

Memorandum

To: Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP
Coordinating Committees

Date: January 28, 2020

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the December 17, 2019 HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committees met at the Grant PUD office in Wenatchee, Washington, on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

- Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).
- Chelan PUD will correct the summer time frame as reported along the y-axis and title of Attachment B in both Statements of Agreement (SOAs), *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rock Island Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions* and *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rocky Reach Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions* (Item III-A). *(Note: these corrections were made in the final SOAs, as discussed.)*
- Douglas PUD will add a period to the final sentence in the Statement section of the SOA, *Regarding the Updated Flow-Duration Curves for the Wells Hydroelectric Project for Establishing Representative Environmental Conditions* (Item IV-A). *(Note: this correction was made in the final SOA, as discussed.)*
- Douglas PUD will correct the year shown in the 2019 data column for sockeye salmon in Table 2 of the Passage-Dates Analysis, from 2018 to 2019 (Appendix A to the 2019 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report; Item IV-B). *(Note: this correction was made in the final report, as discussed.)*
- HCP Coordinating Committees representatives who are also representatives on the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) will discuss with the PRCC meeting logistics in 2020, including potentially coordinating meeting dates and locations with the HCP Coordinating Committees, to be further discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on January 28, 2020 (Item V-A). *(Note: this was discussed within the PRCC but with no conclusion and will continue to be discussed in early 2020, per Denny Rohr [PRCC Facilitator].)*
- Anchor QEA, LLC, will request the Grant PUD Wenatchee office for the regular HCP Coordinating Committees meeting dates and times in 2020 but will let Grant PUD know the HCP Coordinating Committees and PRCC are discussing possible adjustments to these

arrangements (Item V-A). (Note: Kristi Geris contacted Grant PUD following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 17, 2019, and received approval of this request on December 18, 2019.)

- The HCP Coordinating Committees will continue considering whether to request additional information from Jeff Fryer regarding Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (CRITFC's) annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam, to be further discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on January 28, 2020 (Item V-C).
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on January 28, 2020, will be held at 10:00 a.m., in-person at the Grant PUD Wenatchee office in Wenatchee, Washington (Item V-D).

Decision Summary

- Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the SOAs, *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rock Island Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions* and *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rocky Reach Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions* (Item III-A).
- Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2019 Fish Spill Report* (Item III-B).
- Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the SOA, *Regarding the Updated Flow-Duration Curves for the Wells Hydroelectric Project for Establishing Representative Environmental Conditions* (Item IV-A).
- Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2019 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis* (Item IV-B).

Agreements

- There were no HCP Agreements discussed during today's meeting.

Review Items

- The *Wells Project Subyearling Chinook Life-History Study 2011-2013 Draft Final Report* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on May 24, 2019.
- The draft *2020 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* (and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan*) was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 20, 2020 and is available for review (Item IV-D).
- The *Draft 2020 Wells HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 20, 2020 and is available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

Finalized Documents

- The final SOAs, *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rock Island Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions* and *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rocky Reach Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions*, were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 17, 2019 (Item III-A).
- The final SOA, *Regarding the Updated Flow-Duration Curves for the Wells Hydroelectric Project for Establishing Representative Environmental Conditions*, was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 17, 2019 (Item IV-A).
- The final *2019 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 17, 2019 (Item IV-B).
- The *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Final 2019 Fish Spill Report* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on December 19, 2019 (Item III-B).
- The *Northern Pikeminnow Predator Control Program Rocky Reach and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Final Summary Report 2017*, *Northern Pikeminnow Predator Control Program Rocky Reach and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Final Summary Report 2018*, *2018 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Final Report*, *2018 Biological Evaluation of the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Final Report*, *final 2019 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan*, *final 2019 Fish Spill Plan Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dams*, *final Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Plan 2019*, and *final 2019 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on December 26, 2019.

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP Coordinating Committees and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. No additions or changes were requested at this time; however, Andrew Gingerich later added an update on upcoming Douglas PUD water quality documents and Ferguson added two administrative updates: 1) HCP Coordinating Committees meeting logistics; and 2) HCP Policy Committees in-person meeting.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft November 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the November 19, 2019 meeting minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on November 19, 2019, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on November 19, 2019*):

- *Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).*
These updates will be carried forward.
- *Chelan PUD will determine the reason behind omitting data from 1979 to 1982 from the original Grand Coulee flow duration curves dataset (1929 to 1978 and 1983 to 2001; Item III-A).*
Lance Keller said Appendix C (Flow Duration Curve) of the HCPs includes a note that says: "1979-1982 water years are not included: they are not part of the modeled record and operations were not representative."
- *Anchor QEA, LLC, will contact Chad Jackson regarding Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) approval of the Draft Estimates of Additional Mortality Resulting from Non-Compliant Bypass Operations at Wells Dam During April 2019, as revised (Item V-B).*
Kristi Geris emailed Jackson on November 20, 2019, with this request and Jackson provided WDFW approval of the document via email on November 22, 2019.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

A. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update (Tracy Hillman)

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Hatchery Committees did not meet in December 2019; however, he recalled that the HCP Hatchery Committees did meet after the last HCP Coordinating Committees meeting in November 2019. Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on November 20, 2019 (*note: joint HCP Hatchery Committees/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP Hatchery Committee items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Outplanting Surplus Methow Composite Spring Chinook Salmon Adults (joint):* The HCP Hatchery Committees are updating their adult spring Chinook salmon outplanting plan that was developed in 2017. Several outplanting scenarios are being evaluated for their effects on

proportionate natural influence (PNI). The evaluation will consider the outplanting of adults, eggs, or both. The revised outplanting plan should be completed in early 2020.

- *Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint)*: The HCP Hatchery Committees are in the process of updating their broodstock collection protocols. Most of the appendices to the protocols have been updated and are currently being reviewed by the HCP Hatchery Committees.
- *Annual Skaha Lake and Okanagan Lake Sockeye Reintroduction Update (joint)*: Ryan Benson with the Okanagan Nation Alliance provided a presentation titled, *Skaha Lake Sockeye Reintroduction Program Update*. Benson presented a summary of sockeye hatchery operations including a description of broodstock collection, spawning, rearing, and release operations. In 2019, all hatchery sockeye fry were released into Okanagan Lake. This is the first time all hatchery sockeye fry have been released into Okanagan Lake. Benson also described their monitoring efforts and provided results from those efforts. Lastly, he reported that the Penticton Dam fishway was activated in 2019. It was built into the dam during its construction in 1953 but has never been operable. Sockeye salmon now have access to Okanagan Lake and tributaries draining into the lake.
- *Surplus Eggs (Wells)*: Because of higher than expected fecundities, there are about 120,000 surplus eggs from the Wells Fish Hatchery summer Chinook salmon egg treatment study. It is likely there will also be surplus summer Chinook salmon eggs from the Wells Subyearling Program due to high fecundities in the broodstock. If another hatchery (e.g., Chief Joseph Hatchery) cannot accept these eggs, the eggs will be destroyed. Kirk Truscott said the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) accepted about 70,000 fish from the Wells Subyearling Program, but now the Chief Joseph Hatchery subyearling program is full. Tom Kahler said everyone's programs are full. He guessed the higher than expected fecundity may have been due to reduced fishing in the lower river. He said brood collected at Wells Dam exhibited fewer net scars and were generally bigger in size than previous years. Chad Jackson said the migration in 2019 included more 4- and 5-year-old fish. Kahler agreed and said that fish either stayed in the ocean longer or were not filtered out (via harvest). Jackson said the Zone 6 Fishery was reduced but was still present. Kahler noted that Douglas PUD also collected brood earlier than normal. Truscott said additionally, in 2019, there was an error of 2 weeks in the count dates for springers and summers. He said summers that passed during the last 2 weeks of the springer run were counted and protected as springers. John Ferguson asked if ocean productivity could be a factor, and Kahler guessed it could be a combination of factors. Keely Murdoch said this has also been observed in coho salmon. She recalled a couple of years ago, despite a low run, the coho salmon that did survive were above average in size. Kahler said a fluctuation has also been observed with the pink salmon run. Murdoch said she thought this may be due to food sources moving or based on

upwelling zones or blobs.¹ Ferguson said Laurie Weitkamp (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries) made a comment during her presentation at the recent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 2019 Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program about recent analyses indicating that ocean productivity may be a limiting factor. She reported that Chinook and coho salmon returns were reduced during years when pink salmon abundance was high (pink salmon have high abundance every other year). Ferguson commented about how large pink salmon production is in the Western Pacific Ocean, which is apparently suppressing Chinook and coho salmon productivity. Ferguson said Weitkamp's point was, these data suggest there may be limitations in ocean carrying capacity. Ferguson said these limitations may be further impacted by the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and blobs. Hillman asked about the fate of the remaining surplus summer Chinook salmon eggs. Kahler said the remaining surplus eggs have been destroyed.

- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on January 15, 2020.

Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees did not meet in December 2019. Kahler said the HCP Tributary Committees are currently working on project amendments. The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on January 9, 2020.

III. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: Rock Island HCP Flow Duration Curve SOA and Rocky Reach HCP Flow Duration Curve SOA (Lance Keller)

The draft SOAs, *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rock Island Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions* and *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rocky Reach Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions*, were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on December 6, 2019.

Lance Keller said the two SOAs are similar for each project and capture the changes discussed, including: 1) moving to project-specific flow duration curves; 2) including June in the summer curve for each project; and 3) using a rolling average of the most recent 30 years to calculate the curves, such that 10 years from now, 10 years of new data will be added to the dataset and the older 10 years of data will be removed. Keller recalled that he had an action item to bring Chad Jackson up to speed on this topic, which he did in the first week of December. Keller said Jackson had no comments at that time.

Kirk Truscott said, regarding the inclusion of the entire month of June in the summer flow duration curve, he reviewed a couple of years of data and the first 10 days of June typically can have really

¹ Phenomena of the warming of sea surface temperatures.

high flows but then flows fall off unless it is a high flow year. He said he reviewed real time data for proportional passage and the latest 10% passage occurs by June 12. He said he wonders if the 10th and 90th percentiles align to these passage data. He asked for the time frame on the curves, when the HCPs are mitigating for 95% passage, should the curves instead represent the 95th and 5th percentiles? He said this may not matter if juveniles are released consistent with the run-timing of the run-at-large. Keller said when Chelan PUD conducts a survival study, the study has to match the run-timing of the run-at-large because the test species are run-of-river fish. Truscott said the way the summer curve is proposed to be modified now, is skewed to the high flow side because it would include the first 15 days in June. Keller said Chelan PUD tries to represent the time period of species passage at the respective projects and does not focus on weighting the releases. Truscott said the time period of the flow duration curves need to be representative of the normal flow or operation for when fish are passing the projects.

John Ferguson said Keller is saying that Chelan PUD monitors the run-timing during the year of study, so the study will be representative of that year. Ferguson said the flow duration curve is a calculation used to show whether the study was conducted within the bounds of normalcy; not to protect 95% passage, but rather to address whether the study was valid. He said he is unaware if language exists explaining what options are available in an odd year. He said one could review how tagging fit within the flow year. Truscott agreed and said for the individual year, tagging versus emigration timing could be reviewed. He said this will not be perfect, but it may be good enough to determine whether the water year was representative of the middle 80%. He said it seems the first 10 days of June could be potentially problematic in any given year. He said these days might be within the bounds, but he is unsure if the days are representative of normal flow conditions for when the middle 80% of fish are passing.

Keller asked about subyearling studies when excluding the first 15 days of June. He said this would exclude a decent portion of the run. Truscott said based on the data he reviewed this would exclude 12% of the run. He said the 90th passage percentile would also be achieved earlier than August 15. He said there are pros and cons to changing the curves but thought it was worth mentioning for the HCP Coordinating Committees to consider. Tom Kahler said based on the passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag data Douglas PUD and the CCT started collecting in 2011, the 5th percentile of wild subyearlings pass Wells Dam by June 1. Kahler said the historical fyke net data show a lot of fish moving in the last week of May and first week of June. Truscott said these numbers are not showing up at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass Facility. Keller said the 10th percentile passed Rocky Reach Dam on May 30 in 2018, and on June 15 in 2019. Kahler noted that 2019 was a late year. Truscott asked if 2011 and 2012 were high flow years, and Andrew Gingerich said yes. Truscott said based on these data, it sounds like that in recent years the 10th percentile passed closer to June 1. Kahler agreed with this, with the exception of a few outliers. Keller said using the 95th and 5th

percentiles only exclude 2 of 30 data points on the curves. Ferguson recalled that the HCP Coordinating Committees can elect to use the 95th and 5th percentiles without being subject to dispute.

Truscott said for both Rock Island and Rocky Reach projects' SOAs, Attachment B (summer flow duration curve graphs), the y-axis needs to be changed from "April 16 to May 31" to "June 1 to August 15," and the title of the graph needs to be changed from "August 31" to "August 15." Keller said this copy and paste error will be corrected in the final SOAs. *(Note: these corrections were made to the summer time frame in the final SOAs, as discussed.)*

Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the SOAs, *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rock Island Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions* and *Updated Flow Duration Curves for the Rocky Reach Project for Establishing Representative Flow Conditions*.

The final SOAs were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 17, 2019.

B. DECISION: 2019 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report (Lance Keller)

The *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2019 Fish Spill Report* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on November 19, 2019. Lance Keller said no questions or comments were received on the draft report since the last meeting.

Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2019 Fish Spill Report*.

The final report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on December 19, 2019.

C. Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Units Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Turbine Unit C3 was taken offline for a periodic inspection and has not yet been returned to service. He recalled that the seals in Turbine Unit C3 were replaced and mechanical staff obtain daily oil level readings on the unit. He said if the levels are off, the unit is taken offline to inspect and test the integrity of the seals. He said he has not yet received the results of this last periodic inspection.

Keller said in Turbine Unit C2, mechanical staff have not been able to get further into the unit to confirm whether a failure of the internal servo rod seal is possibly causing over-pressurization of the turbine hub.

Keller said the Turbine Unit C1 return-to-service date is still holding at January 2020. He recalled that this unit is receiving all new parts, including new trunnion bushings and seals.

Keller said the upper fishway was dewatered on December 16, 2019, which temporarily pulled mechanical crews away from turbine unit maintenance (Kristi Geris also distributed notification of the dewatering of the fishway to the HCP Coordinating Committees on December 16, 2019). Keller said once the adult fishway maintenance is complete, crews will return to maintenance on Turbine Unit C1.

D. Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said work continues on Turbine Unit B4 and crews are close to finishing grinding, welding, and filing the discharge liner. He said the return-to-service date of May 2020 is still holding. He said after work on Turbine Unit B4 is complete, crews will move to Turbine Unit B3.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: Wells HCP Flow Duration Curve SOA (Tom Kahler)

The draft SOA, *Regarding the Updated Flow-Duration Curves for the Wells Hydroelectric Project for Establishing Representative Environmental Conditions*, was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on December 5, 2019. Andrew Gingerich noted that a period is needed in the final sentence of the Statement section of the draft SOA. Kahler said he will add this to the final SOA. *(Note: this correction was made in the final SOA, as discussed.)*

Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the SOA, *Regarding the Updated Flow-Duration Curves for the Wells Hydroelectric Project for Establishing Representative Environmental Conditions*.

The final SOA was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 17, 2019.

B. DECISION: 2019 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the Post-Season Bypass Report describes bypass operation activities and the Passage-Dates Analysis describes how well the Wells Project did at providing passage for 95% of the migrating Plan Species. He said hard copies of the Passage-Dates Analysis were distributed during the last HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on November 19, 2019, and electronic copies were provided by Kristi Geris following the meeting. Kahler said the only comment received was from Kirk Truscott to correct the year shown in the 2019 data column for sockeye salmon in Table 2 of the

Passage-Dates Analysis from 2018 to 2019. Kahler said this will be corrected in the final report. (*Note: this correction was made in the final report, as discussed.*)

Kahler said the 2019 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on December 5, 2019. Kahler said the third paragraph describes the results, i.e., that Douglas PUD provided bypass passage during 100% of the migrations for yearling and subyearling Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sockeye salmon, and 99.99% of the coho salmon migration passing Wells Dam in 2019. He said the report then qualifies these data by calculating when the bypass was not operating.

Andrew Gingerich said it is worth noting that Table 4 of the Passage-Dates Analysis calculates how many days the bypass continued to operate after achieving 95% coverage. He said 2014 was the worst-case scenario, which ran 10 days after accommodating 95% passage. He noted that in some years the bypass ran 20 to almost 40 days after 95% coverage was achieved. He said it may be worth considering in future years whether the bypass period should be shut down earlier. Kahler reminded the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee that following the 2021 bypass season, Douglas PUD is required to re-evaluate bypass timing at Wells Dam. John Ferguson suggested also considering when to start bypass operations along with when to end operations. Gingerich agreed.

Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2019 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis*.

The final *2019 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 17, 2019.

C. Wells Dam 2019/2020 Winter Maintenance Outages (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said Wells Dam mechanical crews prefer to perform maintenance on the west fish ladder first this year (major overhaul) and then the east fish ladder (minor maintenance). Kahler said the mechanics and contractors currently have a lot ongoing at the project, including rebuilding a gantry crane, and equipment is blocking access to the penstock for the west fishway. He said all of the maintenance equipment is on the west fish ladder and crews do not want to move it all to east fish ladder just to then have to move it back to west fish ladder. He said crews are hoping to complete the gantry crane project soon in order to get started on the west fish ladder, hopefully by the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on January 28, 2020. He said typically, there is zero fish passage at Wells Dam in January. He said in early December, sometimes there are some Chinook salmon, steelhead, and coho salmon.

D. Douglas PUD Water Quality Documents (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said in January 2020, Douglas PUD will provide a draft 2019 total dissolved gas (TDG) report for Aquatic Settlement Work Group (Aquatic SWG) review and will also distribute the report to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee as a courtesy. Gingerich recalled in early 2019 that flows were low, and Governor Jay Inslee issued a drought emergency declaration (covering nearly half of Washington State). Gingerich said this will be included in the TDG report as well as a summary of TDG performance in the Wells Project in 2019.

Gingerich said also in January 2020, Douglas PUD will provide a draft 2020 gas abatement plan and bypass operating plan for Aquatic SWG review, as required by Douglas PUD's Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Gingerich said Douglas PUD will also coordinate these reviews with the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee.² He said these documents summarize actions to address TDG and protect aquatic species in the Wells Project. He said additionally, Washington State Department of Ecology is currently vetting a new TDG rule, which arose from a request from lower Snake and Columbia River fish managers, to push Bonneville Power Administration- and USACE-operated hydropower projects to spill to a higher gas cap. He said the new rule would also apply to PUD-operated projects that provide fish passage. He said there will be one standard in the tailrace that allows a project to spill up to 125% TDG, calculated as the average highest 2 hours in any day. He said the 2020 gas abatement plan will include this new language. (Note: the draft *2020 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* [and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan*] was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 20, 2020 and is available for review.)

John Ferguson asked if this new rule also applies to Chelan PUD projects and Lance Keller said yes. Ferguson said he understood adoption of the rule was discretionary for PUD-operated projects. Gingerich said he believes there are two options, where federal projects are forced to choose one option (new rule) and PUD projects can choose either option (status quo or the new rule). He said the idea behind choosing the new rule option is that a project can spill more, which potentially has a benefit for fish, and still be in compliance with TDG standards. Kirk Truscott said the new rule would allow Wells Dam to spill more when there is a lot of incoming water from Chief Joseph or Grand Coulee dams. Gingerich agreed and noted that in years past, when incoming water was already at 115% TDG and then increased to 116% TDG in the Wells Dam tailrace, Douglas PUD was out of compliance. He said operationally, there should be more flexibility if Douglas PUD chooses the new rule option.

² Douglas PUD's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license requirement is to submit a combined document, but approval from the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee is only needed on the bypass operating plan. The license requires only "consultation" with the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee on the gas abatement plan.

Gingerich said he hopes to have these water quality documents available for review by early January 2020, and the documents are due to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on February 28, 2020.

V. HCP Administration

A. HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting Logistics (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson asked the HCP Coordinating Committees about their preference to continue meeting at the Grant PUD Office Building in Wenatchee, Washington. He also recalled Kirk Truscott's comment about possibly convening the HCP Coordinating Committees and PRCC meetings on the same day. Scott Carlon said he does not believe convening the two meetings in one day will be a problem. Jim Craig suggested that the two chairmen coordinate. Keely Murdoch said she would support convening both meetings in one day if the meetings were held in Wenatchee. She said last month, when both meetings were at Wanapum Dam, the drive and double meetings made a very long day. She said this decision also affects Tom Skiles (CRITFC PRCC Representative, Portland Oregon office). Murdoch said typically, the PRCC meets at Wanapum Dam. Chad Jackson agreed convening both meetings in one day would be better in Wenatchee. Murdoch said if the PRCC wants to continue convening at Wanapum Dam, she prefers convening the meetings on separate days. Carlon noted that starting in March 2020, Skiles will be conducting fishway inspections and may be calling into the meetings.

HCP Coordinating Committees representatives who are also representatives on the PRCC will discuss with the PRCC meeting logistics in 2020, including potentially coordinating meeting dates and locations with the HCP Coordinating Committees. *(Note: this was discussed within the PRCC but with no conclusion and will continue to be discussed in early 2020, per Denny Rohr.)*

Anchor QEA, LLC, will request the Grant PUD Wenatchee office for the regular HCP Coordinating Committees meeting dates and times in 2020, but will let Grant PUD know the HCP Coordinating Committees and PRCC are discussing possible adjustments to these arrangements. *(Note: Ferguson alerted Peter Graf following the meeting about potentially adjusting the HCP and PRCC meetings, and Kristi Geris contacted Grant PUD following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 17, 2019 and received approval of this request on December 18, 2019.)*

B. HCP Policy Committees In-Person Meeting (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson notified the HCP Coordinating Committees that he is currently working on scheduling an in-person meeting of the HCP Policy Committees, to be convened after the 2019 HCP annual reports are finalized in mid-April 2020.

Keely Murdoch said the Yakama Nation (YN) is currently working on replacing Steve Parker (former YN HCP Policy Representative, retired). Murdoch said Tom Scribner is being copied on email correspondence during this process; however, he is not the official YN HCP Policy Representative.

C. CRITFC's Annual Request to Tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson asked Kirk Truscott if he wanted to revisit this topic at this time. Truscott said he needs to do a little more research on whether these data are needed to make management decisions. Chad Jackson asked if it might be beneficial to invite Jeff Fryer (CRITFC) to an HCP Coordinating Committees meeting to provide an update on the data and research. Ferguson agreed a discussion with Fryer is warranted if there are questions about the data. Keely Murdoch said the most recent report she found online was a 2018 report covering 2016 to 2017 data. She offered to call or email Fryer, if needed. Murdoch and Jackson also both suggested that maybe Tom Skiles can talk to Fryer as they are located in the same office. Truscott said he cannot think of a management decision predicated on the last 5 years of data. He said, however, this does not mean these data are not beneficial for future reports and studies. Andrew Gingerich asked if the Okanagan Nation Alliance or other agencies with sockeye salmon programs use these data. Tom Kahler and Truscott said they do not know. Murdoch noted that there are a lot of Canadian authors on these CRITFC reports and suggested that they may be using these data.

The HCP Coordinating Committees will continue considering whether to request additional information from Fryer regarding CRITFC's annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam, to be further discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on January 28, 2020.

D. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on January 28, 2020, to be held at 10:00 a.m., in-person at the Grant PUD Wenatchee office in Wenatchee, Washington.

The February 25 and March 24, 2020 meetings will be held by conference call or in-person at the Grant PUD Wenatchee Office in Wenatchee, Washington, as is yet to be determined.

VI. List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillman ^{††}	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller [*]	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler [*]	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich [*]	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon ^{*†}	National Marine Fisheries Service
Jim Craig [*]	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chad Jackson [*]	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kirk Truscott [*]	Colville Confederated Tribes
Keely Murdoch [*]	Yakama Nation

Notes:

- * Denotes HCP Coordinating Committees member or alternate
- † Joined by phone
- †† Joined by phone for HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update