

# NECHAKO FISHERIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

A Joint Program of the Government of Canada, Alcan and the Province of British Columbia

## **NECHAKO FISHERIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

DATE: February 21, 2008

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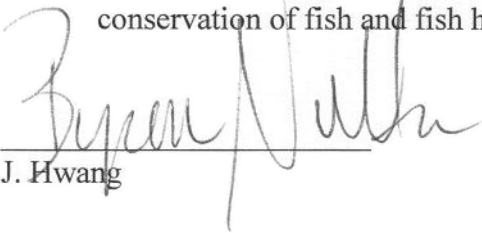
### Decision Record (2007/2008-2)


1. RioTinto Alcan's ongoing monitoring of the reservoir inflows, accumulated snow pack to date and decreases in the reservoir elevation has resulted in the reservoir approaching normal levels for this time of year. Further, the snow pack accumulation indicates that only normal runoff is expected for the spring of 2008. As a result, Alcan has requested that the release from the Skins Lake Spillway be reduced from the current 80.1m<sup>3</sup>/s to 34m<sup>3</sup>/s effective Friday, February 22, 2008.
2. In considering this request, past practice has been to allow winter decreases in releases from the Skins lake Spillway as long as the decreased discharge is not less than 50% of the discharge during spawning in the previous fall or the normal spawning discharge of 32m<sup>3</sup>/s. As shown on the attached graph, the discharge in the Nechako River below Cheslatta Falls (based on WSC preliminary data) dropped below 68m<sup>3</sup>/s on September 10, prior to the peak of spawning, and remained below that level throughout the remainder of the spawning period. Thus the proposed change to 34m<sup>3</sup>/s would be consistent with past practice.
3. In addition, the timing of the change would result in the discharge in the Nechako below Cheslatta Falls reaching a stable rate prior to the start of Chinook emergence in late March.

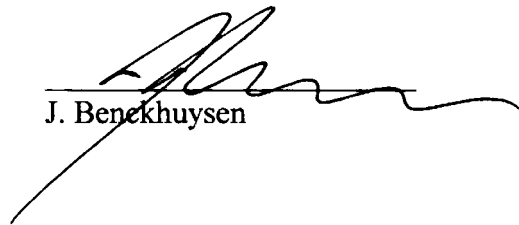
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4. The Technical Committee has reviewed Alcan's plans for the release of water from the spillway and concluded that the proposed plan would not affect the conservation of fish and fish habitat in the Nechako River.

*See*  
  
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J. Hwang

  
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D. Levy

  
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J. Benckhuysen

  
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T. Zimmerman

Plot of Nechako River Discharges (August 20 to October 8, 2007)

