



United States Department of the Interior


OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, D.C. 20240

MAR 16 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary

From: Anne J. Castle 
Secretary's Designee, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Assistant Secretary – Water and Science

Subject: Report and Recommendations from the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Federal Advisory Committee

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) convened on February 3-4, 2010, in Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was well attended and positive. The Operating Procedures of the AMWG require the Secretary's Designee to provide the Secretary with a report on all meetings, and to transmit any recommendations. The following report summarizes the most significant issues addressed at the AMWG meeting, and transmits the single recommendation.

1. High Flow Experimental Releases. The scientific report of the USGS's Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) on the March 2008 high flow experimental release from Glen Canyon Dam was presented and discussed. The scoping for a High Flow Experiment Protocol, pursuant to your direction from December 2009, was begun and comments from AMWG representatives and members of the public were taken. A schedule for the NEPA process for the Protocol was presented.
2. Control of Non-Native Fish. Control of non-native fish in the Grand Canyon downstream of Lees Ferry is an important component adaptive management program as recognized in the biological opinion of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) concerning the native humpback chub. The establishment of a world-class trout fishery downstream from Glen Canyon Dam has contributed to trout predation on humpback chub. In the past, mechanical removal of trout has occurred at the confluence of the Little Colorado River (LCR) and the Colorado River as a conservation measure to assist in the conservation of the humpback chub. However, significant concerns with the killing of fish in that location have been expressed by several of the Native American tribes on the AMWG. A meeting with representatives of the tribes and personnel from DOI and DOE occurred prior to the AMWG meeting on Feb. 2, and this issue was discussed. Further discussion occurred during the AMWG meeting. The DOI representatives committed to an in-depth investigation of whether alternatives to mechanical removal at the LCR would remain consistent with the conservation measure contained in the biological opinion, at least on a temporary basis to allow further investigation and exploration of options.

We have subsequently agreed to defer the mechanical removal trips scheduled for 2010 in order to allow additional tribal consultation and further exploration of alternatives. This deferral requires re-initiation of ESA consultation with FWS, which commenced during the week of March 1.

3. Desired Future Conditions. While the AMWG established strategic goals for achievement through the adaptive management process, it has not previously translated those goals into more specific "Desired Future Conditions" or "DFCs" that could guide the management process itself. A draft set of DFCs was developed by representatives of the five DOI bureaus involved with the AMWG, and provided in draft form for consideration. An ad hoc group was established to review and make recommendations on a final and complete set of DFCs for the AMWG. This is an essential step for the future of the adaptive management for Glen Canyon Dam.
4. Future Direction and Management. During the 2-day meeting, there was considerable discussion and recognition of the need to assess the risks, benefits and tradeoffs of various proposed actions, whether scientific or management activities, and to then move forward. A presentation by the Executive Coordinator of the Science Advisors outlined the strategies and requirements, consistent with the principles of Adaptive Management, to transition the GCDAMP from a predominant focus on the science related to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam to an expanded inclusion of management actions based on science. A more in depth discussion of this topic will occur at the next AMWG meeting.
5. Charter. As required by the FACA, the AMWG Charter has a two-year term. The Charter states expressly, however, that the AMWG is intended to remain in effect in perpetuity. The current Charter was signed by Secretary Kempthorne on July 23, 2008 and will expire in July 2010. In order to allow the AMWG to continue to advise you on the operations of Glen Canyon Dam, the charter must be renewed, and the AMWG recommends its renewal. It has been recognized by the AMWG, however, that the Charter should be reexamined to determine whether revisions are appropriate to reflect the group's current operations and objectives. Accordingly, the AMWG also created a Charter Ad Hoc Group for the purpose of reviewing and updating the charter, such process to occur within one year. As such, the AMWG may submit a proposed revised charter for your consideration prior to the expiration of the 2-year period.

As described above, the following recommendation was passed by consensus of the AMWG:

The AMWG recommends that the Secretary of the Interior renew the AMWG Charter for two years.

A renewed charter has been prepared and is being circulated for the necessary approvals. It will be provided to you for consideration and signature in the near future. Please call me if you wish to discuss further.

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Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, National Park Service
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
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