



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Draft Report Review of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (7.D. Review)

**Report Release Webinar
October 23 and 29, 2020**

Welcome & Introductions

- Purpose of this webinar is to present the Draft Report for the Review of the 2007 Interim Guidelines.
- To facilitate scheduling, two webinars are being offered (with identical content presented on each):
 - October 23 at 1:00 PM PDT
 - October 29 at 1:00 PM PDT
- There will be other opportunities to provide input throughout the Review process
- Thank you for your participation and we look forward to working with you during this Review



Presentation Overview

- Welcome & Introductions
- Background on the Review of the 2007 Interim Guidelines
- 2007 Interim Guidelines Review (7.D. Review) Scope & Approach
- Comments Received on Scope & Approach
- Overview of the 7.D. Review Draft Report
- Draft Report Comment Process and Schedule
- Questions



Glen Canyon Dam, forms Lake Powell



Hoover Dam, forms Lake Mead



Background on the Review of the 2007 Interim Guidelines



2007 Interim Guidelines: Section XI.G.7.D. (7.D.)

Section 7.D. “Operations During Interim Period” states:

“Beginning no later than December 31, 2020, the Secretary shall initiate a formal review for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of these Guidelines. The Secretary shall consult with the Basin States in initiating this review.”

Record of Decision for 2007 Interim Guidelines p.56

Secretary Bernhardt’s remarks at CRWUA in December 2019:

“This provision provides an opportunity to take an objective look at where we’ve been and where we are with our operational rules. Evaluating the effectiveness of the operational rules is consistent with the “interim” nature of the Guidelines. It makes sense to review how well something has worked before determining its replacement. Therefore, today I am announcing that I have tasked Reclamation to initiate this work in early 2020 to meet this requirement of the Guidelines.”



2007 Interim Guidelines: Section XI.G.7.D. (7.D.)

Secretary Bernhardt's remarks at CRWUA in December 2019 *(with respect to approach and process)*:

- "The report will be a Reclamation product but it will rely on important input from the Basin States, Tribes, NGOs, and the public, as the report is developed. Reclamation will, of course, work closely with our experts across Interior—from the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Park Service—to ensure that their expertise is factored into the Report."
- "Reclamation will also welcome your input on what we intend to be a succinct and useful technical report."
- "We want to wrap up this effort, culminating in the "Section 7.D. Report," around this time next year."

These points have framed the approach and process of the 7.D. Review



7.D. Review Scope & Approach: Overview & Comments Received



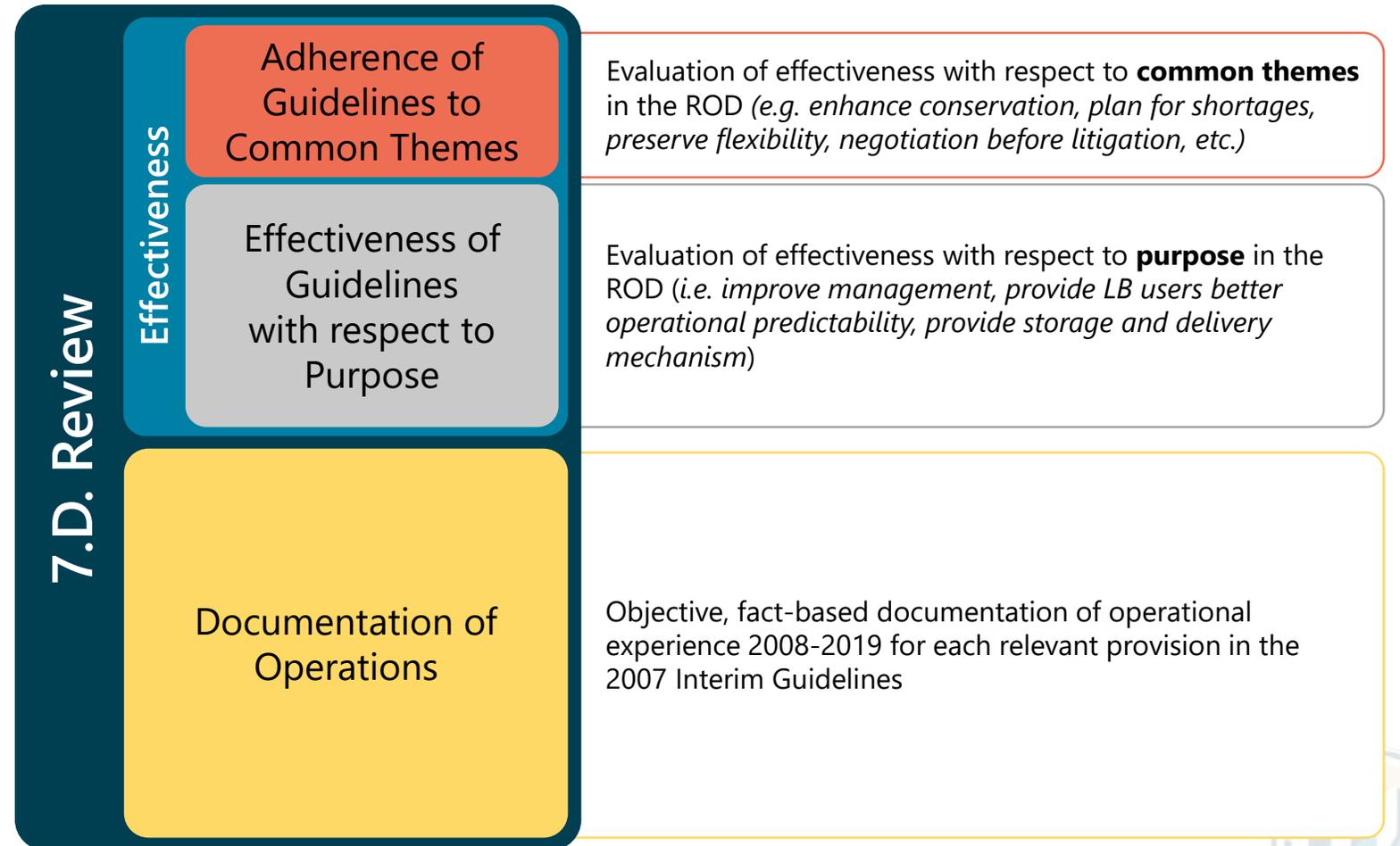
7.D. Review: Scope

- Goals of the Review
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of “these Guidelines”
 - Document our operational experience
- “these Guidelines”: operational provisions described in Section XI of the ROD
- Effectiveness
 - Achievement of the stated purpose of the 2007 Interim Guidelines
 - Adherence to common themes in the 2007 Interim Guidelines
- Retrospective review of past operations under the 2007 Interim Guidelines
 - Not a consideration of specific future activities
 - Not a detailed analysis of complementary activities
 - Not an analysis of the process or approach used to develop the 2007 Interim Guidelines
- Does not imply correctness of any particular operational provision
- Operational documentation: objective record of annual operations since 2008



7.D. Review: Approach

- Reclamation technical report that incorporates input from partners and stakeholders
- Discuss operations and effectiveness on three levels
- Quantitative and qualitative elements



Comments Received on Scope & Approach

- Received 17 letters with comments on the scope and approach of the 7.D. Review from May-July
- Comments received from a range of partners (tribes, NGOs, federal agencies, academics, states/water districts)
- Comments received on a wide range of topics, most significant with respect to the processes used to develop the Guidelines
 - Modeling Approach
 - Resource Analysis
 - Stakeholder Engagement
- Met with partners during August-October to discuss their comments
- Draft Report incorporates comments to the extent possible, recognizing that some are beyond the scope of the Review



Overview of the 7.D. Review Draft Report



7.D. Review Draft Report

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Purpose and Common Themes
4. Complementary Activities
5. Approach
6. Significant Considerations based on Comments Received on Scope & Approach
7. Implementation of the Guidelines
8. Effectiveness of the Guidelines
9. Summary
10. Appendix A – Operational Documentation



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Draft Report

Review of the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Upper and Lower Colorado Basin Regions



U.S. Department of the Interior

October 2020



7.D. Review Draft Report: Section 1 – 6

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Purpose and Common Themes
4. Complementary Activities
5. Approach
6. Significant Considerations based on Comments Received on Scope & Approach



7.D. Review Draft Report: Section 7

- 7.1 Overview of Lake Powell and Lake Mead Conditions
- 7.2 Determination of Lake Powell and Lake Mead Operations
- 7.3 Coordinated Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead
- 7.4 Lake Mead Operations
- 7.5 Intentionally Created Surplus
- 7.6 Process and Consultation



7.D. Review Draft Report: Sections 8 and 9

- Applying the approach to evaluate effectiveness, Reclamation concludes that the Guidelines were largely effective as measured against both their purpose and common themes.
- Increasing severity of the drought necessitated additional action to reduce the risk of reaching critically low elevations in Lakes Powell and Mead.
- Experience over the past 12 years provides important considerations:
 - 1) enhanced flexibilities and transparency for water users;
 - 2) expanded participation in conservation and Basin-wide programs;
 - 3) increased consideration of the linkage that occurs through coordinated reservoir operations, particularly with respect to the inherent uncertainties in model projections used to set operating conditions; and,
 - 4) more robust measures to protect reservoir levels.

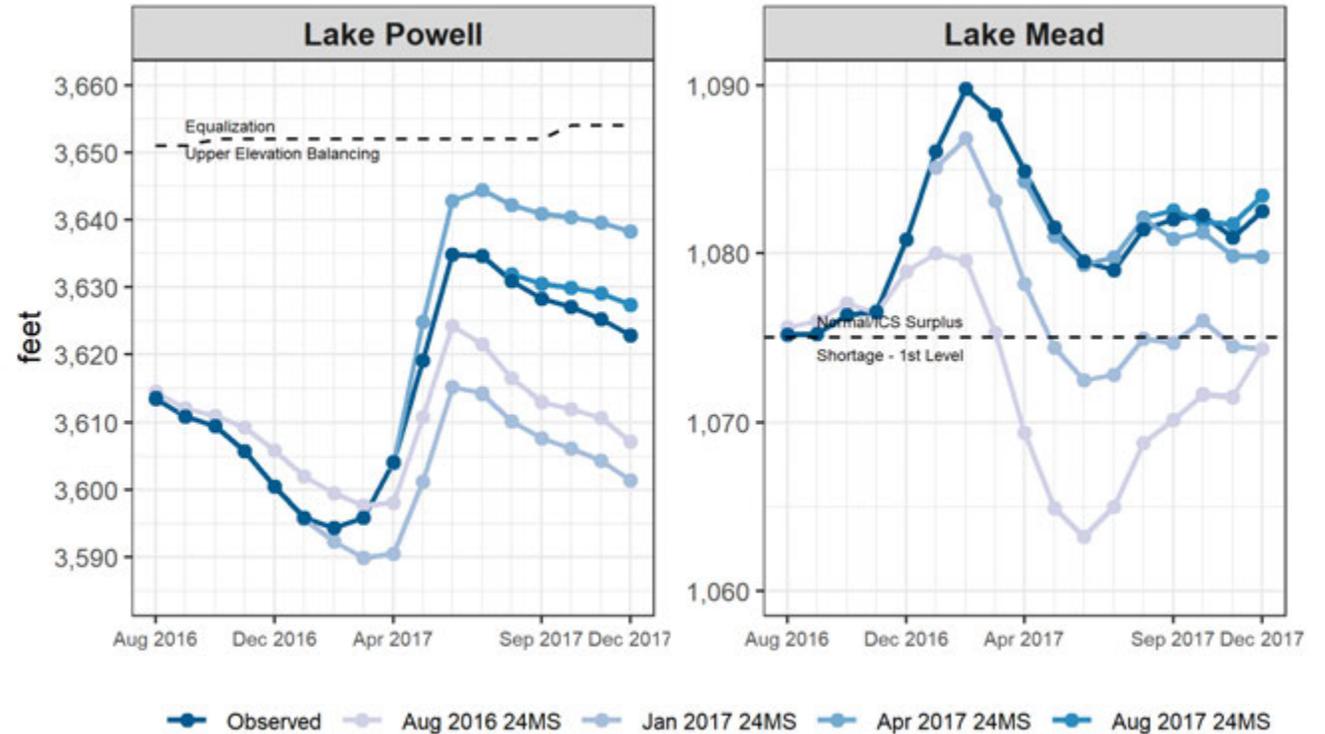


Appendix A – Operational Documentation



Appendix A – Operational Documentation

- Chronological review of operations 2008-2019
- For each year, provides key operating variables
 - Hydrology
 - Reservoir elevations
 - Lower Basin water use
- Compares each variable to 24-Month Study projections in that year
- Discusses any distinct operational events during that year
- Analyzes accuracy of 24-Month Study projections of Lake Powell and Lake Mead elevation



Appendix A – Operational Documentation

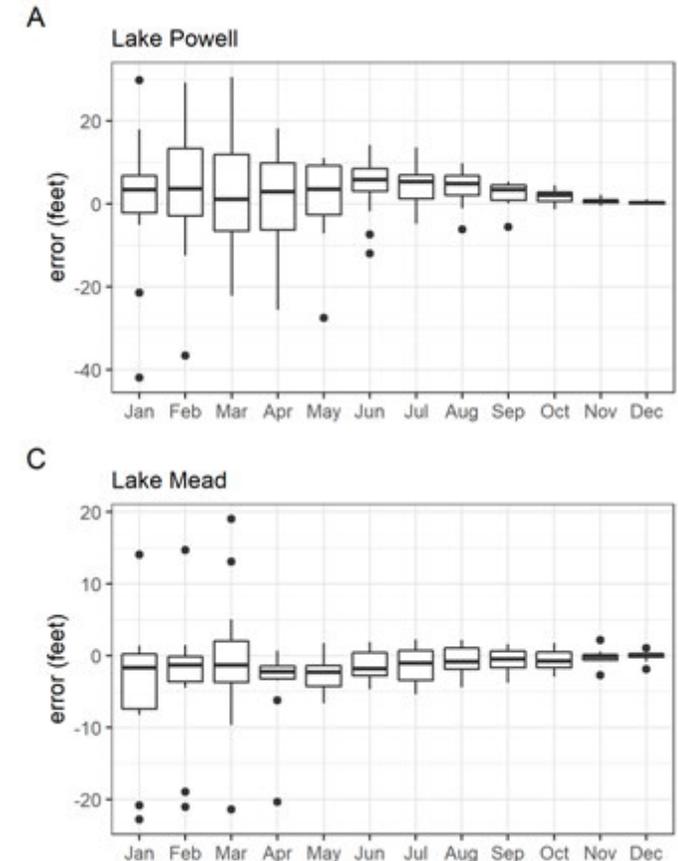
January, April, and August 24-Month Study projections during WY 2017

	24-Month Study						Actual
	Jan 2017		Apr 2017		Aug 2017		
	Projection	Difference ¹	Projection	Difference ¹	Projection	Difference ¹	
April-July unregulated inflow (maf)	6.50	-1.67	9.30	1.13	NA	NA	8.17
April-July unregulated inflow (% avg)	91%		130%				114%
WY unregulated inflow (maf)	9.51	-2.39	13.47	1.57	12.23	0.33	11.90
WY unregulated inflow (% avg)	88%		124%		113%		110%
Lake Powell WY release (maf)	9.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	9.00
Lake Powell EOWY elevation (feet)	3,607.70	-20.61	3,640.95	12.64	3,630.49	2.18	3,628.31
Lake Mead EOWY elevation (feet)	1,074.70	-7.35	1,080.87	-1.18	1,082.55	0.50	1,082.05

¹ Differences are computed as projected minus actual; positive values indicate an over-projection while negatives indicate an under projection.

- 6 additional tables for each year are included in the Appendix that include the operational determinations, CY projections, Lower Basin Hydrology, and Lower Basin water use by state and for Mexico.

24-Month Study EOCY Projection Error



Draft Report Comment Process & Schedule



Draft Report Review Process

- We encourage commenting on the Draft Report
- Submit comments to Reclamation by November 13, 2020 via:
 - [7.D. Review Draft Report Comment Form](#) (See below)
 - Email to: 7DReview@usbr.gov
 - U.S. mail to Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: Ms. KayLee Nelson, LC-6056, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
- This presentation and the Draft Report will be posted at: <https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/#7.D.ReviewDraftReport>



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Draft Report

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Upper and Lower Colorado Basin Regions



U.S. Department of the Interior October 2020



7.D. Review Schedule



-  Comments due by May 1 on Report scope and approach (*extended*)
-  Comments due by November 13 on Draft Report



QUESTIONS?

For additional information visit:

www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies.html

www.usbr.gov/lc/riverops.html

Send questions or comments to 7DReview@usbr.gov



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