

OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

COORDINATION TITLE - 21FOS01 Interim spill operations for fish passage

COORDINATION DATE - 25 February 2021

PROJECT - Foster Dam

RESPONSE DATE - 11 March 2021

Description of the problem – The Foster Fish Weir is out of service until design improvements are complete. Therefore, the only route for downstream fish passage is through the turbines or spillway. The turbines are the primary route for water and fish to pass the dam. The spillway is only normally operated to pass excess water. The Fish Weir was operated during spring months (March – mid-June) as a safer surface route for downstream migrating fish, mainly Chinook salmon and steelhead. Post construction evaluation of the new Fish Weir during 2018 indicate a high rate of injury and mortality to fish passing the weir. Because of the high rate of injury and mortality, the new Fish Weir was taken out of service during 2019 and will remain out of service until the design improvements are complete.

Type of operation required – Interim nighttime spill operations will be implemented as a safer downstream fish passage route versus the turbines. The proposed operation of nighttime spill with limited turbine operation for Station Service generation (electrical power for Foster Project operations) and full operation of the turbines (no spill) during the day would be beneficial for safe fish passage. This interim special operation is similar to the operation conducted during spring 2020 for fish passage. This request requires two operations:

1) 01 March -30 April: Operate the spillway at night (1900 hrs. - 0700 hrs.) and operate turbine unit 1 only for Station Service generation. Operate the turbine units during the day (0700 hrs. - 1900 hrs.), with full generation. No spillway operation unless spill is required to pass excess water.

2) 01 May-15 June: Operate the spillway at night (2000 hrs. - 0500 hrs.) and operate turbine unit 1 only for Station Service generation. Operate the turbine units during the day (0500 hrs. - 2000 hrs.), with full generation. No spillway operation unless spill is required to pass excess water.

Impact on facility operation – The turbines will not be operated at full power generation during nighttime hours; instead only turbine unit 1 would be operated for Station Service.

Dates of impacts/repairs – Approximately 01 March – 15 June 2021

Length of impacts/repairs – Approximately 15 weeks.

Expected impacts on fish – No expected negative impacts on fish. Instead, this operation would provide a safer route for downstream fish passage versus the turbines.

Comments from agencies – ODFW is supportive of these operations, and efforts made to pass juvenile fish safely past Foster Dam. We also appreciate the later start time effective May 1 which will help pass juveniles and maintain a good adult fishery in the lower river.

Final results – Fish operations outlined herein were implemented.

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

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