

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Information
February 9-10, 2011

Agenda Item

Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Action Requested

✓ This is an information item.

Presenter

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

Previous Action Taken

December 2009 Update: 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 Update: 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, through the Bureau of Reclamation, is in the initial stages of preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the adoption of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. The National Park Service will be a co-lead on the EIS. On December 10, 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 (GCDAMP), in the development of the LTEMP.

As part of the GCDAMP, the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, will conduct public scoping for the adoption of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and prepare a draft EIS. The purpose of the proposed LTEMP is to increase scientific understanding of the ecosystem downstream from Glen Canyon Dam and to improve and protect important downstream resources while maintaining compliance with relevant laws including the GCPA, the Law of the River, and the Endangered Species Act. Reclamation is in

Long Term Experimental Management Plan EIS, continued

the process of inviting stakeholders to a “kick-off” meeting. This will be followed by publication of a Notice of Intent to begin scoping for the LTEMP EIS in the Federal Register shortly thereafter.

The LTEMP will be the first EIS completed on the operations of Glen Canyon Dam since the 1995 EIS, which was a major point of demarcation in attempting to achieve a balance between project purposes and natural resources protection.

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Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Bureau of Reclamation
Glen Canyon Dam
Adaptive Management Program
Adaptive Management Work Group
February 10, 2011



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



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Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS

- First announced by Asst. Secretary Anne Castle at the August AMWG Meeting that Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar had directed development of a of the Long Term Experimental and Management Plan.
- Will be led by the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service as co-lead agencies.
- Will include multiple cooperating agencies, including Federal, Tribal, State or Local agencies or governments.
- 2011 will be primarily determining and designating cooperating agencies and scoping.
- Effort will be on an expedited schedule to draft EIS.

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Purpose and Need, Proposed Action

- ❑ Purpose and Need will be focused on continuing adaptive management through the GCDAMP to meet requirements of Grand Canyon Protection Act, the Law of the River, and other laws, to continue the adaptive management experiments that have been successfully completed under the GCDAMP.
- ❑ Will build on prior experiments, such as the 1996, 2004, and 2008 HFEs, and learning gained through implementation of the High Flow Experimental Protocol, non-native fish control experimentation, and other experiments. Reclamation will utilize information developed during prior NEPA process, the ongoing EAs and LTEP EIS Process.
- ❑ Alternatives to be considered include dam operations and other actions under the Secretary of the Interior in keeping with the GCPA, Law of the River, other laws.

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Goals for 2011

- Identify and formalize Cooperating Agencies.
- Define roles and responsibilities.
- Begin scoping with a Federal Register Notice in spring 2011, with scoping and scoping comment analysis completed late summer 2011.
- Begin to develop alternatives with cooperating agencies by the end of 2011.

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Next Steps

- **Kickoff meeting with potential cooperating agencies on February 11, 2011, here at the Fiesta Inn. We will get initial input from potential cooperating agencies on actions that could be included in the LTEMP; discuss Lead Agency and Cooperating Agency Roles and Responsibilities, discussion of proposed action and purpose & need, next steps, and schedule for EIS scoping.**
- **Any Federal, Tribal, State, or Local agency or government may be a cooperating agency (40 CFR 1501.6).**
- **Look for Federal Register Notice initiating scoping likely this Spring.**
- **More to come...**

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