

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
May 18, 2011

Agenda Item

Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Action Requested

This is an information item.

Presenters

Beverly Heffernan, Manager, Environmental Resources Division, Upper Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation

Martha Hahn, Chief, Science and Resource Management, Grand Canyon National Park, National Park Service

Previous Action Taken

Other:

December 2009: Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that the development of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam was needed. The Secretary emphasized the inclusion of stakeholders, particularly those in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GDAMP), in the development of the LTEMP.

February 2010: At the February 2010 AMWG meeting, Secretary's Designee Anne Castle explained that Interior will initiate a long-term experimental and management plan for Glen Canyon Dam that builds upon what we have learned from the experimentation and the enormous body of science obtained under the Adaptive Management Program over the past 15 years.

Relevant Science

There is no relevant research or monitoring on this subject.

Background Information

The Department of the Interior (Department), through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the National Park Service (NPS), will prepare a draft EIS and conduct public scoping for the adoption of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. The Department's decision to develop the LTEMP is a component of its efforts to continue to comply with the ongoing requirements and obligations established by the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-575) (GCPA). Reclamation and the NPS will co-lead this effort because Reclamation has the primary responsibility for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and the NPS has primary responsibility for Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

LTEMP EIS, continued

The purpose of the proposed LTEMP is to utilize current, and develop additional, scientific information to better inform Departmental decisions and to operate the dam in such a manner as to improve and protect important downstream resources while maintaining compliance with the GCPA, the Law of the River, and the Endangered Species Act, among others.

Reclamation and NPS held a kickoff meeting on February 11, 2011 in Tempe, Arizona, where we received initial input from potential cooperating agencies. Reclamation and NPS are now working on a notice of intent for publication in the *Federal Register* to initiate scoping and to begin the EIS process.

The LTEMP will be the first EIS completed on the operations of Glen Canyon Dam since the 1995 EIS, which was intended to allow the Secretary to “balance and meet statutory responsibilities for protecting downstream resources for future generations and producing hydropower, and to protect affected Native American interests.”