

November 5, 2008  
Email letter

Bruce Williams  
Environmental Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
696 Virginia Road  
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

Dear Bruce,

On behalf of the Appalachian Mountain Club and American Whitewater, I want to express appreciation for you and your staff meeting with us on October 30<sup>th</sup> to explore possible whitewater boating opportunities in the Northeast at US ACOE facilities. And as we noted at the meeting, we are cognizant that any particular flow regime must also consider other interests as well. We thought the meeting was a very constructive step forward.

To capture the outcome of the meeting, following is our understanding: (Please correct any errors our misunderstandings on our part).

- 1) Meeting Purpose: The meeting was not to finalize any particular plan or agreement, rather to define and research specific proposals that than could be brought before the wider audience of interest.
- 2) Time shifting of late spring and summer flood storage events: The US ACOE indicated that this may be a workable concept. We all than agreed on the necessity to define the parameters which would guide how it would be implemented. The draft outline developed at the meeting included, but is not necessarily limited to the following:
  - a. *Time of implementation* :From the 3<sup>d</sup> weekend in May until October's Columbus Day Weekend
  - b. *Rivers*: This would include the following NE rivers with US ACOE storage: West, Westfield, Millers and Blackwater. Note: Storage in Miller would need to consider keeping water levels below level that could trigger need for PCB monitoring.
  - c. *Condition 1*: Would only involve storage that resulted primarily due to flood control purposes
  - d. *Condition 2*: Would involve flood storage events that occurred on Sunday to Friday that could be released on the Saturday following of that same week.
  - e. *Condition 3*: Storage and delayed release would happen when incoming flows being stored exceed the minimal flow needed for whitewater boating and storage releases would exceed the minimum whitewater flow for more than 2-3 hours. Goal would be to have magnitude of release as best possible mimic high flow of that event and to have these time shifted releases starting about 10 AM on the Saturday. Minimum whitewater

flows would be defined as: West (800 cfs), Knightville (800 cfs), Millers (800 cfs) and Blackwater (400 cfs)

- f. *Condition 4:* Within 24 hrs following a flood storage event with possibility of a delayed ww release the US ACOE would notice by email to identified parties these ‘expected’ opportunistic Saturday releases along with estimated duration and magnitude [bracketed as +/- 200-300 cfs], with caveat that paddlers should recheck for any changes on Friday or day of release.
- g. *Condition 5:* The US ACOE reserves the right to release earlier or store water later due flood conditions in the basin or predicted future precipitation events.

The US ACOE agreed to draft language on or about November 8<sup>th</sup> for above conditions in the form of a possible Memorandum of Understanding or like document.

3. Spring whitewater event release: The boating community expressed its understanding of the resource agencies desire to keep the reservoir at a low level to allow salmon smolt to be able to migrate safely through and find the dam outlet, with most to all of this happening by late April/early May. At the meeting eight hydrological scenarios to be modeled for following the smolt run, using historic flow records, reservoir storage capacity and minimum flow requirements were defined.

Scenario 1: Saturday release 11 AM - 3 PM 1500 cfs (4 hrs)  
Sunday 10 AM - 1 PM 1500 cfs (3 hrs)

In between release to use least amount of water w/ best fit for ramping and minimum flow requirements

Scenario 2: Saturday release 11 AM - 3 PM 1500 cfs (4 hrs)  
Sunday 10 AM - 1 PM 1000 cfs (3 hrs)

In between release to use least amount of water w/ best fit for ramping and minimum flow requirements

Scenario 3: Saturday release 11 AM - 3 PM 1500 cfs (4 hrs)  
Sunday 10 AM - 1 PM 800 cfs (3 hrs)

In between release to use least amount of water w/ best fit for ramping and minimum flow requirements

Scenario 4: Saturday release 11 AM - 3 PM 1500 cfs (4 hrs)

Scenario 1- 4 above for the second weekend in May and Scenario 5-8 as above, but for the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May.

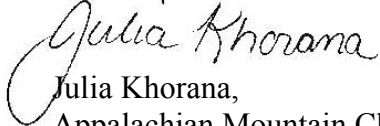
We understand that no scenario for spring whitewater releases may be 100% compatible with all interests, but the modeling would help us collectively understand limitations and opportunities for releases.

As we expressed at the meeting, early April whitewater releases would occur without amenities in the area being open for an event and would conflict with other scheduled releases and are therefore of extremely low recreational value. The paddling community wishes to support salmon restoration goals and therefore has proposed that we explore

release opportunities in May. The US ACOE agreed to provide the preliminary results of these above scenarios on or about November 14<sup>th</sup> of this year.

On behalf of AMC and the AW we again appreciate your time and willingness to try to resolve this issue. I look forward to reviewing your model runs of the scenarios we discussed, and once received we can review and discuss next appropriate steps with you. In advance, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Khorana". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Julia Khorana,  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
(AMC's USACOE Whitewater release coordinator)

Cc: Kenneth Kimball – Appalachian Mountain Club  
Kevin Colburn - American Whitewater