

Appendix K

Public Meeting Presentation

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Managing Water in the West

Development of Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines and Coordinated Management Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Under Low Reservoir Conditions

Public Meetings



U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Shortage Guidelines and Management Strategies Public Meeting

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of Meeting
- Background, Need, Setting
- Process
- Key Concepts
- Questions and Comments

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Purpose of this Meeting

- To solicit comments on the formulation of alternatives for the development of:
 - Shortage guidelines for the Lower Basin (circumstances under which less than 7.5 million acre-feet would be delivered annually to the Lower Division States (Arizona, California, and Nevada))
 - Coordinated management strategies for the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under low reservoir conditions

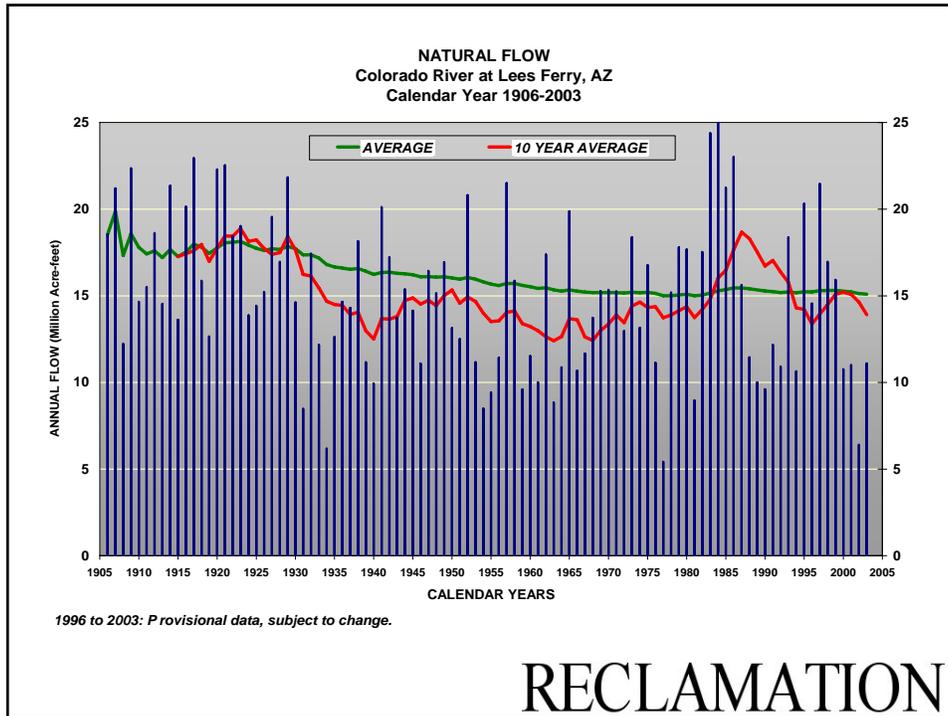
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Colorado River Basin Hydrology

- 16.5 million acre-feet (maf) allocated annually
- 13 to 14.5 maf of consumptive use annually
- 60 maf of storage
- 15.1 maf average annual “natural” inflow into Lake Powell over past 100 years
- Inflows are highly variable year-to-year



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Colorado River Basin Drought Water Year Unregulated Inflow to Lake Powell, 1999-2005

- 1999 109 % of average
- 2000 62 % of average
- 2001 59 % of average
- 2002 25 % of average
- 2003 51 % of average
- 2004 49 % of average
- 2005 105 % of average

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Colorado River Basin Drought

- Inflows from 2000 through 2004 were the lowest in any five-year period in our 100-year historical record
- Inflows in 2005:
 - 105% of average in Upper Basin
 - Over 200% of average in Lower Basin
- System is now 59% full (was over 90% full in 1999)
- 2005 “rolled back” one year of the drought
- It is not unusual to have a few years of above average inflow during a sustained drought (e.g., the 1950’s)

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Setting and Need

- **Drought conditions have impacted storage in the Colorado River system**
- **Water use continues to increase**
- **The Secretary of the Interior may declare a shortage condition in the Lower Basin**
 - Delivery of less than 7.5 maf to Arizona, California, and Nevada
- **To date, there has never been a shortage in the Lower Basin and there are no shortage guidelines**
- **Guidelines will:**
 - Inform the Secretary’s decision in the Annual Operating Plan process
 - Provide a degree of certainty to the water users in the Lower Basin

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Process

- In 2004, the Secretary challenged the Basin States to develop a drought mitigation plan for the Colorado River Basin
- Basin States have been studying potential operational scenarios to lessen the impacts of drought conditions using Reclamation as a technical resource
- In May 2005, the Secretary directed Reclamation to engage in a process to develop guidelines for Lower Basin shortages and the operation of Lakes Powell and Mead under low reservoir conditions
- The process must be completed by December 2007

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Process

- **Public Consultation** (June 15 – August 30, 2005)
 - Solicited comments on content, format, mechanisms and analysis to be considered to address drought and other management challenges
 - Comments received:
 - 149 unique comments (posted on Reclamation web site)
 - Considering these comments in our project planning efforts

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Process

- **Public Scoping Period** (September 30 – November 30, 2005)
 - Initiating environmental review pursuant to NEPA
 - Holding public scoping meetings
 - Soliciting comments on the development of alternatives for guidelines and strategies
 - Comments that are received will:
 - Advise alternatives development and analysis
 - Be summarized in a report made available in February, 2006

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Schedule

- **JUN 2005** – FR notice initiating public process
- **SEP 2005** – FR notice to initiate NEPA and scoping of issues and alternatives
 - 60-day comment period
 - Public meetings
 - Scoping report
- **DEC 2006** – DEIS available to public
- **OCT 2007** – FEIS available to public
- **DEC 2007** – Record of Decision

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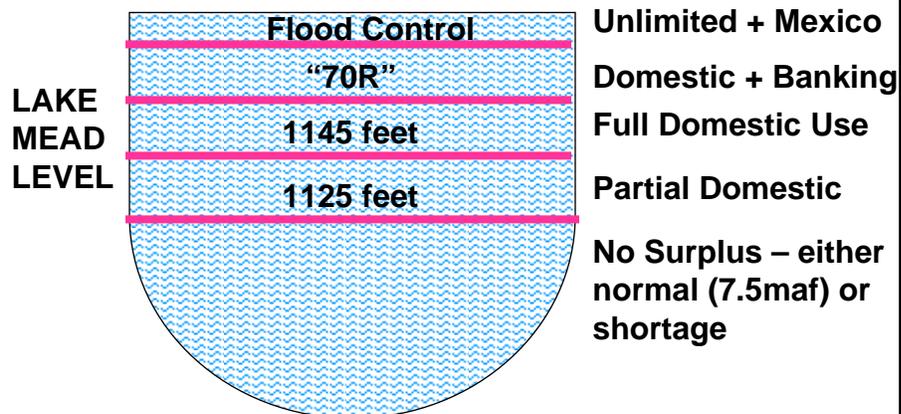
Key Concepts

- Operating Guidelines
- Coordinated Reservoir Management
- Shortage in the Lower Basin

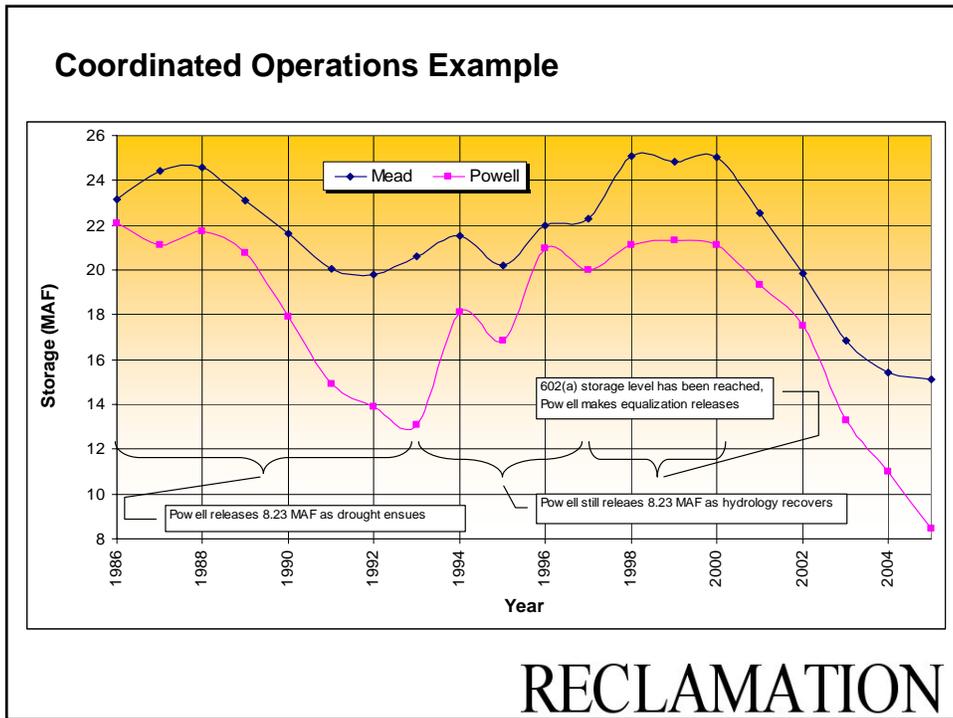
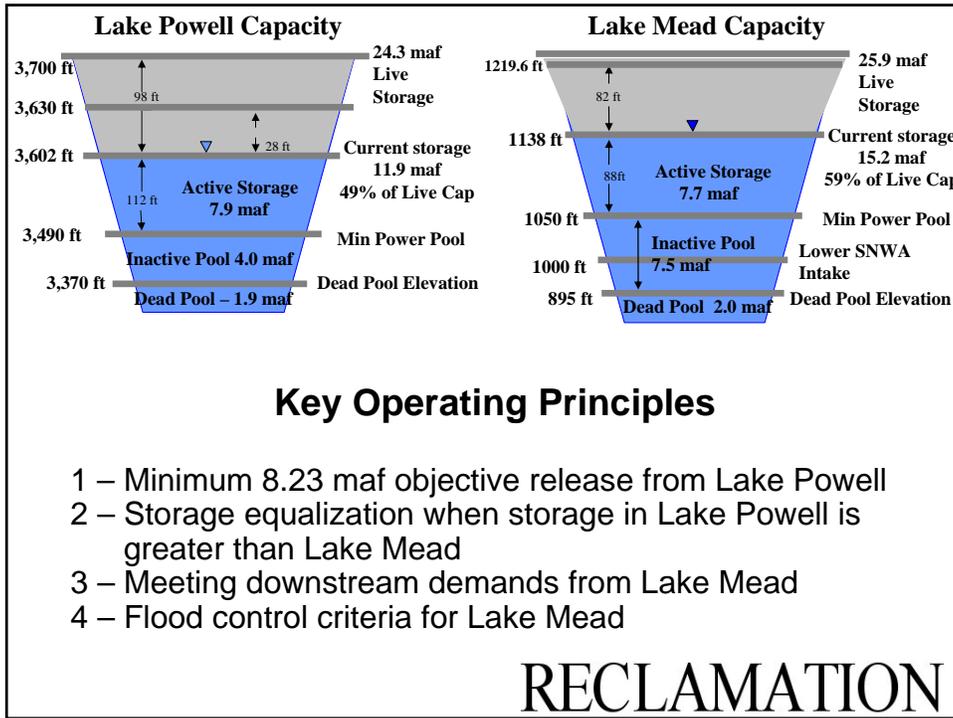
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Interim Surplus Guidelines

(example of operating guidelines)



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Mass Balance at Lake Mead

- Given current demands in the Lower Basin (including Mexico), and minimum objective release from Lake Powell, Lake Mead storage will continue to decline
 - Inflow = 9.0 maf
(release from Powell + side inflows)
 - Outflow = - 9.5 maf
(LB and Mexico apportionments + downstream regulation, gains and losses)
 - Mead evaporation loss = - 0.8 maf
 - Balance = - 1.3 maf

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Shortage in the Lower Basin

- In the Lower Basin, the Secretary as Watermaster, may declare a shortage – delivery of less than 7.5 maf to the Lower Division States (Arizona, California, and Nevada)
- To date, there has never been a shortage in the Lower Basin and there are currently no shortage guidelines
- Trade-offs when a shortage exists:
 - Magnitude
 - Duration

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Questions?

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Comments

- Submit comments/suggestions on:
 - Formulation of alternatives for the development of:
 - Shortage guidelines for the Lower Basin (circumstances under which less than 7.5 maf would be delivered annually to the Lower Division States (Arizona, California, and Nevada))
 - Coordinated management strategies for the operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under low reservoir conditions
 - Other issues or factors that need to be considered in study

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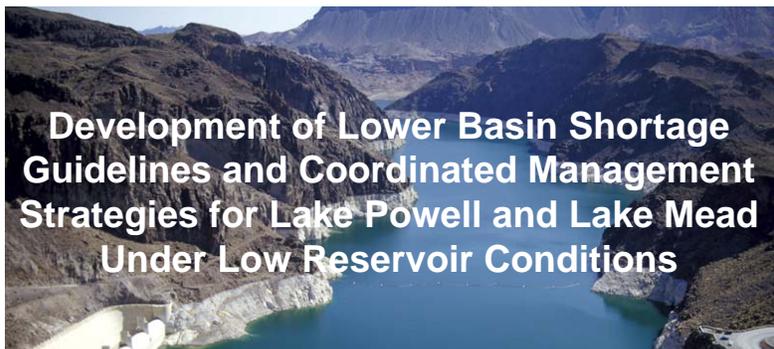
Comments

- submit by mail, faxogram or e-mail
- Wednesday, November 30, 2005, close of business

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Project website: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/riverops.html>



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