



Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan

Joint Conversions and Demand Reduction Working Groups Meeting

Draft Teleconference Meeting Summary

March 23rd, 2010

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of the joint Conversions and Demand Reduction Working Groups teleconference was to begin the review of the 2010 project submittals for conversions and demand reduction. Four project proposals were reviewed including 1) Pumpback at the Thousand Springs, 2) Big Wood pressurized gravity pipeline system, 3) AWEP 2009 and 4) AWEP 2010.

1. Pumpback at the Thousand Springs

The group identified the following information that would be helpful in evaluating the pumpback proposal:

- Additional modeling and information on beneficiaries of the project, savings, pumping costs (supplied by Dr. Brockway prior to the next meeting)
- An approach that includes Phase 1 as a project on its own
- Coordination with potential beneficiaries to assess additional cost-sharing opportunities
- Impacted/involved water rights

2. Big Wood Gravity Pressurized Pipeline System

The group identified the following information that would be helpful in evaluating the pipeline system proposal:

- The group would like additional information on the water budget change that might occur because of project implementation.
- The cost/power savings because of reduced pumping
- The timing and amount of diversion from the Little Wood at Ridgefield
- Availability of water in Silver Creek
- Additional information about the water rights involved and any administrative changes that may need to occur
- Potential to approach these as two separate projects: pipeline system and injection wells
- Capacity of system (limits?)
- Off-season water savings and irrigation season savings
- Timetable for implementation – what can be done in 2010

3. and 4. AWEP 2009 and 2010

The group identified the following information that would be helpful in evaluating the AWEP proposals:

- A discussion needs to take place at the April 6th Implementation Committee regarding the AWEP 2010 funds and whether the NRCS should devote the funds to various

projects throughout the ESPA or fund a major project (such as the pumpback proposal)

- Water sources for the conversions projects
- Estimations of water savings and cost/af. (This is difficult to determine – particularly given the unknowns of water availability and the lack of information on 2010 applications, but would be relevant information if any were available.)

Addition to Matrix

The group would like to see the addition of a column that includes information about water rights.

Additional Project for Consideration

Members of the Demand Reduction Working Group added opportunistic buy-outs/buy-downs as a project to be considered. At the next meeting, additional information presented will include this activity.

Funding

Working Group members identified a number of challenges in identifying funding participants for the 2010 versus the long-term mechanism envisioned in the Plan. Ideally project sponsors should look for cost-sharing partners before the April 6th Implementation Committee meeting.

Next Steps

- Sponsors will gather the requested information prior to the next joint Working Groups meeting
- Populate the matrix to reflect the additional implementation activity of opportunistic buy-outs/buy-downs
- Continue to seek out additional cost-sharing partners for projects
- Address AWEP priorities/project recommendations with the Implementation Committee (various projects or focus on one)

Next Joint Working Group Meeting

- Thursday, April 1st, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. (the call information is 218-486-8700 and the pass code is 475392)

Attendees

Brian Patton
Hal Anderson
Peter Anderson
Steve Howser
David Blew
Jim Tucker
Craig Evans
Walt Poole
Rich Rigby
Linda Lemmon

Cynthia Bridge-Clark

Randy Bingham
Chuck Pentzer
Brian Olmstead
John Simpson
Mark Schwarz
Steve Serr
Will Whelan
Dean Stevenson
Randy MacMillan

Rich Rigby
Joan Sabott