

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Statement of Agreement on the Acceptance of the
2007 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavior Study Plan**

Submitted to PRCoordinatingCommittee: March 2, 2007

Approved by PRCoordinatingCommittee: February 28, 2007, affirmed on March 28, 2007

Statement

The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) agrees that the 2006 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavior Study can be repeated in 2007 as laid forth in the draft 2007 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavior study plan.

Background

The PRCC agrees that the 2006 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavior Study results, though of value, are the result of a study conducted outside of the original test conditions set forth due to an extremely high river flow year; which resulted in Priest Rapids Dam having to operate its spillway (as inadvertent spill) and also its powerhouse (turbines) in a manner to maximize the amount of water that could be passed in an effort to minimize total dissolved gas (TDG) levels in the river. The plant operations protocol at Priest Rapids Dam, according to the top-spill behavior study plan, would not include any tainter-gate spill and the powerhouse operated in a more “normal” operating condition. Due to river conditions experienced in 2006, the 2006 top-spill behavior results were most likely influenced by the large amounts of inadvertent tainter-gate spill and particular turbine operations, conduction not normally expected to be seen while a top-spill fish bypass structure was operating at Priest Rapids Dam. For purposes of fish bypass design work, salmonid behavior study data needs to be the result of Priest Rapids Dam operating in a manner that would be expected during a normal salmonid outmigration season. Such data is expected to be collected in 2007.