



United States Department of the Interior

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



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UC-413

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Upper Colorado Basin Region
Attn: UC-100 (WPullan)

From Kathleen Callister
Manager, Adaptive Management and Water Quality Division

Subject: Reevaluation of the 2016 Long-term Experimental and Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the 2023 Spring Flow Experiment (2023 April Experiment)

The Adaptive Management Group of the Region's Upper Colorado Operations Office has prepared the attached Supplemental Information Report (SIR) for the 2016 LTEMP FEIS and ROD. A SIR is an informal document that federal agencies use to review whether the agency's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation remains adequate for a particular proposed action. This SIR describes the unique conditions surrounding the 2023 April Experiment and its relationship to other LTEMP experiments to assess whether the 2023 April Experiment would constitute "substantial changes to the proposed action [LTEMP implementation] that are relevant to environmental concerns" or "significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9(d)(1).

The proposed 2023 April Experiment consists of a 72-hour on-peak duration high flow experiment utilizing a 39,500 cfs magnitude which is enabled by full availability of eight generating units at Glen Canyon Dam and full bypass. Reclamation is considering the 2023 April Experiment because of the unique opportunity to benefit the sediment resource prior to high volumes being released from Glen Canyon Dam for the remainder of WY 2023. These elevated releases will degrade the sediment resource from its present condition. The 2023 April Experiment is designed to protect sediment currently downstream of Glen Canyon Dam that has

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remained largely in place due to lower annual flows in recent years. The SIR includes a review of affected resources in the LTEMP FEIS and ROD to determine if there is new information and its potential to disclose significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns or impacts of the 2023 April Experiment. Overall, Reclamation has concluded that there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns, and the 2023 April Experiment does not cause any new or unforeseen impacts since completion of the LTEMP FEIS and ROD.

The analysis in this SIR is provided only for this 2023 April Experiment and the unique current conditions. The analysis, including the expedited consideration by the LTEMP Planning and Implementation Team, does not set a precedent for future LTEMP implementation.

Based upon our review and analysis of this information, it is our conclusion an EIS supplement is not required for the proposed 72-hr 39,500 cfs Spring HFE in April 2023. For additional information, please contact Clarence Fullard, Reclamation's Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) Deputy Program Manager at 303-253-1042. For the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, please dial 7-1-1 to access the telecommunications relay system.

Concurrence on the above findings:

Wayne G. Pullan

Date

Attachment - Final Technical Report and Recommendation Regarding a Spring 2023 Flow Experiment (2023 April Experiment) at Glen Canyon Dam, April 2023

cc: Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner