

## Navy Beacon Conference Call

21-Jan-2016

Participants: John Tenney, Zeke Meija, Tiffani Marsh, Scott Putnam, Jeff Fryer, Gabriel Brooks, Don Warf, Steve Pastor, Steve Anglea, Brandon Chockley, Eric Hockersmith, Sharon Grant, Scott Bettin, Cecilia Brown

### Action Items;

- Gabriel Brooks will follow up with his Navy contacts to verify that a long test in April is not scheduled, and try to arrange testing of the various frequencies to find one that doesn't impact PIT tag equipment
- Erik Hockersmith will follow up with his Navy contacts to iron out details about coordination between Navy and USACE on any future tests
- John Tenney, Don Warf, and PTSC will draft document about potential impact
- Update at PTSC annual meeting Feb. 10

**Don Warf, PSMFC:** Fall of 2015 PTAGIS noticed 100% noise at BCC and learned later that it coincided with transmissions from a Navy beacon in California. It is possible that if the beacon is turned on again this spring, it could completely wipe out detections at BCC. It also impacts adult sites, but to lesser extent.

**Gabriel Brooks, NOAA:** Provided the following timeline and background information

October 14, 2015: Transmitter in Dixon, CA, was turned on. West Fork Environmental noticed it and tracked it to 135.95 frequency

October 20: NOAA contacted Navy Space War Office which confirmed that it was testing backup transmitter until November 13. Also informed that another test was scheduled for April 2016 that would run for 8 months on primary transmitter with unknown frequency.

October 28: PTAGIS posted [news item](#) about potential impact

October 29: NOAA canceled spillway detection testing due to likely impact

November 2: confirmed that NOAA has regional license for 134.2kHz frequency

November 23: NOAA Radio Frequency Management Division (RFMD) contacted Navy spectrum office and was informed that Dixon is not scheduled for continuous operation, but that it was a test

January 11, 2016: NOAA RFMD obtained the 19 frequencies registered for Dixon

January 20: NOAA RFMD noted that Navy has precedence on that spectrum (recorded in 1985 vs. NOAAs in 2006), they know about the issues and plan to notify USACE of future tests

Transmitter is used for communicating with submarines. Dixon is a test facility.

**Eric Hockersmith, USACE:** USACE ran the issue up within DOD, and Navy has agreed to coordinate with Corps before any future testing. Corps has requested that testing be done between Dec 1 and Feb 28. Some follow up details still need to be ironed out: notification time frame and how long the test will be, but it appears that starting it up in April and letting it run for months is not in the plans. This past test was apparently longer than usual. It is an old technology, back up in case newer tech fails.

Don requests to know when the tests will start so that BCC can be monitored to see impacts. He noted that they did see noise on adult systems, but none were wiped out like BCC.

Gabriel will keep him in the loop and is hoping to coordinate with Navy for testing different frequencies. US Navy frequencies that might affect PIT tag: 119.85, 135.95, 139.1, 142.25, 148.2

Gabriel will ask what the primary frequency is and let them know which registered frequencies are most likely to impact us. Don requests that Gabriel follow up with Nate Cunningham and find out if the April test is still planned.

Gabriel noted that impacts on instream sites were seen from Oregon to Idaho and up through Washington, and was somewhat related to antenna orientation.

John Tenney asked if a letter from organizations and/or PTSC would help and Gabriel said that it could be useful, according to the Spectrum office. John will work with PTSC to draft a document outlining the potential impacts of the beacon.

Gabriel has verified that this is not secret and no problems with talking about frequencies or time frames.