



MEMORANDUM

August 22, 2007

TO: Grant Dispatch
Wanapum Dam Control Room
Priest Rapids Dam Control Room

VIA: Tom Dresser, Fish, Wildlife, and Water Quality Manager

FROM: Curt Dotson, Sr. Biologist

Purpose: 2007 Summer Fish Spill - Ending

Discussion: The 2007 Summer Fish Spill Program began at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams on June 15 (at 2000 hr), immediately following the end of spring fish spill. The 2007 Summer Fish Spill program for Wanapum Dam was the same as the 2007 Wanapum Spring Fish Spill program – operation of TG-12 (Top-Spill Bulkhead) for 10 hours and then closed for 14 hours, along with 24/7 operation of the sluiceway.

The 2007 Summer Fish Spill program for Priest Rapids Dam was a spill program of set gate openings, including the operation of the Priest Rapids Top-Spill Bulkhead, and the operation of the sluiceway. Tainter gate spill (openings) on both sides of the Top-Spill Bulkhead was used as “training flow”.

The Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement states that ‘....summer spill ends after 95% of the summer and fall Chinook juvenile migrants have passed Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams.’

Table 1 provides the daily Rock Island Dam Index counts for sub-yearling Chinook since August 12, 2007 illustrating the decreasing in numbers of sub-yearling Chinook passing Rock Island Dam.

Table 1. Daily Sub-yearling Chinook Passage counts at Rock Island Dam

August:	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Index Count:	84	55	88	132	85	78	42	47	25	33	40

Columbia Basin Research publishes smolt run timing predictions using the Real Time program on the DART website. DART estimates that 95% (SD 0.3) of the sub-yearling Chinook out-migration passed Rock Island Dam by August 15, 2007.

The PRCC Fish Spill Representatives agreed to closely follow the out-migration rates observed upstream of the Priest Rapids Project in coming to a consensus that 95% of the summer and fall Chinook juvenile migrants have passed Rock Island Dam. With consensus reached, summer fish spill at Wanapum Dam will end on August 23, 2007 and at Priest Rapids Dam on August 24, 2007.

Conclusion: Based upon agreed criteria and in-season information presented above, Grant PUD believes that the goal of assuring fish spill through 95% of the summer juvenile salmon out-migration through the Priest Rapids Project has been achieved. Therefore, Grant PUD will end summer fish spill at 2000 hr. on August 23 at Wanapum Dam and at 1500 hr. on August 24 at Priest Rapids Dam (Table 2).

Table 2. Fish Spill at Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dams.

Hydro Project	Start Date	Start Time	Spill Rate	Duration
Wanapum Dam	August 23, 2007	2000 hr.	0% Sluice gate open	24 hours/day.
Priest Rapids Dam	August 24, 2007	1500 hr.	0% Sluice gate open	24 hours/day

The Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams' sluice gate will remain fully opened until November 15 to provide a fallback route for adult steelhead.

Please call Curt Dotson if you have any questions (509-750-1999).

Cc:

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