

To: Parties to the CSKT Water Rights Settlement
From: CSKT-Montana Compact Implementation Technical Team
Date: November 16, 2023
Re: Amendment of Reservoir Capacity Table for Mission Reservoir

This transmittal documents a formal amendment to a previously completed Compact Implementation Technical Team (CITT) work product by the CITT. This amendment is intended to correct the Interim Minimum Pool Level for Mission Reservoir listed in the 2021 CITT Reservoir Capacity Results document. This transmittal accompanies a revised version of the Mission Reservoir Capacity Table, dated October 3, 2023.

Summary of Issue: 2021 CITT Mission Reservoir Capacity Table - Interim Minimum Pool Level

Interim Reservoir Pool Levels were established on selected Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP) reservoirs beginning in 1986. Minimum levels were set as elevation requirements in order to provide adequate fisheries habitat and pool depths. These minimum reservoir levels are reflected in multiple documents, including the 2008 BIA Operation and Maintenance Guidelines for the FIIP, the 2008 Biological Assessment for Operation and Maintenance of the FIIP, and the BIA Standing Operating Procedures for FIIP facilities. For Mission Reservoir, the current (2008) BIA Standard Operating Procedures for Mission Dam documents that the minimum pool for fisheries is 763 acre-feet at elevation 3,377.0 above mean sea level (Article III.G – Filling and Drawdown Limits).

In 2021 the CITT completed a reservoir bathymetry project under Task Order 5 to update the original FIIP reservoir stage-storage curves using modern high-resolution survey technology. Deliverables from Task Order 5 included updated reservoir capacity tables for each dam facility. Those tables also contain additional information for facility operators, including the established interim minimum reservoir pool elevations and Compact minimum reservoir pool elevations.

During the 2023 irrigation season, it was discovered that the CITT’s Reservoir Capacity Results document listed the interim minimum pool level for Mission Reservoir as 3,370.0 feet, a value inconsistent with previous operational documents and requirements. This error appears to have originated in Appendix 13 to the Compact, where an incorrect interim minimum pool elevation for Mission Reservoir is listed (3,370.0 feet). The interim minimum pool level of 3,770.0 ft also contradicts the minimum reservoir volume of 763 acre-feet for Mission Reservoir in Appendix 13. Requirements that have been in place for more than 15 years, which are documented in the current BIA Operation and Maintenance Guidelines for the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project and the BIA Standard Operating Procedures for Mission Dam, support the 763 acre-feet minimum pool volume and 3,777.0 feet minimum pool levels for Mission Reservoir. The CITT has determined that the interim reservoir pool elevation value listed in Appendix 13 for Mission Reservoir (3,370.0 feet) is likely a typographical error and is not correct.

Recommendation

The CITT unanimously voted on October 3, 2023 to amend the Mission Reservoir Capacity Table in the CITT Reservoir Capacity Results document to list the correct Interim Minimum Reservoir Pool Level of 3,377.0 feet. The CITT recommends that the FIIP staff immediately discard all outdated (August 2021)

versions of the Mission Reservoir Capacity Table and Rating Curve and adopt the updated version dated October 2023 as the official Reservoir Capacity Table for Mission Reservoir.

This recommendation does not change FIIP's operational requirements at Mission Reservoir, but instead rectifies a typographical discrepancy and ensures that the CITT's work product accurately reflects FIIP's existing and long-standing operational requirements.