



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Regional Office
125 South State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UC-140
ENV-1.10

APR 9 1999

MEMORANDUM

To: Adaptive Management Work Group

From: Charles A. Calhoun
Regional Director

Subject: Transmittal of the Scientific Panel Review of the Glen Canyon Dam Modifications to Control Downstream Temperatures Plan and Draft Environmental Assessment

Attached is a copy of the report of the scientific panel that the Bureau of Reclamation convened to review the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed Glen Canyon Dam modifications for the purposes of controlling the downstream temperatures.

In providing the report to you, I also want to share several pertinent information items and an overview of the next steps which, as it now appears, will likely lead to either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or the selection of the No Action alternative in the EA. The reason the likely decision choices are limited to two options is, if a FONSI is not possible, Reclamation would have no further reason to continue to study and analyze a project that may have significant negative impacts to downstream resources and would fail to meet our established objectives to remove jeopardy and recover endangered fish.

As you recall at the January 13, 1999, meeting of the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) in Phoenix, four members of the AMWG requested that a peer review be conducted on the draft EA. That request led to a discussion in which other AMWG members stated their reservations about the appropriateness of a scientific peer review of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. Significant concerns were expressed that NEPA documents are summary documents, intended to explain the likely impacts of various actions to the public. They are not, by nature, scientific treatises and do not contain anywhere near the same level of detail as a scientific document. The scientific data is referenced, but is contained in Reclamation's files.

However, because of the nature of the proposed action and to recognize the interests of the requesting members, a scientific review was initiated. As you will see in the cover letter sent to me from the Review Committee Chairperson, Mr. Gordon Mueller of the U.S. Geological Survey, the committee also struggled with the challenge of providing peer review to a NEPA document. The committee did undertake the task and has provided a report that includes a short summary document and specific individual comments from each member.

Reclamation is grateful to the review committee for their work. We understand, as they stated, that they did not have time to fully review all the supporting documentation. The committee did review the draft EA and has provided to Reclamation some excellent questions and comments for our consideration in development of the final EA.

The answers to many of their questions, we believe, are in our supporting data and files. Furthermore, we are treating the peer review as a comment for the record on the draft EA, just as we are receiving and considering the comments of AMWG members, special interest groups, and the general public. This will ensure that the committee's comments and concerns are fully displayed and answered in the final EA.

The committee unanimously supported Reclamation's proposed action to test temperature controls. They found that scientific evidence supported such a test. However, they also stated their concerns relative to the lack of data to support some conclusions as presented in the EA. This was especially the case concerning the lack of specific information related to a monitoring and testing program for eventual operation of the temperature control devices. As the EA indicated, Reclamation's original intent was to develop the monitoring and testing plans within the Adaptive Management Program concurrent to construction of the devices over the next three years.

Because of the importance the scientific review team placed upon monitoring and testing plans, and the fact that those plans are of an overarching relationship to most of the other comments provided by the team, Reclamation has requested that the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center immediately begin developing the plans. The AMWG has already requested (January 1998) that the Center develop such a plan, so no additional action by the AMWG is necessary. The Center has been asked to develop a specific timetable and budget for completion of that task.

The monitoring and testing plans will be one of the primary subjects discussed at the upcoming AMWG river study trip through the Grand Canyon in May and will be a prime agenda topic at the July 20, 1999, AMWG meeting. The final EA will include monitoring and testing plans. Some specifics concerning details of the plans may be refined through the Adaptive Management Program, but the final EA will clearly display the nature of the testing and monitoring plans.

In conclusion, I believe it is important to continue to specifically focus on the subject of this EA. Reclamation is considering whether or not to modify Glen Canyon Dam to allow downstream river temperatures to be managed. As the EA states, it is believed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Reclamation that year-round cold water releases from the dam are a constraint to native and endangered fish. The EA and the scientific peer review team recognized that there are other ecological interactions complicating the issue that cannot be conclusively resolved without physical testing.

Finally, I want to remind the AMWG that we have extended the comment period on the EA to April 30, 1999, to provide additional time to consider the attached peer review report and provide your input to us.



WHITE AREAS: Those AMWG MO/INs that relate to downstream (below GCD) effects and conducted downstream of GCD:

- Funded by the AMP Budget
- Scope of work reviewed and approved by AMWG/TWG
- Includes all appropriate MO's and IN's
- GCMRC protocols apply (peer review, etc.)
- Accomplished by GCMRC and/or its contractors
- GCMRC will determine its capabilities to accomplish the work within funding personnel and other constraints

GRAY AREAS: Those AMWG MO/INs that relate to downstream effects, but conducted upstream of the dam:

- Part of the AMP and uses AMP procedures
- Funded by the Reclamation O&M budget or other sources
- Scope of work developed by GCMRC, and coordinated with USBR and the members of the Lake Powell Group
- GCMRC protocols apply with PEP review before submission to AMWG/TWG
- Submitted to AMWG/TWG for review and recommended adoption
- Accomplished by GCMRC and/or its contractors

BLACK AREAS: Those AMWG MO/INs not directly related to downstream effects, conducted upstream of the dam:

- Funded by Reclamation, members of the Lake Powell Group, or other sources
- Not part of AMP
- MO's and IN's are retained in a non-program information-desired category
- GCMRC protocols may not apply, but data collection should be consistent for sharing of results
- Accomplished by USBR, members of the Lake Powell Group, or others
- Results will be shared with GCMRC and AMWG

STATE OF COLORADO

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January 7, 1999



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

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Governor

James S. Lochhead
Executive Director

Ronald W. Cattany
Deputy Director

Mr. Stephan V. Magnussen
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Magnussen:

Mr. Daries C. Lile, Colorado's appointed representative to the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Workgroup (AMWG), has officially retired and will not attend the January, 1999 meeting of the AMWG.

Colorado's representative for the January 12-13, 1999 meeting will be Mr. Randy Seaholm, Colorado's Technical Workgroup Representative and Chief of the Interstate Streams Investigation Section at the Colorado Water Conservation Board. We will appoint a permanent replacement for Mr. Lile after January 12, 1999 when our new Governor takes office and selects a new director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Sincerely,

Wade Buchanan
Acting Executive Director
Colorado Department of
Natural Resources

Cc:

Mr. Charles A Calhoun – BOR
Mr. Bruce Moore – BOR
Mr. Robert Winfree - NPS



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

W-6000
ADM-1.10

JAN 06 1999

FAXOGRAM

To: Adaptive Management Work Group

From: Stephen V. Magnussen, Chairman, Adaptive Management Work Group

Subject: Additional Information Related to the Adaptive Management Work Group Meeting of January 12-13, 1999, and Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Work Group, CRSP.

Attached are copies of a revised agenda and a memorandum with attachment on the Organizational Location of the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC). The agenda item of the Location of the GCMRC was moved to the first day.

cc: TWG Members