



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240



## MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group

From: Mark Limbaugh, Assistant Secretary - Water and Science  
Secretary's Designee for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group

*Mark Limbaugh*  
NOV 01 2006

Subject: Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group

The Technical Work Group (TWG) is in the process of considering a range of options for a Long-Term Experimental Plan for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and other related management actions. These options are intended to increase our understanding of the ecosystem downstream of Glen Canyon Dam and to improve and protect these important resources. The Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) will consider the TWG deliberations in its December 5-6, 2006, meeting. To help improve the efficiency of this process, I would like to provide information about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that the Department will be using to evaluate any recommendations that come from the AMWG with respect to the Long-Term Experimental Plan.

To provide context, the Department has, in the past, routinely prepared appropriate environmental documentation (e.g., pursuant to the NEPA and the Endangered Species Act), regarding implementation of activities as part of the Adaptive Management Program. For example, in 2002 the Department completed an Environmental Assessment and Section 7 consultation on the: "Proposed Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam and Removal of Non-Native Fish."

Likewise, we anticipate preparing appropriate environmental documentation, through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), on the Department's proposed adoption and implementation of a Long-Term Experimental Plan for a program of further structured experimentation with respect to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and other related management actions. It is my understanding that each of the Long-Term Experimental Plan options currently being considered in the adaptive management program by the TWG includes the construction and operation of a Temperature Control Device for Glen Canyon Dam, which is intended to warm dam releases to benefit the endangered humpback chub.

In conformance with NEPA, this EIS effort will include public involvement and scoping in conjunction with the December AMWG meeting, and will consider a range of options and evaluate their ability to address the scientific understanding and resource protection objectives cited above. The analysis will utilize the many years of scientific monitoring and research

provided through the Adaptive Management Program. Our goal is to complete this effort by the end of calendar year 2008. We will be requesting the assistance of both the Adaptive Management Program stakeholders and the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center in evaluating the merits of the various options throughout this process.

In coming weeks, Reclamation will include a notice of intention to prepare an EIS on this action as part of its Federal Register notice for our upcoming AMWG meeting in Phoenix in December.

In addition, as discussed in our September AMWG conference call, the United States recently executed a settlement agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity and other environmental groups in the *Center for Biodiversity v. Kempthorne* litigation regarding the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. This settlement agreement was recently approved by the United States District Court and is in effect.

This settlement agreement commits the Bureau of Reclamation to initiating NEPA and ESA compliance activities by January 31, 2007, "...with respect to modification of current, or other prospective, operations of Glen Canyon Dam and associated management actions of Reclamation and other agencies within the Department of the Interior." Settlement Agreement at ¶ 1, pg. 3. It is the intention of the Department to comply with this provision of the Settlement Agreement through the upcoming NEPA and ESA processes on the Long-Term Experimental Plan.

I look forward to our upcoming meeting on December 5-6 in Phoenix, and continuing to work with each of you on this important program.

cc: Rick Gold, Alternate Secretary's Designee  
Tom Weimer, Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget  
Matthew J. Hogan, Acting Assistant Secretary - Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Jim Cason, Acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs  
Dale Hall, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jason Peltier, Deputy Assistant Secretary - Water and Science  
Tim Petty, Deputy Assistant Secretary - Water and Science  
Mike Olsen, Acting Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs  
Steve Martin, Deputy Director, National Park Service  
Bob Johnson, Commissioner  
Brenda Burman, Deputy Commissioner, External and Intergovernmental Affairs  
John Hamill, Chief, Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center  
Kurt Dongoske, Chair, Technical Work Group  
Dave Garrett, Chair, Science Advisors  
Mary Orton, Facilitator, Adaptive Management Work Group  
Technical Work Group Members