

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
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12795 Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225

August 15, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Shane Capron
Chair, Technical Work Group
Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group

Dear Mr. Capron:

The Glen Canyon Dam Long Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP EIS) team was directed by the Secretary of the Interior in a memo dated April 30, 2012 to reply to the Socioeconomic Ad Hoc Group (SEAHG) regarding its proposed list of socioeconomic studies (referred to as Table 2) from its February recommendation to the Secretary. The Secretary directed the LTEMP team to review the list and communicate to the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) which of the studies have been prioritized for intended completion as part of the LTEMP EIS.

This list was comprehensive and thoughtful and the LTEMP team found this list very helpful to this EIS project. The LTEMP team thoroughly reviewed the list in consultation with Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) staff as well as experts with the NPS and Reclamation such as Dr. Bruce Peacock and Dr. David Harpman and Argonne National Laboratories modeling and economics staff. Based on this review we are attaching a list on the following pages that identifies which studies we are planning to complete as part of the LTEMP EIS effort and which may remain to be pursued by the AMWG or GCMRC.

Several studies are planned such as an updated recreation analysis to be lead by Dr. David Harpman from Reclamation and a non-use survey for resources and recreation that will be completed as part of the previously planned NPS study under the leadership of Dr. Bruce Peacock, in close cooperation with Reclamation and USGS. Several of the hydroelectric market impact studies that were proposed will be completed by Argonne National Laboratories, with input from cooperating agencies with special expertise such as Western Area Power Administration. There are a few studies that the team envisions a role for in the EIS such as a non-use survey for hydropower that may be best completed through the AMWG with assistance from Western Area Power Administration. There were also a few studies that proposed to evaluate impacts to water delivery, which the LTEMP EIS team does not intend to use in the course of the EIS analysis because the purpose and need of the LTEMP EIS ensure that any action taken by the action agencies is not intended to change annual water deliveries between Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The LTEMP EIS team would like to extend sincere thanks to the SEAHG group for all of its hard work on these issues.

The Technical Work Group had also requested additional information as to the role of the Science Advisors in LTEMP. We have been working on an Information Quality Plan that will ensure that the quality of scientific information used in the EIS conforms to the standards of the scientific and technical community, although that plan is not yet final. Generally speaking, however, environmental impact

statements and records of decision do not require formal peer review, although some products such as models that might be relied on could require such review. As TWG is aware, USGS' Ted Melis is the LTEMP science manager. In this capacity, Ted will be advising the joint leads with regard to which products might require external expert review. That input could come from an independent group with expertise, such as the Science Advisors, or from other experts. At this point, however, the team does not foresee a need for significant involvement by the Science Advisors in the LTEMP.

We are happy to answer any questions regarding the work that is being planned on the LTEMP EIS. Please call us with any questions: Glen Knowles, 801-524-3781 and Rob Billerbeck 303-987-6789.

Sincerely,



Beverley C. Heffernan
Manager
Environmental Resources Division
Upper Colorado Region
Bureau of Reclamation



Rob Billerbeck
Colorado River Coordinator
Resource Stewardship and Science
Intermountain Region
National Park Service

cc: Jane Lyder, Department of the Interior
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