
ATTACHMENT I

Draft Interim Surplus Guidelines

This attachment contains draft guidelines to provide reviewers with an understanding of the proposed format and content of the proposed interim surplus criteria.

It should be noted that the surplus depletion schedules shown in these guidelines are estimated and are intended to provide an approximation of the amounts of surplus water that would be provided at the various elevations of Lake Mead.

Draft
Colorado River Interim Surplus Guidelines
for
Basin States Alternative

1 INTRODUCTION

The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is implementing these specific interim guidelines under which surplus water conditions would be determined in the Colorado River Basin.

The long-term management objectives of the Colorado River system require the Secretary to:

- Minimize flood damages from river flows,
- Release water only in accordance with the 1964 Decree in *Arizona v. California* (Decree),
- Protect and enhance the environmental resources of the basin,
- Provide reliable delivery of water for beneficial consumptive use,
- Increase flexibility of water deliveries under a complex allocation system,
- Encourage efficient use of renewable water supplies,
- Minimize curtailment to users who depend on such water supplies, and
- Consider power generation needs.

On an annual basis, the Secretary has applied factors, including but not limited to those found in Article III(3) (b) (i-iv) of the LROC, in annual determinations of the availability of surplus quantities for pumping or release from Lake Mead. As a result of actual operating experience through preparation of annual plans of operation, particularly during recent years when there has been increasing demand for surplus water, the Secretary has determined that there is a need for more specific surplus criteria, consistent with the Decree and applicable Federal law, to assist in the Secretary's annual decision making during an interim period.

Additionally, through adoption of specific interim surplus criteria, the Secretary will afford mainstream users of Colorado River water, particularly those in California who currently utilize surplus flows, a greater degree of predictability with respect to the likely existence, or lack thereof, of surplus conditions on the river in a given year. Adoption of the interim surplus criteria is intended to recognize California's plan to reduce reliance on surplus deliveries, to assist California in moving towards its allocated share of Colorado River water, and to avoid hindering such efforts. Implementation of interim surplus criteria would take into account progress, or lack

thereof, in California's efforts to achieve these objectives. The surplus criteria identify the estimated specific amount of surplus water to be made available in a given year, based upon factors such as the elevation of Lake Mead. The increased level of predictability with respect to the prospective existence and quantity of surplus water, will assist in the planning and operations by all entities that receive surplus Colorado River water pursuant to contracts with the Secretary.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 LONG RANGE OPERATING CRITERIA

The Long Range Operating Criteria (LROC) provides that the Secretary will determine the extent to which the reasonable beneficial consumptive use requirements of mainstream users in the Lower Division can be met. Pursuant to Article II(B)2 of the Decree, if there exists sufficient water available in a single year for pumping or release from Lake Mead to satisfy annual consumptive use in the states of California, Nevada, and Arizona in excess of 7.5 maf, such water may be determined by the Secretary to be made available as "surplus" water. The Secretary is authorized to determine the conditions upon which such water may be made available. The Colorado River Basin Project Act directed the Secretary to adopt criteria for coordinated long-range operation of reservoirs on the Colorado River in order to comply with and carry out the provisions of the Colorado River Compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act, the Colorado River Storage Project Act and the U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty.

These Guidelines serve to implement Section III (3) of the LROC. The guidelines do not apply to determinations of surplus to the United Mexican States (Mexico) pursuant to the United States-Mexico Water Treaty of 1944.

2.2 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

The Secretary prepares, on an annual basis, an Annual Operating Plan (AOP) describing the projected operation of the Colorado River reservoirs for the current year. The AOP is prepared in consultation with the seven Basin States Governors' representatives; the Upper Colorado River Commission; appropriate Federal agencies; representatives of the academic and scientific communities, environmental organizations, and the recreation industry; water delivery contractors; contractors for the purchase of Federal power; others interested in Colorado River operations; and the general public, through the Colorado River Management Work Group. The AOP describes actual operations under the LROC, as required by the CRBPA.

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Environmental analyses have been conducted for this proposal pursuant to the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) involving the following consultation and documentation:

- DEIS published in July 2000
- ESA consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service
- Consultation with Tribes
- Consultation with Mexico pursuant to international agreement
- Final EIS published in December 2000

3 CONDITIONS OF IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 EFFECTIVE DATES

These guidelines will be in effect 30 days from publication of the Secretary’s Record of Decision (ROD) in the Federal Register. The guidelines will, unless subsequently modified, remain effective through December 31, 2016. After the interim period, the surplus criteria will revert to the “no action” conditions (i.e., determinations will be made on an annual basis through the AOP process.)

3.2 ALLOCATION OF SURPLUS WATER

The interim surplus criteria set forth in Section 4 identify the circumstances for the Secretary’s annual determination of the availability of surplus water. These criteria do not address the allocation of surplus water. Surplus water will continue to be allocated for use among the Lower Division States in a manner consistent with the percentages identified in the Decree. While these criteria will not specifically address the allocation of surplus within a State or among the Lower Basin States, the Secretary recognizes that the Lower Division States and individual contractors for Colorado River water are considering arrangements that may affect the utilization of surplus water during the period identified in Section 3.1. It is expected that water orders from Colorado River contractors will be submitted to reflect forbearance arrangements made by Lower Division states and individual contractors. The Secretary will deliver water to contractors in a manner consistent with these arrangements, to the extent that the water orders from contractors reflect these arrangements. Surplus water will only be delivered to entities with contracts for surplus water.

3.3 MODELING AND DATA

The August 24-Month Study projections for the January 1 system storage and reservoir water surface elevations will be used to determine the applicability of interim surplus guidelines.

In preparation of the AOP, Reclamation will utilize the 24-Month Study and/or other modeling methodologies appropriate for the determinations and findings necessary in

the AOP. Reclamation will utilize the best available data and information, including the National Weather Service forecasting to make these determinations.

3.4 CALIFORNIA’S COLORADO RIVER WATER USE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The Secretary will annually review the status of implementation of the California Colorado River Water Use Plan during the development of the AOP. California will need to reduce its need for surplus Colorado River water by the following amounts by the dates indicated:

Date	Amount (acre-feet)
January 1, 2006	280,000
January 1, 2011	380,000

In the event that California has not reduced its use by the above quantities, the interim surplus determinations will be based upon the 70R Strategy, for either the remainder of the period identified in Section 3.1 or until such time as California complies with the reductions identified in Section 3.1.

3.5 UNUSED APPORTIONMENTS

Nothing in these guidelines precludes the Secretary from making unused normal or surplus apportionments of Colorado River water available to another State pursuant to Article II(B)6 of the Decree.

3.6 PERIODIC REVIEW

These guidelines for interim surplus criteria serve to implement Article III(3) of the LROC and will be reviewed concurrently with the LROC 5-year review. The Secretary will base annual determination of surplus conditions on these criteria, unless extraordinary circumstances arise. Such circumstances could include operations necessary for safety of dams or other emergency situations, or other activities arising from actual operating experience.

4 GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will be used, together with other appropriate considerations as required in the Colorado River Basin Project Act, the LROC and the Decree to guide the determination of the availability of surplus water for use within the Lower Division States. The following sections describe the Lake Mead water surface elevations at which various specified amounts of surplus water would be made available for use within the Lower Division states. The Secretary expects to make the specified quantities of water identified in Sections 4.1 through 4.5 available as surplus during the

15-year period. The precise amounts of annual surplus quantities will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis during the preparation of the AOP, as required by applicable federal law. The review will use the methodology for the Basin States Alternative set forth in Chapter 2 of the FEIS, actual operating experience, and updated information on the demand for Colorado River water by Lower Division contractors.

4.1 LAKE MEAD BELOW ELEVATION 1125 FEET

If the projected January 1 Lake Mead elevation is below 1125 feet msl, the annual pumping and release from Lake Mead will be sufficient to satisfy up to 7.5 MAF of annual consumptive use in accordance with the Decree.

4.2 LAKE MEAD AT OR ABOVE ELEVATION 1125 FEET

If the projected January 1 Lake Mead elevation is at or above 1125 feet msl and below 1145 feet msl, surplus water would be made available. The estimated annual amounts of surplus water available for pumping and release from Lake Mead (in addition to the 7.5 maf normal apportionment) are listed in the following schedule:

Year	Amount Available (kaf)
2002	200
2003	200
2004	150
2005	150
2006	150
2007	150
2008	150
2009	150
2010	150
2011	200
2012	200
2013	250
2014	250
2015	300
2016	300

4.3 LAKE MEAD AT OR ABOVE ELEVATION 1145 FEET

If the projected January 1 Lake Mead elevation is at or above 1145 ft. msl but below the spill avoidance strategy assuming the runoff value of the 70th percentile of exceedance based on the historic record of runoff above Lake Powell, surplus water would be made available. The annual amounts of surplus water available for pumping and release from

Lake Mead (in addition to the 7.5 maf normal apportionment) are listed in the following schedule:

Year	Amount Available (kaf)
2002	650
2003	600
2004	550
2005	550
2006	500
2007	500
2008	450
2009	450
2010	450
2011	450
2012	450
2013	450
2014	450
2015	450
2016	450

4.4 70R STRATEGY

If the projected January 1 Lake Mead storage provides insufficient space for the coming year (based on the 70R Strategy), and is below the flood control release criteria listed below, the Secretary would determine annually the quantity of surplus water available. The quantity is determined by assuming the 70th percentile historical runoff, along with normal 7.5 maf delivery to Lower Division states, for the next year. Applying these values to current reservoir storage, the projected reservoir storage at the end of the next year is calculated. The surplus is determined if the estimated space available at the end of the next year is less than the space needed by flood control criteria. The quantity of the surplus is the difference between the space required and the estimated available space. The above methodology would require calculation of the annual quantity each year during the period identified in Section 3.1. The estimated annual amounts of surplus water available for pumping and release from Lake Mead (in addition to the 7.5 maf normal apportionment) are listed in the following schedule:

Year	Amount Available (kaf)
2002	1150
2003	1150
2004	1050
2005	1050
2006	1050
2007	1050
2008	1100
2009	1100
2010	1150
2011	1150
2012	1200
2013	1200
2014	1200
2015	1200
2016	1200

4.5 FLOOD CONTROL SURPLUS

If the projected January 1 system contents projects Hoover Dam flood control releases based on the 1984 Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, Water Control Manual, the annual pumping and release from Lake Mead will be sufficient to satisfy all reasonable and beneficial consumptive uses in the Lower Basin with valid surplus contracts with the Secretary of the Interior. The estimated annual amounts of surplus water available for pumping and release from Lake Mead (in addition to the 7.5 maf normal apportionment) are listed in the following schedule:

Year	Amount Available (kaf)
2002	1350
2003	1350
2004	1350
2005	1350
2006	1400
2007	1450
2008	1500
2009	1550
2010	1600
2011	1600
2012	1650
2013	1650
2014	1650
2015	1700
2016	1700