



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ron Boyce, ODFW

FROM: Michele DeHart

DATE: August 14, 2008

RE: Estimation of termination date of summer spill at Snake River projects under the 2008 BiOp and 2008 MOA

On August 12, 2008 you requested that the FPC review the 2008 Memorandum of Agreement between the Tribes and Action Agencies (2008 MOA) and the 2008 Biological Opinion (2008 BiOp) and estimate when summer spill would have been terminated if these criteria were in place in past years. In response to this request, the FPC staff has reviewed the language regarding the termination of summer spill at Snake River projects in the 2008 MOA and the 2008 BiOp and provides estimates of the termination date that would have occurred over the past 10 years (1998-2007).

- Based on our analysis (1998-2007) the mean date of termination of summer spill is August 21 for Lower Granite, August 23 for Little Goose, August 24 for Lower Monumental, and August 25 for Ice Harbor Dam.
- In more recent years (i.e., 2005-2007), summer spill would have been terminated at Lower Granite on August 1, Little Goose on August 4, Lower Monumental on August 7, and Ice Harbor on August 9 on average.
- As of August 14th, the criterion for the termination of summer spill has not been met at Lower Granite Dam in 2008.

The language under the 2008 MOA is very specific as to when summer spill will be curtailed at Snake River projects and the progression of this curtailment. The agreement specifies that:

“Beginning August 1, curtailment of summer spill may occur first at Lower Granite Dam if subyearling Chinook collection counts fall below 300 fish per day for 3 consecutive days (beginning July 29, 30, and 31 for August 1 curtailment). Using the same 300 fish criterion, the curtailed spill would then progress downstream with each successive dam on the Snake River, with spill at LGS ending no earlier than 3 days after the termination for spill at LGR, and ending at LMN no earlier than 3 days after the termination of spill at LGS assuming the 200 fish criterion has been met at those projects. Spill would be curtailed at IHR no earlier than 2 days after LMN, without use of the 300 fish criterion.”

However, the 2008 BiOp is less specific, particularly with respect to the progression of termination among the various Snake River projects. Under the 2008 BiOp, the criteria for the termination summer spill, as presented in a footnote to Table 2 in the Reasonable and Prudent Actions is:

“Termination of summer spill will occur at the four lower Snake projects when subyearling counts fall below 300 fish per day for 3 consecutive days on a per project basis, but no later than August 31 each year. Termination of spill at Ice Harbor Dam will be two days after Lower Monumental Dam spill ends. ...”

Because the 2008 MOA is more specific on the progression of the termination of summer spill, we estimated the termination date based on this language for migration years 1998-2007 (Table 1). At this time, is it not possible to estimate this termination date for migration year 2008, as Lower Granite Dam has not yet collected fewer than 300 subyearling Chinook for three consecutive days.

Table 1. Estimated date of termination of summer spill at lower Snake River projects, based on language presented in 2008 MOA.

Migration Year	Date of Termination of Summer Spill			
	LGR	LGS	LMN	IHR
1998	24-Aug	27-Aug	30-Aug	1-Sep
1999	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep
2000	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep
2001	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep
2002	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep
2003	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep
2004	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep	1-Sep
2005	1-Aug	4-Aug	7-Aug	9-Aug
2006	1-Aug	4-Aug	7-Aug	9-Aug
2007	1-Aug	6-Aug	9-Aug	11-Aug
Average	21-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug

Based on our analysis (1998-2007) the average date of termination of summer spill is August 21 for Lower Granite, August 23 for Little Goose, August 24 for Lower Monumental, and August 25 for Ice Harbor Dam. It is important to note that these average termination dates do not reflect the progression outlined in the 2008 MOA. This is due to the fact that summer spill would have been terminated on September 1 in 1999 through 2004. In more recent years (i.e., 2005-2007), summer spill would have been terminated at Lower Granite on August 1, Little Goose on August 4, Lower Monumental on August 7, and Ice Harbor on August 9 on average.

MD



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DATA REQUEST FORM

Request Taken By: Brandon Chockley Date: 12-Aug-08

Data Requested By:

Name: Ron Boyce (ORFW) Phone: _____
Address: _____ Fax: _____
_____ Email: _____

Data Requested:

Review criteria for termination of summer
spill by 2007 MOP & 2007 Biop and estimate termination
date for previous years, had we operated this way.

