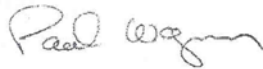


# State, Federal and Tribal Fishery Agencies Joint Technical Staff Memo

**To:** Mr. James Adams, US Army Corps on Engineers  
Water Quality Coordinator  
Chairperson, Technical Management Team

**From:**



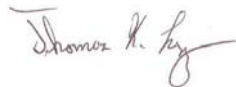
Paul Wagner, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service



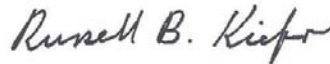
David Wills, US Fish and Wildlife Service



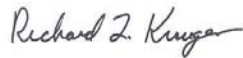
Cindy LeFleur, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Tom Lorz, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission



Russ Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish and Wildlife



Rick Kruger, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Dave Statler, Nez Perce Tribe

**Date:** June 2, 2009

**Subject:** TDG Waiver

At last week's Technical Management Team meeting (May 25, 2009) the COE advised the agencies and tribes that the large unit at Dworshak Dam could be out of service for a period of time as short as one month, to as long as eighteen months. The COE advised that this outage would limit the outflow at Dworshak to 7-8 Kcfs. This limitation will seriously hinder the ability of the fishery managers to use Dworshak storage to control temperature in the mainstem

Snake River, and to provide flow augmentation during the summer period. In addition, this limitation could also significantly affect the flood control operation of this project if the outage does extend to eighteen months.

We realize that the COE has not yet determined the potential extent of damage and repair needed on this unit. However, we recommend that the COE immediately begin the process of securing a waiver for up to 120% total dissolved gas (TDG) below the project from the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Program. We believe that given the time frame needed and the potential impact to the juvenile migration this summer, it is imperative that the COE initiate this process immediately.

The Fishery Managers are concerned about the potential for elevated TDG below Dworshak Dam and how this concern may limit operations to control water temperatures in the Clearwater and Snake Rivers. The Fishery Managers will be considering all of these concerns when making management recommendations regarding the release of water from Dworshak Dam in the event of an extended turbine outage. The intent is stay under, or as close to, the 110% standard as reasonably possible while meeting the temperature requirements in the lower Snake River for listed salmon and steelhead. However, the acquisition of a TDG waiver is extremely important, since a waiver would broaden the range of options for operating the project to protect salmon.