

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Environmental Impact Statement for the Adoption of a Long-Term Experimental Plan for the Future Operation of Glen Canyon Dam and Other Associated Management Activities

Public Scoping Meetings – January 4-5, 2007



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of Meeting
- Background, Past Experimentation, Proposed Federal Action, Purpose and Need Statement
- Tiering and Previous Scoping (Temperature Control Device Environmental Assessment)
- Scoping Process
- Schedule
- Questions and Comments

Purpose of this Scoping Meeting

- To explain the context of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and the need for a long-term experimental program.
- To solicit comments on the issues and alternatives to be analyzed in the Long-Term Experimental Plan.

Background – Glen Canyon Dam

- Authorized by the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956 and completed in 1963. Below Glen Canyon Dam, the Colorado River flows for 15 miles through the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area which is managed by the National Park Service.
- Primary purpose of Glen Canyon Dam is water conservation and storage and hydroelectric power generation.

Background – Grand Canyon Protection Act

- Required environmental impact statement (EIS) on Glen Canyon Dam operations (completed in 1996).
- Established Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (Federal Advisory Committee Act committee) and required scientific monitoring and research (Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center).
- Required protection of downstream resources while complying with water delivery requirements (Treaty, Compact, and Statute).

Past Experimentation

- 1996 Beach/Habitat-Building Flow test
- 2000 Low Steady Flow test
- 2002 - 2006 translocation of the endangered Kanab ambersnail and humpback chub and removal of non-native fish.
- 2004 Beach/Habitat-Building Flow test
- In addition, drought-induced reductions in Lake Powell elevations caused an increase in dam release temperatures during 2003 to 2005. Considerable monitoring and research of endangered fish, sediment conservation, and other resources in the Grand Canyon were conducted in concert with these actions.
- Past NEPA documents on these experiments can be found at: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/gcdltep/index.html>.

Proposed Federal Action

The proposed federal action is to develop and adopt a Long-Term Experimental Plan that will implement a structured, long-term program of experimentation (potentially including dam operations, modifications to Glen Canyon Dam intake structures, and other non-flow management actions, such as removal of non-native fish species) in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam.

Purpose and Need Statement

The purpose of the proposed action is to increase scientific understanding of the ecosystem downstream from Glen Canyon Dam and to improve and protect important downstream resources. Specific hypotheses to be addressed include the effect of dam release temperatures; ramp rates; non-native control; and the timing, duration, and magnitude of beach/habitat-building flow releases.

Purpose and Need Statement (cont.)

Adoption of a Long-Term Experimental Plan is needed to ensure a continued, structured application of adaptive management in such a manner as to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area were established, including, but not limited to natural and cultural resources and visitor use, consistent with applicable federal law. Adoption of a Long-Term Experimental Plan will assist scientists, policy makers, and resource managers to better understand resource management options, tradeoffs and consequences, and assist in the long-term operations of Glen Canyon Dam and other management actions.

Tiering and Previous Scoping

- The Long-Term Experimental Plan EIS will tier off of previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.
- As part of this NEPA process, Reclamation intends to incorporate information gathered during the scoping process conducted for the environmental assessment for construction of a temperature control device at Glen Canyon Dam.

Scoping Process

- Public Scoping Completed to Date:
 - *Federal Register* notice (November 6, 2006) announcing Reclamation's intent to prepare an EIS on the adoption of a Long-Term Experimental Plan.
 - Public Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) meeting (December 5-6, 2006) to review and develop a recommendation to the Secretary for a Long-Term Experimental Plan.
 - *Federal Register* notice (December 12, 2006) reiterating Reclamation's intent to prepare an EIS, soliciting public comment, and announcing additional public scoping meetings as a follow-up to the December 2006 AMWG meeting.

Scoping Process (cont.)

- The public scoping period will run from **December 12, 2006, to February 28, 2007.**
- Written comments on the proposal should be sent by c.o.b. on February 28, 2007, to: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, Attention: UC-402, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138.
- Comments received throughout the scoping period will be summarized in a report made available in March 2007.

Schedule

- Scoping period – December 12, 2006, through February 28, 2007
- Public Scoping Meetings – January 2007
- Tribal Consultation Meetings – February 2007
- Scoping Report – March 2007
- Develop Alternatives – May 2007
- Publish Draft EIS – April 2008
- Publish Final EIS – October 2008
- Issue Record of Decision – December 2008

Questions and Comments

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If you have questions, please contact:

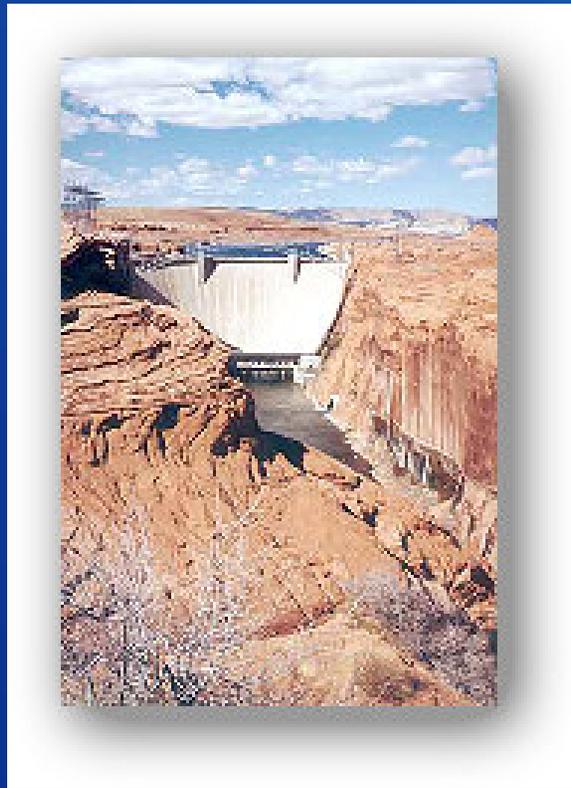
- Randall Peterson, Bureau of Reclamation, at (801) 524-3758, or e-mail at GCDExpPlan@uc.usbr.gov.
- Dennis Kubly, Bureau of Reclamation at (801) 524-3715, or e-mail at GCDExpPlan@uc.usbr.gov.
- Information about this EIS will be posted to the project website at the following web address: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/gcdltep/index.html>.

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