

November 5, 2013

To: Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Work Group,

The September 4, 2013 Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Work Group meeting minutes have been posted on their website. Questions raised by attendees regarding the Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance and the Kachess Inactive Storage Projects and including the costs the irrigation water users will be asked to pay will be known. The responses omitted pertinent information that affects the Kachess Project. “Revisiting the Keechelus to Kachess Project” provides information available in reports on the Kachess Reservoir Inactive Storage Project.

Revisiting the Keechelus to Kachess Project

At the September 4, 2013 Workgroup meeting the question was asked “Why the Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance and the Kachess Reservoir Inactive Storage projects were moving forward as priority projects over the Wymer project?” The response was “The Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance and the Kachess Reservoir Inactive Storage projects are prioritized because these projects can deliver new water supply more quickly than other options in future low-water years.”

What Do These Projects Do?

The purpose of the Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance project is to move water from Keechelus Reservoir (157,000 acre-foot capacity) to Kachess Reservoir (239,000 acre-foot capacity) to (1) improve the stored water supply in Kachess Reservoir by transferring runoff that would otherwise be spilled from Keechelus Reservoir and (2) rerouting water through Kachess Reservoir for downstream irrigation use that would otherwise be released from Keechelus Reservoir into the upper Yakima River impacting anadromous fish production in this 12-mile Keechelus Dam to Easton Diversion Dam reach of the river.

The Kachess Inactive Storage project will provide access to an additional 200,000 acre-feet of water from a pre-existing natural lake below the current reservoirs outlet works. The water in this inactive storage supply will be withdrawn by installing a pump station and pumping in drought years discharging into the Kachess River below the dam for downstream irrigation use primarily by the Kittitas Reclamation District and the Roza Irrigation District.

What is the Volume of Water Transferred?

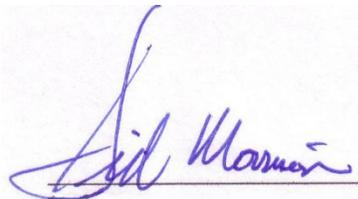
The annual volume of water transferred by the Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance for the 25-year historical period of record (1981-2005) ranges from a minimum of 12,000 acre-feet (1994) to a maximum of 135,000 acre-feet (1997) with a median volume of 97,000 acre-feet. This

represents the total volume moved through the Keechelus to Kachess Conveyance for the purposes of bypassing excessive releases into the Keechelus to Easton Reach and for improving the stored water supply of Kachess Reservoir.

What We Do Not Know

We have been told the reason these projects were prioritized for construction was because they can deliver new water supply more quickly than the Wymer and Bumping Lake Enlargement projects. What we do not know at this time are the following:

- The volume of the new stored water which will be available as opposed to the volume rerouted from Keechelus Reservoir for downstream irrigation use for the purpose of bypassing the Keechelus to Easton reach of the Yakima River.
- The impact on Kachess Reservoir refill of the 239,000 acre-feet of current active storage capacity when the inactive storage is accessed in drought years without Wymer and Bumping lake Enlargement being online.
- The economic justification (benefit to cost analysis) of these projects; a requirement of the 2013 State Legislature.
- Who pays for the construction and annual operation and maintenance costs of these projects and what is the repayment obligation for the drought year water supply?
- The viability of fish passage at Keechelus and Kachess Reservoirs with these two projects online.
- Why are Ecology and Reclamation proceeding with this project knowing full well of the opposition to a Bumping Lake Enlargement and the possibility this project may not be implemented emasculating the negative impact on the Kachess Reservoir supply.
- Dead Storage Water.
 - Has a right to the use of this water been issued?
 - Has the cost of the mitigation for the loss of resident fishery been determined?
 - How are the costs for the development and use of the water been assigned?



SID MORRISON, CHAIR I BSA

Work Group Committee Member