

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
August 24-25, 2010

Agenda Item

High Flow Experimental Protocol Environmental Assessment Update

Action Requested

✓ Information item only; we will answer questions but no action is requested.

Presenter

Glen Knowles, Chief, Adaptive Management Group, Bureau of Reclamation

Previous Action Taken

✓ By AMWG: AMWG provided comments and recommendations on the High Flow Test Protocol EA as part of National Environmental Policy Act scoping at its February 3, 2010 meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

Relevant Science

✓ The following describes the relevant research or monitoring on this subject:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2009, Notice of Development of Experimental High-Flow Releases from Glen Canyon Dam under the Authority of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), Development of an Environmental Assessment, and Notice of Public Meeting: Federal Register 74 (250): 69361-69362.

Wright, S.A., J.C. Schmidt, D.J. Topping, 2008, Is there enough sand? Evaluating the fate of Grand Canyon sandbars: GSA Today 18(8):4-10.

Wright, SA, and Grams, P.E., 2010, Evaluation of Water Year 2011 Glen Canyon Dam flow release scenarios on downstream sand storage along the Colorado River in Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2010-1133, 19 p.

Background Information

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) began the process to develop an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the High Flow Experimental (HFE) Protocol with a Federal Register notice in December of 2009, and held a public scoping meeting at the February 3-4, 2010, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (AMP) Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) Meeting. Since that time, Reclamation has invited the AMP federal agencies (Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey), the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), and the AMP Tribes (Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Navajo Nation, Southern Paiute Consortium, and the Pueblo of Zuni) to be cooperating agencies in the development of both the HFE Protocol and Nonnative Fish Control EAs. All of the Federal agencies and AGFD have indicated they will participate as cooperating agencies for the EA, but none of the tribes have yet committed. Memorandums of understanding have been prepared for

each of the cooperating agencies and sent to them for signatures and identification of points of contact.

In development of the EA, Reclamation conducted a Cooperating Agencies HFE Protocol Work Shop (June 17-18, 2010) and a Cooperating Agencies Conference Call (July 12, 2010) to discuss purpose and need, as well as elements of potential alternatives for the EA. Reclamation has also met with each of the AMP Tribes to conduct government-to-government consultation on the EA. Reclamation continues to work with the cooperating agencies to develop this EA and expects to provide the EA to the public by the end of October 2010.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

High Flow Experimental Protocol Environmental Assessment



Glen Knowles
Bureau of Reclamation

August 25, 2010
GCDAMP AMWG Meeting
Phoenix, Arizona



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



Administrative History

- Identified by Secretary Salazar in December 2009 and published in Federal Register
- To provide a protocol under which future high flow experiments below Glen Canyon Dam would be conducted
- The primary purpose of high flow experiments is to improve sand conservation below Glen Canyon Dam
- The environmental assessment will identify effects of HFEs on sediment, other natural resources, hydropower production, recreation, and other aspects of the human environment as required by the National Environmental Policy Act

Administrative History

- Dec. 31, 2010 – Federal Register Notice
- Feb. 3-4, 2010 – AMWG Meeting Scoping Session
- May 2010 – Invitation to Cooperating Agencies
 - AGFD, BIA, NPS, USFWS, USGS, CRBC, Pueblo of Zuni
- June 16-17, 2010 – Cooperating Agency Work Shop on HFE Protocol
- July 12, 2010 – Cooperating Agency Conference Call



Parameters to Define HFE Protocol

- Times of year (HFE windows)
- Antecedent conditions (channel and bar storage)
- Tributary sediment inputs (triggers)
- Magnitude of high flows (dam releases)
- Duration of high flows
- Availability of water and scheduled releases
- Dam maintenance requirements

Next Steps

Cooperating Agency Call	8/29/2010
Develop alternatives	
Send final need statement	
and alternatives to cooperating agencies & Tribes	9/3/2010
Conference call on alternatives	9/10/2010
Response from Cooperating Agencies on alternatives	9/17/2010
Draft EA	
Sent to Cooperating Agencies	10/8/2010
Response from Cooperating Agencies	10/22/2010
Incorporate CA comments / resolve differences	11/8/2010
Send final to FWS	11/8/2010
Public Notice	
Release EA	11/8/2010
Release final decision	3/23/2010
FWS Review and issuance of BO	3/23/2010