Section 3, Fish Passage and Survival. Agnes spoke of lots of controversy and the difficulty in the analyses presented. She asked attendees to comment on Table 7 on Page 31 (and the table on Page 21). She stated the need to focus on these due to the importance of having a table that summarized the assumptions used in each of the various analyses. She spoke of the FPC analysis, the CSS study, and the Compass study results.

ACOE stated: "What are we supposed to do with this document? It doesn't draw a conclusion." Agnes restated that right now what we want to make sure of is that we got the base information correct.

ACOE stated: "There's no real statement of summerizing individual comments."

Andrew states that this is not about addressing specific comments, which will come later. "If you think are summary of your information is wrong, let us know. However, we are not including everything in this paper. All the comments receive at AMT are on the website."

ACOE was also concerned regarding the "Forebay History" section. They stated this appeared to be new information. Agnes stated that the paper is trying to provide a history of why we are looking at the 115% TDG forebay question. She asked for comments on this section as well, to better characterize the history.

Andrew presents the topic of Fish Passage and Survival and that when it came to Gas Bubble Trauma; there was no consensus on the results. Information came from USACE/SYSTDG TDG Simulations, Ecology Literature Review, Parametrix Literature Review, and Resident Fish Review.

ACOE stated that the graphs and tables presented need to be better at explained on how the Synthesis Paper came up with these numbers.

A comment came up that it would be helpful to have a bibliography and numerical reference in-text. This information will be included in the Final version of the paper.

Lastly, the group talked about the forthcoming Agencies' decision. Three issues were mentioned:

1. The decision will wait until the end of the 30-day comment period.
2. Oregon and Washington will decide.
3. Actual spill numbers and management will be handled elsewhere.

Andrew asked attendees to provide their commentary in writing (with pdf being the preferred version) by October 6, 2008, noting all inaccuracies and inaccurate conclusions.

Agnes and Andrew outlined the process for drawing a conclusion and finalizing the Draft. Both talked about the individual state processes for removing the requirement.

Save our Wild Salmon asked a question about the speed of the process and how fast this could take effect. In discussion, it was mentioned that it could theoretically happen within a matter of months, but that the standards change process would be realistically longer.

Agnes then reviewed the process for Oregon, which is somewhat more straightforward. A Final Order for Oregon could be issued as early as December.

There were no further questions raised at this point. Meeting adjourned.

TDG AMT Sept 9, 2008 Sign in Sheet

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