



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

From: Anne J. Castle *Anne J. Castle* DEC - 9 2013
Secretary's Designee, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Assistant Secretary – Water and Science

Subject: Report and Recommendations from the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group Federal Advisory Committee Meetings held on February 20-21, 2013, May 8, 2013, and August 8-9, 2013

I. RECOMMENDATION

The AMWG brings a wealth of dedication, passion, and knowledge to help guide our efforts to appropriately manage the operations of Glen Canyon Dam. The group makes it possible for the Secretary to consider multiple views about how to protect downstream resources and to reach an appropriate balancing of interests on river operations. The Interior agencies and my staff and I work very closely with the AMWG to ensure good dialogue and informed and practical recommendations to you. The recommendations forwarded to you from AMWG were adopted by consensus. I recommend you approve all three recommendations and we will take this as our direction going forward and work to carry them out.

II. SECRETARY'S DECISION

☒ APPROVE
☐ DISAPPROVE

COMMENTS:

Date: DEC 12 2013

Sally Jewell
Sally Jewell



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DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

DEC - 9 2013

From: Anne J. Castle *Anne J. Castle*
Secretary's Designee, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Assistant Secretary – Water and Science

Date: October 25, 2013

Subject: Report and Recommendations from the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group Federal Advisory Committee Meetings held on February 20-21, 2013, May 8, 2013, and August 8-9, 2013

Introduction

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) is a federal advisory committee chaired by a designee of the Secretary of the Interior. I am the current designee serving as Chair. The AMWG provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary relative to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and related activities and reports to the Secretary through the Secretary's designee.

Members of the AMWG are appointed by the Secretary with representation from the Colorado River basin states, tribal nations, environmental and recreational groups and power interests. Interior is represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey. Western Area Power Administration is also represented.

Background

The Glen Canyon Dam AMWG held three meetings in 2013. The first was a 2-day in-person meeting in Tempe, Arizona on February 20-21, 2013. The second was a 3-hour webinar on May 8, 2013. The third was a 2-day in-person meeting on August 8-9, 2013, in Flagstaff, Arizona. The meetings were well attended and positive. This memo contains a summary of issues discussed, actions taken, and recommendations to you.

February 20-21, 2013 Meeting.

Administrative History for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP). The Technical Work Group (TWG) established the Administrative History Ad Hoc Group in October 2012 with the purpose of gathering information and creating a history of the GCDAMP.

The group also felt it would be important to provide a “wiki” website to serve as a collaborative resource tool to aid managers and to warehouse the program's historical information to assist stakeholders to learn and share knowledge in a user-friendly format. The following motion was passed by consensus:

AMWG accepts TWG’s report on the Strategy for Development of the Administrative History of the Adaptive Management Program (SDAH, website www.gcdamp.com). AMWG recommends this approach to the Secretary of the Interior to review and concur with the AMWG strategy on implementation of the SDAH.

Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) EIS Update. The Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service, as joint lead agencies, continue to work with various stakeholders and cooperators in developing the LTEMP EIS. These agencies led a discussion concerning their suggestion that the AMWG members participate in a structured decision analysis process to channel input into the LTEMP joint lead agencies. Mr. Mike Runge with the U.S. Geological Survey explained how the AMWG members could provide input using a multi-criteria decision analysis tool. This same method was successfully previously used with the Non-native Fish Control Environmental Assessment completed in 2012.

Field Work Session. Following the AMWG meeting, there was a tour of the Central Arizona Project hosted by Arizona Department of Water Resources. We have been attempting to provide opportunities for AMWG members to develop a thorough understanding about the various resources associated with the operations of Glen Canyon Dam and other water infrastructure in order to better inform the recommendations they make to you.

May 8, 2013, Webinar

This webinar/conference call focused on the following issues:

1. Sequestration Budget Impacts - Power revenues were cut by 5.1%, requiring adjustment of the budget. This has also affected hiring a half-time Native American Tribal Liaison for the program as previously planned.
2. Airborne Data Collection - Plans for the 2013 image collection of the Colorado River in Glen and Grand Canyons were shared. (This project was successfully completed in early June).
3. New USGS Website – Dr. Jack Schmidt with the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center introduced a new website which makes water and sediment data available to anyone in real time. It is a one-of-a-kind resource and is considered an unprecedented achievement.
4. Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP EIS) - The joint lead agencies are planning to conduct a stakeholder tradeoff analysis workshop in early August to help the AMWG better understand the EIS alternatives.

5. Review of the AMWG Charter – The Charter expired on August 23, 2013. The Charter Ad Hoc Group reviewed it and recommended revisions concerning desired future conditions, which the AMWG accepted and forwarded as part of the Charter renewal process.

August 8-9, 2013, Meeting

1. Fiscal Year 2014 Budget - As with the previous meeting, there was considerable interest in how sequestration would affect the Fiscal Year 2014 budget, and in particular which projects might have to be suspended and/or terminated. The members discussed and passed the following motion by consensus:

AMWG recommends the revised FY2013-14 Biennial Budget and Work Plan from the Bureau of Reclamation and Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center that includes the 2014 sequestration impacts, as reviewed by TWG on June 26, 2013 and as revised by Reclamation and presented at the August 2013 AMWG meeting, to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. In the event that sequestration is not implemented in the FY 2014 budget, AMWG recommends the revised FY2013-14 Biennial Budget and Work Plan from the Bureau of Reclamation and Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center without the 2014 sequestration impacts, as reviewed by TWG on June 26, 2013 and as revised by Reclamation and presented at the August 2013 AMWG meeting, to the Secretary of the Interior for approval.

2. Water Year 2014 Hydrograph – The 2013 hydrograph worked very well at retaining sediment inputs high in the system in anticipation of a high flow experiment. A similar strategy will be pursued in the 2013 water year to facilitate a high flow release if sediment and other resource conditions are appropriate. The AMWG discussed the DOI/DOE proposed hydrograph and passed the following motion by consensus:

AMWG recommends to the Secretary of the Interior for her approval the DOI-DOE Proposed Hydrograph for Water Year 2014 as follows:

- **Annual Release Volumes will be determined in compliance with the 2007 Interim Guidelines (in consultation with the Basin States as appropriate).**
- **Monthly Release Volumes are anticipated to shift depending upon: (1) the Annual Release Volume, and (2) the magnitude of a potential High Flow Experiment in the fall of 2013.**
- **Monthly Release Volumes may vary within the targets identified below. Any remaining monthly operational flexibility will be used for existing power production operations under the Modified Low Fluctuating Flow (MLFF) alternative selected by the 1996 ROD and contained in the 1995 FEIS and in compliance with all applicable NEPA compliance documents (HFE EA, NNFC EA, 2007 IG).**
- **Release objective for June 2014 is 600 kaf to 650 kaf.**
- **Release objective for August 2014 is 800 kaf.**
- **Release objective for September and October 2014 is 600 kaf to 630 kaf (or less).**

- **Monthly Release Volumes will generally strive to maintain 600 kaf levels in the spring/fall timeframe and 800 kaf in December/January and July/August timeframe.**
 - **Additionally, the Bureau of Reclamation will continue to apply best professional judgment in conducting actual operations and in response to changing conditions throughout the water year. Such efforts will continue to be undertaken in coordination with the DOI/DOE agencies, and after consultation with the Basin States as appropriate, to consider changing conditions and adjust projected operations at Glen Canyon Dam in a manner consistent with the objectives of these parameters as stated above and pursuant to the Law of the River.**
3. Renewal of the AMWG Charter – The revised charter is currently being surnamed in the Department and is scheduled for renewal by August 23, 2013.
 4. Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP EIS) Update – A structured decision analysis workshop was held on August 5-7, 2013, to help the AMWG members and other stakeholders provide input to the joint lead agencies concerning the resource goals and performance metrics that will guide the LTEMP. By all accounts it was considered a success, but there are still a number of concerns which will likely necessitate holding another workshop as the modeling is more refined later this year. A draft EIS is scheduled for release in spring 2014.

The AMWG takes very seriously its responsibility to provide you with informed recommendations concerning the operations of Glen Canyon Dam, and has been collegial and positive in its working relationships. I am honored to have the opportunity to chair this group.

cc: Acting Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs
Director, U.S. Geological Survey
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Director, National Park Service
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