United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary

DEC 5 2011

From: Anne J. Castle
Secretary's Designee, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Assistant Secretary—Water and Science

Subject: Report and Recommendations from the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Federal Advisory Committee, May 18, 2011, and August 24-25, 2011, Meetings

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) convened most recently on August 24-25, 2011, in Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was well attended and positive, and we continue to make progress on many tough issues surrounding the operations of Glen Canyon Dam (Dam) and protection of the Colorado River, including Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. One highlight of the meeting was the approval of a recommendation to you for a revised hydrograph (water release schedule) for the Dam, which builds on the new procedures we put in place last year to better conserve sediment resources below the Dam and incorporates what we learned over the past twelve months. That recommendation is set out in detail below for your consideration and approval. We also reconstituted a subcommittee on the Desired Future Conditions for the operations of the Dam to put the final touches on a product that has undergone multiple reviews and revisions. The AMWG and its subgroups are continuing their hard work to address the complex questions surrounding management of the Dam.

I am particularly pleased to report that the Interior agencies are making strong progress in working together collaboratively, and with the Western Area Power Administration, to reach consensus and move forward on these challenging issues. While the issues are complex, the leadership and staff of the various Interior agencies are actively working to speak with one voice and implement your vision of Colorado River operations that reflect the multi-faceted missions of all the Interior agencies.

On July 5, 2011, we announced that the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service are starting the development of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process that will be used to develop the LTEMP will be the first comprehensive review of Glen Canyon Dam operations in fifteen years, and is intended to ensure that flow regimes on the Colorado

River meet the goals of supplying water for communities, agriculture and industry, protecting the resources of the Grand Canyon, and providing clean hydropower. The LTEMP effort is an historic undertaking, and having the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service as co-leads of the EIS is a tangible demonstration of our efforts to improve internal coordination and effectiveness.

As I begin my third year as the Secretary's Designee, I am pleased to be able to report that the members of the AMWG have continued to bring tremendous knowledge, expertise, and passion to bear on the effort to provide you with the best possible advice.

The Operating Procedures of the AMWG require the Secretary's Designee to provide the Secretary with a report on all meetings, and to transmit recommendations. The following issues and actions were taken at the meeting:

August 24-25, 2011 Meeting

Proposed 2012 Hydrograph: AMWG recommends to the Secretary of the Interior his approval of the DOI-DOE Proposed Hydrograph for Water Year (WY) 2012 as follows:

- Monthly Release Volumes will be adjusted each month based on the most current forecast of the annual release required by the 2007 Interim Guidelines.
- Monthly Release Volumes are anticipated to vary within the targets identified for each month as set forth below. This monthly operational flexibility will be used for existing power production operations under the Modified Low Fluctuating Flow (MLFF) alternative selected by the 1996 ROD and contained in the 1995 FEIS. The targeted operation will also be adjusted as necessary to accommodate a targeted release volume for the month of August 2012 based on the schedule below:
    - January: August 2012 Volume target set to greater of 800 kaf or 10% remaining annual release volume.
    - February: August 2012 Volume target set to greater of 800 kaf or 10% remaining annual release volume.
    - March: August 2012 Volume target set to greater of 800 kaf or 12% remaining annual release volume.
    - April: August 2012 Volume target set to greater of 800 kaf or 15% remaining annual release volume.
    - May: August 2012 Volume target set to greater of 800 kaf or 20% remaining annual release volume.
    - June: August 2012 Volume target set to greater of 800 kaf or 25% remaining annual release volume
    - July: August 2012 Volume target set to greater of 800 kaf or 40% remaining annual release volume.
    - August: Release volume established as 100% of remaining annual release volume (release could be less than 800 kaf in some cases).
- In some Equalization release scenarios, the release volume required in August could be as high as the full capacity of the powerplant.
- Steady flows will occur in September 2012 (and October 2012) per the 2008 High Flow Event Environmental Assessment (EA).

- Monthly release volumes will be modified each month in consultation with Western Area Power Administration.
- The remaining annual release volume will be computed as the projected WY 2012 annual release volume pursuant to the Interim Guidelines less volume already released in WY 2012 less the September 2012 projected Steady Flow Experiment release volume.
- Additionally, the Bureau of Reclamation will continue to apply best professional judgment in conducting actual operations and in response to changing conditions throughout the water year. Such efforts will continue to be undertaken in coordination with the DOI/DOE agencies to consider changing conditions and adjust projected operations in a manner consistent with the objectives of these parameters as stated above and pursuant to the Law of the River.

This recommended hydrograph received broad support and passed by a vote of 16 to 1, with 1 abstention.

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and Work Plan: The AMWG recommends to the Secretary of the Interior adoption of the USGS and Reclamation FY12 Budget and Work Plan (as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on September 22, 2010 as the second year in the FY 2011-2012 plan) with changes described in the table in the memorandum from Ted Melis and Glen Knowles to Anne Castle dated August 5, 2011.

This motion was adopted by consensus.

I approve:

Ken Salazar

Ken Salazar
Secretary

12/7/2011
Date

cc: Acting Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife & Parks
Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, National Park Service
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, U.S. Geological Survey
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Attention: Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma

National Park Service, Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129,
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Attention: Ms. Jane Lyder

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Attention: Mr. Arden Kucate

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, PO Box 2656, Tuba City AZ 86045

Southern Paiute Indian Consortium, Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation,
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Colorado Water Conservation Board, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 718,
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Attention: Ms. Jayne Harkins
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Attention: Mr. Larry Stevens

Grand Canyon Trust, 2601 North Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff AZ 86001
Attention: Mr. Nikolai Lash

Grand Canyon River Guides, 453 W. Mulberry Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85013-4349
Attention: Mr. Sam Jansen

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, 14029 S. 51st Street, Suite 230,
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Attention: Ms. Leslie James

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Attention: Ms. Ann Gold

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Adaptive Management Work Group alternates
Technical Work Group members and alternates
(via e-mail)