



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, June 25, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Representatives and Alternatives

Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GPUD
 Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (Alt), CTCR
 Tom Lorz, CTUIR
 Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
 Bill Gale, Jason Romine (Alt), USFWS

Chad Jackson, Andrew Murdoch (Alt) WDFW
 Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN
 Bryan Nordlund, Facilitator
 Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, Technical Support

Meeting Attendees

Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, Interim Facilitator
 Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA, Technical Support
 Curt Dotson, GPUD
 Mark Willis, GPUD
 Rod O'Connor, GPUD
 Tim Taylor, GPUD

Tom Dresser, GPUD
 Scott Carlon, NMFS
 Bill Gale, USFWS
 Jason Romine, USFWS
 Keely Murdoch, YN
 Kirk Truscott, CTCR

Action Items

- C. Dotson will inform the PRCC of any updates to the 2025–2027 Smolt Survival Study data plan, should they arise. *(This item is ongoing.)*
- L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify a date for a 2024 PRCC Policy Committee meeting. *(This item is ongoing.)*
- L. Rohrbach will distribute the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) 2023 Annual Report that was shared during today’s discussion of the Fish Mode Exceptions Statement of Agreement (SOA), and C. Dotson will provide future NERC annual reports to the PRCC to track regional Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) level declarations. *(The NERC 2023 Annual Report was distributed on June 28.)*

- L. Rohrbach will distribute the revised Fish Mode Exceptions SOA for PRCC approval during the next PRCC meeting on July 23. (*The revised SOA was distributed on June 28.*)
- K. Truscott will provide the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation's (CTCR's) vote on the revised Fish Mode Exceptions SOA before July 12.
- In the event that Grant PUD may need to declare an EEA Level 3 (EEA 3), before the next PRCC meeting on July 23, the PRCC will be consulted about the Fish Mode Exceptions SOA via email or conference call.

Review Items

- The revised Fish Mode Exceptions SOA was distributed to the PRCC on June 28. Questions and revisions are due to C. Dotson by July 16.

Decisions and Approvals

- None.

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Introductions

L. Rohrbach served as interim facilitator for the meeting while B. Nordlund is on leave. L. Rohrbach welcomed the PRCC and led introductions.

II. Agenda Review

L. Rohrbach reviewed the agenda. No additions or changes were requested by PRCC members, and the agenda was approved by all parties in attendance.

III. Meeting Minutes Approval

The draft minutes from the May 28 meeting were distributed on June 12. No revisions were received, and the minutes were approved by members who attended that meeting. L. Rohrbach will reach out to C. Jackson to obtain his approval of the May 28 minutes.

IV. Actions Items Review

Action items from the PRCC May 28 meeting and follow-up discussions were as follows: (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the May 28 meeting.*)

- *C. Dotson will inform the PRCC of any updates to the 2025–2027 Smolt Survival Study data plan, should they arise.*
This item is ongoing.
- *L. Rohrbach will reach out to K. Truscott to obtain his approval of the April 23 minutes.*
This item is complete.
- *C. Dotson will determine whether there is a separate monitoring plan for gas bubble trauma (GBT) associated with the Priest Rapids projects.*

C. Dotson recalled that this question was from B. Gale. Grant PUD monitors total dissolved gas (TDG) and GBT down to Pasco, Washington. Since the new tailrace standards,¹ Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) regulates the Mid-Columbia projects as one entity. Chelan PUD, Grant PUD, and Douglas PUD all conduct TDG and GBT monitoring. Collectively, these results are compiled and filed with Ecology. B. Gale asked whether this report is reviewed by the PRCC and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committees. Tim Taylor said this report is filed with Ecology only.

- *L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify a date for a 2024 PRCC Policy Committee meeting.*

This item is ongoing. S. Carlon asked whether this meeting will be in person. L. Rohrbach said yes, and that a virtual option will likely be provided. K. Geris added that the HCP Policy Committees will likely offer a virtual option.

V. Fish Mode Exceptions Statement of Agreement

A draft Fish Mode Exceptions SOA (SOA 2024-1) was distributed to the PRCC on June 18.

C. Dotson recalled in 2010, the PRCC approved an SOA on Emergency Contingency Exception from Fish Mode (SOA 2010-04), where in the event of an energy reserve shortage, Grant PUD could use generating capacity in excess of that established by Fish Mode for no more than 60 minutes in a single event. In the last 14 years, this exception was only used twice.

This draft Fish Mode Exceptions SOA is specific to EEA 3, which is the most severe situation, as defined by NERC, and as explained in the Background of this SOA. For perspective, since 2020, there have only been four EEA 1s in the region. On August 17, 2020, there was a single 3-hour event due to extreme heat; then from January 13 to 15, 2024, there was a 3-day event due to winter weather.

C. Dotson introduced M. Willis (Grant PUD Operations Technical Advisor) and asked that he describe scenarios for each EEA level to give a sense of what this SOA is proposing during an EEA 3. M. Willis said an EEA 0 means everything is good. An EEA 1 means the Balancing Authority is beginning to have issues: all available generation resources are in use, and Contingency Reserves are tight. An EEA 1 allows a number of actions, including requesting energy assistance (e.g., what the Bonneville Power Administration [BPA] did during the winter weather event in January 2024). An EEA 2 means the Balancing Authority can no longer meet loan obligations but is still able to maintain Contingency Reserve needs. An EEA 2 allows asking neighboring entities for assistance. An EEA 3 means rolling blackouts or shedding load. Prior to rolling blackouts/load shedding, Grant PUD would use reserves from other neighboring

¹ Required by a TDG rule change adopted by Ecology on December 30, 2019, and approved by the USEPA on March 5, 2020, as codified in Washington Administrative Code 173-201A-200(1)(f). Effective January 1, 2021.

entities, or the last option would be suspension of Fish Mode, which would only happen after exhausting all neighboring support.

K. Truscott asked about the megawatts (MWs) produced by suspension of Fish Mode; how much does this help in preventing a rolling blackout or brownout? M. Willis said the total MWs is relatively small but could be enough to get through the hours and not have to shed any firm load. The expectation is to gain sufficient energy from neighboring entities at or above what Fish Mode would be. K. Truscott said this seems to be a matter of tradeoffs. No one wants to be the culprit of a brownout, but he also does not want a fish passage issue to occur at the project and still have a blackout or brownout.

T. Dresser asked whether this SOA proposes actions consistent with the region.

M. Willis said he cannot speak to other hydro facilities/operators regarding their EEA 2 and EEA 3 actions.

S. Carlon asked when EEA 2s and EEA 3s are typically declared—under extreme hot weather, low river flow, when generation is down, or winter weather? M. Willis said that typically these are declared when extreme weather events impact an entire region—e.g., in the Pacific Northwest during a combination of heat and wildfires, when it is difficult to move power around. If Grant PUD by itself was experiencing energy deficiencies, the District could easily procure energy outside of an EEA declaration, or in the worst-case, declare an EEA 1 and get assistance from a neighboring entity.

B. Gale asked whether there are other measures being taken to modify demand. He does not want to be in a position where if neighbors cannot help, Grant PUD just gives up Fish Mode. M. Willis said yes. In an EEA 1, all resources are made available, and if there is any clearance to pull back energy use, Grant PUD would do this. Grant PUD would reduce facility loads where possible, coordinate with government agencies, initiate public appeals, curtail wholesale energy sales, and request energy assistance from BPA. If the EEA 1 is forecasted, Grant PUD would already be reaching out to entities requesting to shift load or reduce load during this time period. In an EEA 2, Grant PUD would request emergency assistance from neighbors and reductions in any programs in place. In an EEA 3, Grant PUD may request from the Western Power Pool going below what is required for 1 hour. The last step would be rolling blackouts and/or suspension of Fish Mode. T. Dresser recalled that for the event in January 2024, Grant PUD sent out a newsletter requesting that customer owners conserve energy during that time.

C. Dotson said NERC produces an annual report that summarizes regional EEA level declarations. M. Willis shared the NERC 2023 Annual Report on Microsoft Teams. This report encompasses the United States and Canada. Table 1.1: Five-Year BPS² Inventory and Performance Statistics includes the number of hours with operator-initiated load shed. In 2023, this value was 0 for the entire footprint. The amount of unserved energy associated with an EEA 3 was also 0. C. Dotson noted Figure 3.22, which shows the number of hours at an EEA 3 in all of North America. In 2021, there was a single February Cold Weather Event lasting 70.5 hours. In 2022, there was a June Heatwave lasting 21.01 hours and Winter Storm Elliot lasting 35.52 hours. This adds up to about 150 hours at an EEA 3 for all of North America in a 5-year period. A 5-year period is

² North American Bulk Power System.

roughly 43,000 hours, which means only 0.03% of the past 5 years at an EEA 3 for North America, most of which occurred during the winter. Time during non-winter months at an EEA 3 equaled about 0.01% of the past 5 years. Similarly, under the 2010 SOA, the exception was only used twice in 14 years. This provides context of how rarely these events occur.

B. Gale said he appreciates the annual reporting and review of the effectiveness included in this SOA. C. Dotson said Fish Mode is required by Grant PUD's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license, Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA), and Biological Opinion, but the PRCC has authority over this agreement. The PRCC can review how this is working and change it, if needed. L. Rohrbach asked whether this SOA replaces the 2010-04 SOA. C. Dotson said that both would remain in place.

K. Truscott said, per the SOA, an EEA 3 can be declared by Grant PUD or one of the "Priest Rapids Project participants," and he asked who these participants are. M. Willis explained that there are six other entities (or participants) that are balancing authorities with Grant PUD that have obligations to meet energy requirements. They include PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric, Seattle City Light, Tacoma Power, Avista, and BPA.

K. Truscott asked about the utility of suspending Fish Mode if a rolling blackout is eminent. Can there be a real-time assessment of generation gained by suspending Fish Mode? For example, what if a project is 10 MW short, and only 1 MW is gained by suspending Fish Mode? There will still be a blackout. M. Willis said that in these situations, there is a lot of variability, but the combined actions would be significant, so there would be a benefit. In this example, 1 MW would not be worth the effort.

K. Truscott said his only issue is that based on the way this SOA is written, there can be a suspension of Fish Mode and still have a blackout. He suggested editing the SOA to clearly state that suspending Fish Mode will prevent a blackout. There is a different cost-benefit if suspending Fish Mode does not prevent a blackout.

B. Gale agreed with K. Truscott and also suggested adding that if the frequency of EEA 3s increases, the PRCC will further discuss what can be done to avoid suspension of Fish Mode. K. Truscott asked, if this SOA is approved, will changing it require consensus again? C. Dotson suggested adding an expiration date. For example, in 2027, Grant PUD will provide a 3-year summary report and this SOA for renewal, and if there is an increase in EEA 3s, the SOA will be modified or not renewed. B. Gale asked whether this addresses K. Truscott's concern. K. Truscott reiterated that his concern is suspension of Fish Mode and there is no difference in blackouts. L. Rohrbach said that maybe the impact or benefits are unknown until after 3 years. B. Gale suggested editing the SOA to state that suspending Fish Mode will result in a significant or meaningful contribution. Several members did not want to use the terms "significant" or "meaningful" because there can be different interpretations.

T. Dresser said he understands K. Truscott's concern; however, he would not want to convey that the PRCC is more concerned about fish than people who rely on electricity. K. Truscott clarified that he is not advocating to be uncompassionate. If suspending Fish

Mode prevents a blackout, he is supportive of this. If not, nothing was accomplished and now there is also an impact to fish.

L. Rohrbach asked whether Grant PUD is supportive of adding an expiration date, then, in the context of adaptive management, voting to approve this SOA, then revisiting how it was implemented after 3 years. T. Dresser said Grant PUD is supportive of this.

K. Truscott asked how potential EEA 3s affect future power sales. M. Willis said this is a matter of resource adequacy. For Grant PUD, he forecasts 3 years out to line up resources with forecasted demands, interconnections, and resource portfolios. Another group buys and sells resources to avoid any EEA 3s, including looking for new loads and new generation. T. Dresser added that Grant PUD is actively looking for other resources, such as hydrogen gas, small nuclear, battery, solar, and wind. This is all toward making sure the District has adequate resources moving into the future.

B. Gale said that, regarding an expiration, he is concerned 3 years is too soon. If the frequency of EEA 3s remains low, he is comfortable with 5 years to have a larger dataset to review before renewing this SOA. If the frequency increases, he suggested revisiting the SOA in the September following 10 EEA 3 incidences, which would provide time to gather and review the data. K. Murdoch said she is supportive 5 years, but 10 incidences seems like a lot, and she suggested five incidences. L. Rohrbach added this suggested language in the draft SOA (shown in tracked changes).

K. Murdoch said she understands the ambiguity in including a sentence about whether suspending Fish Mode makes a meaningful contribution to EEA 3 actions, but she likes that this sentence captures the concerns of the PRCC, and it is a reminder that this was a concern. She suggested including this sentence in the Background section of the SOA. J. Romine asked about quantifying K. Truscott's concern. K. Truscott said that blackouts can be various lengths, and he does not feel comfortable stating a quantity or time that would be acceptable.

L. Rohrbach said part of what the PRCC is asking is what the impact of suspending Fish Mode is. This needs to be included in the incident reporting so the PRCC can review these data. C. Dotson agreed, and he said these data will be provided for each individual event so the PRCC can see moving forward whether suspending Fish Mode made a difference or not. L. Rohrbach added this language to the draft SOA (shown in tracked changes).

C. Dotson also suggested providing the NERC 2023 Annual Report to the PRCC, as well as future NERC annual reports, so the PRCC can track regional EEA level declarations. When this SOA expires, these annual reports can be used to support discussions. B. Gale asked how distribution of these NERC annual reports align with the suggested September date. C. Dotson said these reports become available each June. *(The NERC 2023 Annual Report was distributed to the PRCC on June 28.)*

R. O'Connor asked whether the threshold of "five EEA 3 incidents" includes any EEA 3 incident or only when Fish Mode is suspended. S. Carlon said he is interested in all incidences. C. Dotson noted that possible Fish Mode events can be assumed by the event titles in Figure 3.22 of the NERC annual reports (e.g., June Heatwave versus Winter Storm Elliot).

C. Dotson asked whether the PRCC want to review this and vote next month or whether members are ready to vote this month on the SOA as revised in today's meeting.

K. Murdoch said she would like to review this internally before voting. (*The revised SOA was distributed on June 28 for approval in the next meeting.*)

K. Truscott said he will provide the CTCR's vote on the revised Fish Mode Exceptions SOA before going on annual leave on July 12.

C. Dotson noted that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation are not present and that he would follow up with C. Jackson and T. Lorz regarding Grant PUD's Fish Mode Exceptions SOA, as discussed during today's PRCC meeting. (*A summary of discussions was provided to C. Jackson and T. Lorz via email on June 28.*)

In the event that Grant PUD may need to, or does, issue an EEA 3 declaration before the next meeting on July 23, the PRCC agreed to revisit this Fish Mode Exceptions SOA via email or conference call.

VI. PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Update – White River Hatchery Program

R. O'Connor said the plan is to convene an expert panel in early 2025. The purpose of the panel is to provide an independent scientific review that addresses questions about whether a White River Supplementation Program will increase the probability of meeting viable salmonid population (VSP) criteria. The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) and HCP Hatchery Committees identified tasks to prepare for this, including compiling a list of potential panelists. L. Rohrbach said the PRCC will need to review and approve this package in September 2024. However, this relies on PRCC HSC members getting a lot done in the next couple of months. B. Gale asked whether the Committees have started reaching out to panels or whether the Committees are just compiling a list? L. Rohrbach said the latter.

VII. Sub-yearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Follow-Up

L. Rohrbach said the Sub-yearling Chinook Salmon Workshop was held on June 11. There was a lot of information shared that she feels were good updates to the information shared during the last workshop held in 2016. People are still processing the details presented. Anchor QEA is drafting the workshop notes, which will be reviewed by the PUDs, and the final notes will be available to the Committees by mid-July. K. Geris distributed the workshop presentations on June 12, and the notes will capture the discussions that took place after the presentations. L. Rohrbach asked whether there are any comments right now.

K. Murdoch thanked everyone who planned and attended the workshop. She thinks it was a success and was very informative. She learned a lot, which made her feel like these technology and data check-ins should happen more often. Not on this scale, but perhaps a smaller type of information exchange. She is looking forward to having more detailed discussions about when and how to move forward with sub-yearling survival studies. She asked whether these discussions will occur in separate Committees or jointly with the PRCC and HCP Coordinating Committees. C. Dotson said Grant PUD prefers to keep these separate because the HCPs and SSSA are different structures with different processes and requirements.

VIII. 2024 Fish Passage Operations Report

A. Fish Ladder Inspections

K. Murdoch is meeting with Mike Clement tomorrow for the fishway inspection for June. N. Campbell from Fish Passage Center will attend. Campbell is new and wants to see Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams. K. Murdoch noted that some data included in the electronic reports are not printed on the hardcopy reports, so she is working on adding these data to the hardcopy reports.

B. Fish Spill Updates

C. Dotson said that on June 15, spring spill ended, and summer spill was initiated. Bypass operations are the same. Fish Mode is the same, and all turbines have been in Fish Mode since it was initiated in early April. On June 16, at 1847 hours, a hazard barrier cable broke at Priest Rapids Dam. Mechanics closed the bypass for safety, crews repaired the cable the next morning, and the bypass was back in operation by June 17, at 1553 hours.

C. Adult Fish Counts for 2024 (April 15 to November 15)

L. Rohrbach reviewed the adult fish counts through June 17, shown below. K. Murdoch noted the lower counts for Wanapum Dam and asked whether this might be a reporting delay. L. Rohrbach said the same cutoff date is used for each project and species. A possible difference could be identification of springers versus summers. B. Gale asked about the Coho Salmon. L. Rohrbach said these three counts have been there since the beginning of the season. K. Murdoch said these may have been misidentified Chinook Salmon jacks. K. Truscott noted that at Priest Rapids Dam, summers are below last year and the 10-year average, and at Bonneville Dam, summers are 80% of the 10-year average. L. Rohrbach asked whether these counts might be under. K. Truscott said this could just be a low year for summers.

Project	Spring Chinook Salmon (Adult + Jack)	Summer Chinook Salmon (Adult + Jack)	Fall Chinook Salmon	Sockeye Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead
Priest Rapids	15,720	1139	0	821	0	52
Wanapum	16,810	489	0	115	3	50
Rock Island	15,932	623	0	189	0	53

UPDATES

IX. Review of Outstanding No Net Impact-Funded Projects

- Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II
- Northern Pike Removal (2022 to 2024)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Passive Integrated Transponder-Tag Detection Barge
- 2024 Quincy Northern Pikeminnow Derby
- 2024 Real Time Research (RTR) Avian Predation Study

C. Dotson recalled the RTR contract, which includes three aerial flights co-funded by the PRCC and BPA. The third flight took place on June 19. RTR is analyzing these data. This flight should be the height of the breeding season. Grant PUD has monthly meetings with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) at the Boise, Idaho, office. There are additional birds showing up in Banks Lake. Grant PUD is in contact with M. McDowell from the USBR Portland, Oregon, office. M. McDowell is working to obtain a permit to collect eggs. USBR has been extremely responsive. The latest report will be available shortly.

X. Subcommittee Updates

L. Rohrbach will continue to forward subcommittee notes and materials to PRCC members and alternates.

- Priest Rapids Fish Forum—met June 5, next meeting July 3.
- Habitat Subcommittee—met June 13, next meeting July 11.
- Fall Chinook Work Group—met May 7, next meeting October 1.
- Hatchery Subcommittee—met June 20, next meeting July 17.

XI. SOAs Discussed in 2024

SOA number	Key Words	Last Discussed	Status
SOA-2024-X	Fish Mode Exceptions	June 25, 2024	Under Review

XII. Next Meetings

The next meeting of the PRCC will be July 23, in person, at the Wanapum Dam Hydro Building, with a Teams meeting for virtual attendance.