

Purpose

NEWS

2008 Operating Decision: VARQ Flood Control

On December 21, 2007, the Corps of Engineers' Northwestern Division Commander, Colonel Steven Miles, signed a [Determination and Finding](#) for Libby Dam operation in 2008. Similar to 2007, Libby will be operated in strict accordance with the VARQ Operating Procedures as provided in the 2002 EA. The Corps plans to prepare a Record of Decision on long-term Libby operations in early 2008.

2007 Operating Decision: VARQ Flood Control

On January 5, 2007, the Corps of Engineers' Northwestern Division Commander, Brigadier General Gregg Martin, signed a [Determination and Finding](#) for Libby Dam operation in 2007. It constitutes a decision that Libby will be operated in strict accordance with the VARQ Operating Procedures as provided in the 2002 EA, while the Corps will continue to evaluate and analyze factors associated with a long-term (2008 and beyond) operational decision. A Record of Decision is not yet available for the long-term operation.

Kootenai/Kootenay River Basin 2006 Spring Flood Event: After-Action Report (AAR)

Operation of Libby Dam in spring 2006 included unplanned spill and downstream flooding. A review of the operation was conducted, and resulted in an [After-Action Report](#) which is available for your information.

Announcements

Upper Columbia Alternative Flood Control and Fish Operations Environmental Impact Statement

Final EIS Available

In April 2006, the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Columbia Alternative Flood Control and Fish Operations. The Corps has received comments on the Final UCEIS and will address them through its Record of Decision.

[Link to the Final EIS here](#)

Reclamation Becomes Cooperator on the UCEIS - March 2006

In order to ensure the Corps' actions are consistent with the terms of the [2006 US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion on Libby Dam operations](#), and due to Reclamation's ongoing consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Reclamation decided to step down from co-lead status on the UCEIS and move to cooperating agency status under NEPA regulations, prior to completion of the final UCEIS.

Each agency will prepare its own Record of Decision (ROD) for its respective dams to implement the final UCEIS for future operations. The Corps plans to issue a ROD at a future date that addresses proposed implementation of the VARQ flood control and fish flows up to 10,000 cfs above powerhouse capacity at Libby Dam.

As a cooperating agency, Reclamation may choose to adopt and/or expand upon portions of the final UCEIS that apply to Reclamation's actions at Hungry Horse Dam. Reclamation plans to issue a ROD on the proposed implementation of VARQ flood control at Hungry Horse dam following its completion of NHPA Section 106 consultation and NEPA analysis and documentation. In the interim, Reclamation will continue to implement such operations as described in its March 2002 [voluntary environmental assessment for interim implementation of VARQ at Hungry Horse Dam](#) .

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