



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
125 South State Street, Room 8100
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102



IN REPLY REFER TO:

FEB 03 2020

UC-410
2.1.1.04

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

To: Parties to the 2017 Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) (Parties to the Agreement) (See Enclosed List)

Subject: Notification That a High Flow Experiment (HFE) is Being Considered at Glen Canyon Dam Under the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP)

Dear Parties to the 2017 Programmatic Agreement:

In accordance with Stipulation VI (D) in the 2017 LTEMP PA this letter is to notify you that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is considering implementing an HFE at Glen Canyon Dam this spring. Stipulation VI (D) states: "Reclamation shall notify the Parties to this Agreement as soon as possible, or at a minimum of 30 calendar-days in advance, that an experimental flow is being considered. To the extent possible, notification shall be conducted electronically. If adverse effects are expected, Reclamation will consult with the Parties to this Agreement on the appropriate avoidance, minimization, or mitigation treatments on a site-specific basis."

Water Year 2020 is the first year that spring HFEs may be implemented under the 2016 LTEMP Record of Decision. Spring HFEs may be triggered by sediment conditions or by hydrology. Sediment-triggered spring HFEs may be implemented in either March or April when there is sufficient sediment input from the Paria River during the December 1 through June 30 accounting window. Proactive spring HFEs may be implemented in April, May, or June in years when Glen Canyon Dam is expected to release high volumes of water equal to or greater than 10 million acre-feet.

As of January 31, 2020, the best available data currently indicate that neither hydrologic nor sediment triggering conditions necessary to conduct an HFE have been met. The current projected most probable release from Glen Canyon Dam in WY 2020 is 8.23

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million acre-feet. A lack of recent storms over the Paria River Basin has resulted in limited sediment input into the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. Reclamation will continue to monitor hydrologic and sediment conditions over the coming weeks.

Prior to determining whether to conduct an HFE this spring, technical experts will assess the status of key resources that may be impacted or affected by an HFE using the best available science. At this time, we anticipate that, should an HFE be conducted, the potential maximum release would be 44,650 cubic feet per second dependent on the availability of hydropower units and ability to shift regulation and reserves. We also project that a potential HFE would most likely begin in late April 2020. Should the assessment of resources support implementing an HFE, more specific information about the possible HFE will be provided. A release will not occur before 30 days from the date on this letter.

Should an HFE occur this spring, and, per Stipulation VI (D) of the PA, "If adverse effects are expected, Reclamation will consult with the Parties to this Agreement on the appropriate avoidance, minimization, or mitigation treatments on a site-specific basis."

If you have any questions regarding this letter or a future HFE, please contact Lee Traynham at (801) 524-3752 or ltraynham@usbr.gov. For Text Telephone Relay Service access, call the Federal Relay System Text Telephone (TTY) number at (800) 877-8339.

Sincerely,



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