FTC Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project
FERC NO. 2016
Fisheries Technical Committee
Final FTC Meeting Summary
November 02, 2010 from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Mayfield Office, Silver Creek, Washington

Members Present

Brett Swift	American Rivers
Pat Frazier	WDFW
Bob Rose	Yakama Nation
Brad Caldwell	WA Dept of Ecology
Tim Romanski	USFWS
Mark LaRiviere	Tacoma Power
Michelle Day	NMFS

Other Attendee

John Serl	WDFW
Eric Kinne	WDFW
Ed Meyer	NMFS
Debbie Young	Tacoma Power
Tom Martin	Tacoma Power
Pat McCarty	Tacoma Power
Kirk Kessler	Tacoma Power
Steve Fischer	Tacoma Power
Bill Iyall	Tacoma Power
Debbie Carlson	BPA
Mike Kohn	LCPUD
Joe First	LCPUD
Chick Sweeney	AECOM
Al Giorgi	BioAnalysts
Erich Gaedeke	FERC
Lyn Wiltse	PDSA Consulting

Future FTC Meeting Dates
2010: Dec. 7, Dec. 14-15 (FHMP Workshop – Location TBD)
2011: Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, June 7, July 6 (Wednesday), Aug. 2, Sept. 7 (Wednesday), Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6
Default time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Default location: Mayfield

Announcements

- The December 14-15 dates have been confirmed for the FHMP workshop. Stay tuned for the location.
- Mark reported that we are on track to break our all-time Cowlitz Fall Chinook record this year and the coho return is very strong. WDFW is currently surplusing 5,000-6,000 coho each week out of the Salmon Hatchery. They are running the separator 7 days a week. The FTC is welcome to stop by and witness the run.

- We welcomed Kirk Kessler to the meeting (his first with us). Tacoma has charged him with carrying forward the recommendations of the Downstream Team.

Agenda Item: Downstream Fish Passage Team (DFPT) Presentation / Discussion
Presenter: Chick Sweeney and Al Giorgi

Tom reviewed the aim and history of the DFPT. In late 2007 the FTC agreed upon a group of experts to make a recommendation regarding downstream fish passage. In March of 2008 we held the first downstream passage workshop with 42 attendees. This served as a kickoff for the DFPT, made up of agencies and outside consultants, which met 15 times (all day meetings) to review data and developed systematic approaches to analyze the data. This lead to a prioritization of alternatives for downstream passage solutions. They reported their progress to the FTC a number of times including twice this year.

Chick and Al walked us through the seventeen alternatives and alternative combinations that were reviewed by the DFPT. Al described the biological and technical evaluation tools and processes used by the team. He noted that the Fish Collection Index (FCI) illustrates relative biological performance – not expected fish passage survival percentages.

Chick and Al described the following recommendations of the DFPT to the FTC. There was consensus to pursue the alternatives with the greatest potential for biological improvement in the shortest time. The DST will continue to meet to provide review and feedback as the designs are brought forward to 100%.

1. Carry the two Lake Scanewa alternatives, the surface collector and Surface Flow Outlet, to 90% conceptual design along with improvements at Cowlitz Falls Dam, i.e., weir box
2. Select one of the designs for final design and construction after the 90% conceptual design is completed
3. Continue conceptual level development of a Riffe Lake Collector after detailed design of selected alternative is complete.

Next Steps / Timeline: The schedule that was presented calls for the next presentation to the FTC of the 90% conceptual design to occur March 1 of 2011. We will be refining the design and construction schedule as we move to 90% conceptual design. The consultants were not sure yet if a physical model for hydraulic modeling will be needed.

Schedule from draft DFPT Alternatives Recommendation, November 2, 2010
- Nov. 2 FTC meeting to review DFPT recommendation for 90% conceptual design
- Nov. 18 Publish 60% Conceptual Design Report (final)
- Feb. 15 Publish Draft 90% CDR (NOAA, USFWS, and FTC review)
- Mar. 1 FTC 90% Conceptual Design Meeting
- Mar. 23 Public Utility Board Review and Consensus
- Apr. 7 Publish Final 90% CDR
- Apr. 21 Issue Tacoma Power Design Recommendation for FTC review, comment
- May 23 Receive FTC comments on Tacoma Power Design Recommendation

- Jul. 4 Publish Draft 100% CDR (for NOAA and USFWS approval)
- Aug. 24 Publish Final Plan (100% CDR)
- Aug. 31 Tacoma Power files with FERC

Other Key Dates:
- Mar. 28, 2012 Commence detailed design for construction of selected alternative
- Oct. 8, 2013 Complete detailed design of selected alternative
- Oct. 9, 2013 Begin Riffe Lake Alternative 90% Conceptual Design
- Jan. 28, 2014 Issue RFP for construction of selected alternative
- Feb. 13, 2014 Complete Riffe Lake Alternative 90% Conceptual Design
- Aug. 23, 2016 Facility in-service date (post testing)

FTC members agreed to accept the recommendations of the DFPT and to ask Tacoma to move forward on taking the two alternatives identified to the 90% conceptual design level. Pat (WDFW) is fine with Mid-Riffe design schedule. Michelle (NMFS) is still thinking about this. Tim (USFWS), Brad (DOE), Bob (Yakama Nation) and Mark (TP) are fine with the recommendation of the DFPT. Brett (American Rivers) is fine taking the two alternatives to 90% conceptual design level and wants more information explaining the Mid-Riffe Lake collector schedule.

Action Items:
- Mark to notify FTC members after he posts PowerPoint with updated (different data sort from original PowerPoint) charts to the FTC website.
- Chick and Ed to provide some examples to Michelle of schedules of implementation ASAP.
- Chick and Al to provide explanation of additional data collection re changing the location of the Riffe Lake Collector based on the 2010 USGS fish tracking data.
- Mike to send Study Plan used to yield USGS data (in letter dated September 27, 2010) to Mark to post to FTC website.

Agenda Item: Update on 2011 Cowlitz Falls Dam Collection Activities
Presenter: Bill Iyall

Bill distributed some schematics explaining the plan to modify the BGS panels in hopes of improving fish collection in 2011. They plan to have the BGS extend right into the mouth of the trap. The exclusionary net will still extend from the shore out to the trap. This will be a test to see if shade provided by tarps floating on the surface will be effective in getting fish to mill and migrate into the entrance. Ed expressed concern that shade creates predator habitat. Note: The tarps can be retracted easily if predation proves to be a problem.

Next steps: Submit the plans to LCPUD and FERC for approval.

Agenda Item: Update on Cowlitz River Ad Hoc Advisory Group
Presenter: Pat Frazier

Pat reported that the Advisory Group met again on October 15, 21, and 25. They are continuing to discuss various program options within the basin. They are making good progress. WDFW feels confident about engaging in FHMP discussions while representing the consensus of the group. Meetings have been scheduled through December, 2010. They will continue meeting until spring of 2011.

Action Items:

- Pat will continue to keep us posted on the progress of this group.
- Pat will send notes from these meetings to Mark to post on the FTC website.

Agenda Item: Update on Comments Received on FHMP Update
Presenter: Mark L

Mark reported that Lars has received little input to date from FTC members on the FHMP update schedule and/or outline. He and Andy encourage FTC members to provide comments or ask questions. Lars and Andy will finalize the draft update and it will be posted to the FTC website the week before Thanksgiving. Mark will notify FTC members when this has occurred.

Action Items:

- All to provide feedback to Lars and Andy ASAP.
- Mark to send out FHMP Update Workshop (overnight) location information for December 14-15.

Agenda Item: Approval of October 5, 2010 Meeting Summary

We approved the August 31, 2010 meeting summary via email with the edits suggested by Brett after the last meeting. Mark posted it for public review. We approved the October 5 meeting summary with edits.

Agenda Item: Update Status of Prior Action Items
Presenter: Lyn

Prior Action Items:

- Pat will check with Ray B as to whether the population for upper Cowlitz and Cispus Rivers are combined on Table 3. He will ask Ray also to run the numbers for the primary population for the Tilton only. Abundance numbers (for productivity test) need to be agreed to by FTC.
- Lyn to add Rich Turner, Andy Appleby, and Lars Mobrand to distribution list for agendas and meeting notes.

FHMP:

- All to suggest workshop locations to Mark L. (Water Resources Education Center, Vancouver, WA?)
- Lars to revise schedule and integrate full 30 days for public comment period. This period would begin after a public meeting (just after February 1, 2011) where Lars and Andy walk the public through the document and explain the approach

and answer any questions. That will set the stage for informed public comments on the draft. He also needs build in adequate time (with milestones) for the FTC to review and agree on the substance of the responses to comments.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Andy and Lars to recommend frequency of review for certain indicators in M&E plan.

Credits:

- By the week before Thanksgiving Andy to add some background information to this paper (in draft FHMP update) to include additional context for this section. Include a couple of scenarios / examples of how crediting might work. Include also a base year and a concept of "floor" from which we would start to apply credits for each population. This would help inform FTC discussions. We should also address what crediting would be applied for Fall Chinook above the project.
- FTC members to provide additional feedback / suggestions to Andy prior to our next meeting.

DFPT:

- Tacoma will meet with LCPUD and BPA on Nov. 5 to start work on a long-term agreement for future work.

Agenda Item: Meeting Evaluation

Well Done:

- Good discussions
- Completed our business in a timely manner balancing effectiveness with efficiency
- Chick and Al's presentation

Do Differently:

- Need more communication between meetings and around decisions

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The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Meeting Handouts

- Agenda for November 2, 2010 FTC meeting
- Draft of October 5, 2010 FTC Meeting summary
- Downstream Team Fish Passage Update (Nov. 2, 2010 PowerPoint)
- Cowlitz River Project Downstream Fish Passage Draft Decision Document
- USGS letter to Tom Martin dated September 27, 2010.
- USGS letter to Mike Kohn, dated October 28, 2010
- 2011 BGS Test Plan

Draft Agenda for Dec. 7, 2010 FTC Meeting

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In

	Update on the Cowlitz River Ad Hoc Group
9:30 – 11:45	Walk through Draft of FHMP update (approach and outline / format)
11:45 – 12:15	Our Usual Working Lunch
12:15 – 2:00	Continue review of FHMP Update draft
2:00 – 2:30	Update Status of Nov. 2 Meeting Action Items
	Approval of Nov. 2 Meeting Summary
	Evaluate the Meeting and Review Schedule for December 14 -15
	FHMP Workshop and confirm date and topics for Jan. 4, 2011 Meeting

Draft Agenda for Dec. 14, 15 FHMP Workshops (Location: TBD)

Single Topic: Make decisions around the content of the FHMP update

Draft Agenda for Jan. 4, 2011 FTC Meeting

9:00 – 9:30	Welcome / Review Agenda / Check-In
	Update by Downstream Team
	Update on the Cowlitz River Ad Hoc Group
	Approval of December Meeting Summary
	Evaluate the Meeting and Plan Topics for Feb. 1, 2011 Meeting