



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Innovation & Excellence...Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2007

TO: Denise Hale, Chief Power Dispatcher
Dispatch
Wanapum Dam Control Room
Priest Rapids Dam Control Room
Bryan Bird, Hydro Operations Supervisor
Planning and Scheduling

VIA: Stephen Brown, Natural Resources Director *SLB*
Tom Dresser, Fish, Wildlife, and Water Quality Manager *TJ*

FROM: Curt Dotson, Sr. Biologist *C2D*

Purpose: Start of 2007 Spring Fish Spill

Background: The Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County (Grant PUD) entered into an agreement on spill, Offer of Settlement and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), with the Joint Fisheries Parties on July 1, 2000, which was filed with FERC on September 13, 2000. The MOA established spill levels that were intended to achieve 95% fish survival or 80% Fish Passage Efficiency (FPE) over 95% of the runs for spring and summer migrants. This called for spring spill program at Wanapum Dam of 43% of the average daily total river flow and 61% of the average daily total river flow at Priest Rapids Dam. Grant PUD can reduce either one of these spill amounts as necessary to remain at or under total dissolved gas (TDG) limits.

The Washington Department of Ecology's criteria for TDG is maximum levels of 115% in the forebay and 120% in the tailrace of each dam, based on the average of the twelve highest hourly readings taken in one day, with a maximum hourly limit of 125% TDG.

On May 3, 2004 Grant PUD was issued a Biological Opinion by NOAA Fisheries, which was adopted by FERC on December 16, 2004. In that Biological Opinion, Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) # 5 addresses *Spill at Wanapum Dam*, RPA # 6 addresses *Alternative Spill Measures at Wanapum Dam*, and RPA #16 addresses *Spill at Priest Rapids Dam*.

On April 18, 2007 the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) approved spill representatives gave concurrence to Grant PUD to implement RPA # 6 (*Alternative Spill Measures at Wanapum Dam*), which allows Grant PUD to move from a tainter gate spillway spring fish spill (Wanapum MOA spill) program to a “Gate 12 Top Spill and sluiceway only” spill program. During this same call, the spill representatives agreed for Grant PUD to proceed with the spill program outlined in RPA #16 for Priest Rapids Dam, which is 61% of average daily total river flow, or up to TDG levels, whichever is less for spring migrants.

Discussion: The Rock Island Dam smolt index numbers indicate that the spring outmigration has begun. Based on the Biological Opinion and expected TDG levels, spring fish spill at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams will commence as indicated below and continue until further notice. The Fish Spill Representatives from NOAA Fisheries and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife concur with this decision.

Fish Spill at Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dams:

<u>Hydro Project</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Spill Rate</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Wanapum Dam	April 19, 2007	0800 hrs.	topspill gate & sluice	24 hours/day
Priest Rapids Dam	April 20, 2007	0800 hrs.	61%	24 hours/day

Wanapum Dam should follow the spill pattern titled, “2007 Wanapum Dam Spill Gate Operations: Gate 12 Top Spill Bulkhead and Sluiceway Only”. In the case of any inadvertent spill (excess of powerhouse capacity), that spill shall be discharged through the spillbay(s) as indicated in the “2007 Wanapum Dam Spill Gate Operations for Inadvertent Spill During Fish Spill”.

Priest Rapids Dam should follow the spill pattern titled “2007 MOA Spill Pattern”.

The Fish Spill Representatives will monitor TDG levels and make spill changes to ensure TDG levels remain within Washington Department of Ecology’s water standards.

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