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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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City of Radford, Virginia                      Project No. 1235-017  
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MUNICIPAL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

City of Radford Public Safety Bldg  
10 Robertson Street  
Radford, Virginia 24141

Monday, October 2, 2017

The public comment meeting, pursuant to notice, convened  
at 7:00 p.m.

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. CONNER: Hello, everyone. Welcome. We are  
3 starting the scoping meeting for the Municipal  
4 Hydroelectric Projects. This is our evening scoping meeting  
5 for the public. I am Allyson, we're going to do some  
6 introductions in a moment, but I wanted to let you know I'm  
7 Allyson Conner and I'm with the Federal Energy Regulatory  
8 Commission. I'm the coordinator for our project -- so I  
9 know everything. I'm just kidding; I don't. We'll learn  
10 everything together, so, all right.

11 So, since there's not a massive crowd of us  
12 tonight I'd like for us all to go around, state our names,  
13 who we're with, and then we'll go on through the rest of the  
14 presentation. So, just let us know your name and how you're  
15 connected. It doesn't have to be anything; you know, you're  
16 just interested and want to know more information. So it's  
17 just helpful for us.

18 So, again, I'm Allyson Conner. I'm with the  
19 Commission and we'll go this way.

20 MR. CALLIHAN: I'm Jody Callihan. I'm also with  
21 FERC. I'm a Fish Biologist there. I'm working aquatics on  
22 this project.

23 MR. COPELAND: I'm John Copeland, I'm with the  
24 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. I'm the  
25 local Fisheries Biologist, so I'm been involved with this

1 process since it started.

2 MR. LOGWOOD: I'm Tim Logwood, I'm the Director  
3 of the Radford Electric Department, and this is my project.

4 MS. JAKUPCA. I'm Alison Jakupca, I'm with  
5 Kleinschmidt. I come in to help them with the relicensing  
6 process. [Simultaneous discussion]

7 MS. CONNER: Well, we will issue the final  
8 license application so, we've got a couple more years.

9 MR. CHILDRESS: I'm Beuford Childress and this is  
10 my wife Sherry -- if you want to introduce yourself. Yes,  
11 we're pretty much laid back. So, I'm Beuford, this is  
12 Sherry. We actually live upstream from the Dam several  
13 miles. So we are just private residents, and we saw the  
14 information in the mail and decided that, you know, thought  
15 we would come and see exactly what was being proposed and  
16 what changes were in the works. The property that we have  
17 is affected by the backwater created by the Dam, so whenever  
18 they decide to open those gates, at random, we have no water  
19 and when they don't open them, we have a lot of water.

20 So, we just kind of we are affected by the dam,  
21 and so our main concern was just to come and make sure that,  
22 you know, this process was essentially nothing new, just a  
23 relicensing effort, and make sure we understood what was  
24 going on.

25 MS. CONNER: Thank you.

1           MS. HALL: I'm Jeanette Hall and I'm a property  
2 owner just upstream from Beaufort, and I, along with my  
3 sister have some property; and I am here for very much the  
4 same reasons.

5           MS. CONNER: Thank you for coming.

6           All right. So, a couple of things to keep in  
7 mind. The housekeeping. There is a registration table in  
8 the back. Did you all see this sign in sheets, you signed  
9 in? Great.

10 So we're on top of it. There are copies of the scoping  
11 document which is the document the Commission issued about a  
12 month ago that lists all of the resource issues that we'll  
13 go through today; so if you would like to go get one or take  
14 one home it's for your reading pleasure.

15           And we do have a court reporter here with us  
16 today, so all comments will be on the record. And when you  
17 do speak, and we did just do it without the microphone, but  
18 from now forward we do want you to come up to the microphone  
19 at the end when you have comments. But also, to clearly  
20 state your name so he gets the correct spelling, that we get  
21 the correct information. Just want to make sure everyone  
22 good on that. Does that work? Great. All right.

23           For the meeting tonight, this is just a quick  
24 overview of what we're going to go through. I'll give you a  
25 short sweet introduction to FERC, and we'll talk a little

1 bit about this licensing process which is going through a  
2 relicensing. They have a current license that will expire  
3 and we're going through the relicensing.

4 I'll discuss what does scoping mean, what does it  
5 look like, what are we trying to figure out. And I'll take  
6 a break and then the other Allyson will come up and give us  
7 an overview of the Municipal Hydroelectric Project. And  
8 then we'll go through the resource issues and I'll let you  
9 know what we've identified. And then after that will be the  
10 chance for you all to come up here to let us know any  
11 comments you have, any questions that you would specifically  
12 like to be on the record so that we have those for the  
13 future as we write our environmental assessment. So that  
14 will be at the end.

15 So, FERC is small agency; we have many  
16 responsibilities, the main one that we're working with today  
17 is to authorize the construction, operation, and maintenance  
18 of non-federal hydroelectric projects that are in the public  
19 interest; and you the public are here, you're interested, so  
20 that is working.

21 In the U.S. there are about, more than 1,600  
22 FERC-regulated hydropower projects. So, you can see, are  
23 typically in areas of elevation; that's where you get the  
24 head where you create more generation and electricity. So,  
25 the East Coast and the West Coast, and then we have a little

1 bit in the Plains. All of these combined generates enough  
2 electricity to power between 10 to 15 million households  
3 annually; so there's a lot of hydropower in the U.S. And  
4 then there's also, of course, we have the Corp of  
5 Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, Bonneville Power, the  
6 BLM. So, there's many other dams and hydroelectric dams.  
7 These are simply dams that are owned by non-federal  
8 entities.

9           So, the licensing process will end most likely in  
10 a license order. That is what you're shooting for. And  
11 within that license order there are terms and conditions  
12 for how the project will operate in the future. There will  
13 be, according to each resource area, there will be certain  
14 things that they must abide by for the next 30 to 50 years  
15 depending on the length of the license.

16           Some of these conditions are environmental  
17 measures. They protect, they mitigate and they enhance.  
18 The project, whether it's to create a better fishing spot or  
19 to increase the dissolved oxygen for the fish in the water,  
20 the goal is to minimize the environmental impacts as much as  
21 you possibly can. You'll never, you won't be able to get  
22 rid of all the impacts but we do want to protect it as much  
23 as we can.

24           And so, the question is, how do we get there?  
25 Well, right now, we're kind of in the middle of the process.

1 And it's we've received a the final license application  
2 and now is when we're getting input from the stakeholders  
3 and the folks that live nearby that see the project day-to-  
4 day. They know what's going on; what they like; what they  
5 don't like. We aren't here on a day-to-day basis, so  
6 getting input from the public is helpful.

7 We are continuing that relicensing process today.  
8 The current license was issued in 1989, so 28 years ago.  
9 And then it will expire in May of 2019, so the goal will be  
10 to issue one as close to possible as when that expires.  
11 There are, you can have an annual license that extends it,  
12 but the goal will be to issue a license at that time.

13 So far, this is a quick overview of what has  
14 happened this year. So on May 30th, the City of Radford  
15 filed their license application with FERC and then in the  
16 intervening months through August 3rd, me and Jody and our  
17 two other team members were reviewing application, we were  
18 asking each other questions and wrote a letter, it's called  
19 an Additional Information Request, and it also included  
20 deficiencies. So we have certain regulations that we go  
21 through and we check, and if these things are not in the  
22 license application then we write them as a deficiency and  
23 say 'we need this information.' And then if we have  
24 additional questions, which is the additional information  
25 request. There's two different ways to get more

1 information.

2           On September 1st, we issued our scoping document,  
3 so it's a month ago yesterday. And then we have 30 days'  
4 waiting period until our scoping meetings which are today  
5 and tomorrow. So that's what's happened thus far and this  
6 is what's going to continue after today.

7           We will review the additional information request  
8 and deficiency response, it was filed on Friday. They were  
9 early. Good job, good job. And you all can also read this  
10 information; it is filed on the record through our eLibrary  
11 system, we can help you find that. It can be a little bit  
12 difficult at first; we have some pamphlets in the back that  
13 will help.

14           So then, we are going to decide the application  
15 is ready for environmental review. We'll need to review  
16 that information that was filed. It is possible that it may  
17 create more questions. You don't always get every answer  
18 you need or it may not be explained quite clearly; but if it  
19 is, then we would move on to the next phase, which would be  
20 to prepare our Environmental Assessment, which is our  
21 independent review of how the project impacts the  
22 environment. If don't feel like we have enough information  
23 we could issue another, additional information request.  
24 Typically it's not a big deal, it happens often, so if  
25 things were raised tonight that we want to know some more



1 information, an additional information request may come.

2           So after the environmental assessments, so the  
3 goal - we have a schedule in the scoping document -- Yes.  
4 As of now in our scoping documents the goal is to issue the  
5 EA by September of next year. So, once the EA is issued,  
6 that's when agencies can submit revised terms and  
7 conditions; so in the intervening months they may have  
8 already submitted terms and conditions; but then after  
9 reading the Environmental Assessment they may feel the need  
10 to revise them. They can submit them.

11           We also may receive 10J recommendations, and  
12 these are recommendations that need balancing; or if they  
13 are not mandatory they become balancing measures that we may  
14 or may not accept. Typical 10J measures through Fish &  
15 Wildlife agencies, they are mandatory conditions that we  
16 will include. We will assess those also if we need to issue  
17 a final environmental assessment.

18           So, with these revised terms and conditions and  
19 if there are 10J recommendations submitted to us, then we  
20 may issue a final environmental assessment so we have one  
21 document that has all of the recommendations and any  
22 comments that may have come in from that first EA that was  
23 issued in September. However, if we don't have a large  
24 number of comments, we don't have many changes in our terms  
25 and conditions, or the 10J recommendations, we can address

1 those in the license order. So, there are two ways that  
2 this could go; and we won't know until we get to, after  
3 issuing the EA, when we receive comments on terms and  
4 conditions.

5           And then comes a Commission decision, issuing a  
6 license order that would list everything from A to Z of how  
7 the project is operated; as I mentioned, the environmental  
8 measures before, how much water is released, things that  
9 happen at certain times of the year, whether it's for fish  
10 protection or terrestrial protection or for recreation is  
11 all listed in this license order.

12           And then, parties with intervenor status have 30  
13 days to file a request for a rehearing, and that is if they  
14 intervened earlier in the process. They submitted a letter  
15 to the Commission that says 'I want to have the opportunity  
16 to intervene, to ask questions if I don't agree with  
17 something.' So there are 30 days after a license order is  
18 issued, anyone can ask for a rehearing if they don't agree  
19 with something that is in the license order. After that,  
20 the license order is done and everyone is excited,  
21 hopefully.

22           So, scoping. That's what we're here for today.  
23 What exactly is it? I think it's a funny term. When I  
24 first heard it I was like, what's that mean? So,  
25 essentially it's for us to be able to take a moment to

1 identify the environmental concerns and issues that are at  
2 the projects. Whether it's related to aquatic species,  
3 whether it's terrestrial species, or how it impacts you and  
4 me. It could be that the water is too low and you can't  
5 launch your boat off the boat ramp because maybe the water -  
6 - the boat ramp ends and the water is still much further  
7 down.

8           So, we're trying to identify these types of  
9 effects and issues. So, question? What information is  
10 needed to analyze these potential effects for NEPA  
11 purposes? So there's existing information, we know that  
12 there were studies done for this licensing process. There  
13 are studies that were done in previous years, so that's  
14 existing information; we already know that it's out there.  
15 And then there's new information which is what we want to  
16 gather today, which includes comments from stakeholders,  
17 comments from agencies, maybe there's still a study out  
18 there that people feel needs to be done, that needs some  
19 more information.

20           So, all of this information helps us as staff  
21 write this NEPA document as an environmental assessment.  
22 NEPA stands for National Environmental Policy Act. So we  
23 call our environmental assessments NEPA documents, they're  
24 kind of interchangeable. So scoping involves identifying  
25 and receiving input on resources that may be cumulatively

1 affected. Which is when you consider the affects of the  
2 project in conjunction with other activities in the river  
3 basin.

4           So, say there's two or three other dams that are  
5 up above the dam that you're discussing. The that water is  
6 released can affect how the environment is at the dam that  
7 we're talking about. There's many ways that resources can  
8 be cumulatively affected. Claytor is very close to the  
9 Municipal Hydroelectric Project, so there could be some  
10 cumulative effects that maybe don't come specifically from  
11 at the Municipal Hydro Project but happen because of another  
12 project. So that's a cumulative effect; adding on to it.

13           So we also want input on reasonable alternatives  
14 to the project. Maybe you guys have a bright idea that they  
15 haven't thought about. There's always alternatives that  
16 might be out there that could really benefit the projects.  
17 And then of there are resources that do not require detailed  
18 analysis: Sometimes aesthetics might not be an issue. It's  
19 a resource that is often identified but maybe it's not -  
20 there's nothing really that's going to impact. Nothing is  
21 going to change because nothing is being built; there's  
22 just nothing visually that needs to change. Sometimes there  
23 are resources that maybe don't need a detailed analysis.

24           So again, we'd love for you to be thinking about  
25 these topics, what we call information gaps. Something that

1 you see that maybe we haven't identified that just hasn't  
2 been presented yet.

3           And then our resource groups that we're going to  
4 discuss will be listed -- we'll go through them in a moment  
5 -- through the scoping document we have: geology and soils,  
6 aquatic resources, terrestrial, T & E or threatened and  
7 endangered species, recreation, land use and aesthetics,  
8 cultural resources, and developmental resources. So, these  
9 are all different types of areas that we are analyzing, that  
10 we are gathering information on, that we need to understand  
11 how the project is impacting the environment. This is all  
12 the various ways that we are looking at the effects of this  
13 project.

14           So now I'm going to give this over to Alison  
15 Jakupca with Kleinschmidt, and she'll give us a brief  
16 project overview.

17           MS. JAKUPCA: It's 2013 since I last gave a  
18 presentation, so you'll have to cut me some slack. I know  
19 most of this is going to be preaching to the choir because  
20 you guys live around here and you're all very familiar with  
21 this. Maybe you'll learn something new.

22           Here's the project. [Slide] This was back  
23 before 2014 when it was still upgrading, because you'll see  
24 there's generation right below the powerhouse right there.  
25 The project has not been operating since 2014 because the

1 turbine had a, I've been calling it a catastrophic failure.  
2 Pretty catastrophic, and they're currently working on  
3 rehabilitating the turbine right now. So hopefully it will  
4 get back up and running here pretty soon.

5 Project location. You guys are all familiar with  
6 it. So it is basically triangulated with Claytor. So,  
7 Claytor is about a half-mile upstream from the confluence  
8 with the Little River. And then Municipal Hydro Dam is  
9 right there; I think it's mile marker, river mile 24.5, so  
10 it's almost - it's almost a half-mile upstream. I think  
11 it's 2,500 feet to the confluence.

12 So you have operations from Claytor and the  
13 feedbackwater up here to the dam. We were just talking  
14 about that earlier. I think it's maybe a couple feet when  
15 Claytor is operating.

16 When looking at this project, if you go on FERC's  
17 eLibrary, if you follow the sheet that Allyson has in the  
18 back. If you're interested in finding all of the detailed  
19 information on this project, you'll use P-1235, that's its  
20 FERC project number, and it was originally constructed -- it  
21 began in 1933 and they completed it in 1934 and  
22 commissioned it. So, it's an old project. It's been around  
23 for a long time. It's owned and operated by the City of  
24 Radford and it creates it's a nice little project for the  
25 city. It helps offset the amount of power the city has to

1 purchase from Appalachian Power. So, it's a good little  
2 project.

3 Allyson already said this, but the license was  
4 issued in 1989 and expires May 31st, 2019, so I think we're  
5 hoping for something. Before then if not, it would operate  
6 under an annual license until the FERC order.

7 [Slide] Here's the dam, concrete buttress slab  
8 dam, almost 300 feet long. It's about 58 feet high. The  
9 top of the tainter gate was right at 40 feet. I believe  
10 that's correct. It has eight tainter gates, two sluice  
11 gates. The project boundary, the high water mark is right  
12 at the 1772.1 foot contour mean sea level. So the project  
13 boundary runs right at the high water mark.

14 So this is a cleaned-up version from it looks  
15 like now. Of course it's under construction. It has one  
16 generating unit. It's about 1,200 kilowatts. So 1.2  
17 megawatts. It is turbine-limited; the generator could get a  
18 little bit more. It has a rated hydraulic capacity of 430  
19 CFS. The intake has angled steel trash racks. This is all  
20 the stuff that gets engineers excited.

21 So the interconnection, we are proposing a change  
22 from the existing project boundary, and I know this is  
23 really hard to see, I don't know why we're using this  
24 picture on here but, currently, the project has this power  
25 coil about 560 feet. You'll see the power lines running

1 across the river from the plant. And that's where it  
2 interconnects with the grid; there's other sources that feed  
3 out from there. So that's where we're proposing that the  
4 project boundary end, transmission lines.

5           The project was originally constructed in the  
6 Thirties. They were saying that there's a 350-acre  
7 reservoir and they -- around 1,100 acre-feet of storage. We  
8 all know that the Little River is the highest river. And we  
9 did some bathymetry surveys as part of the relicensing.  
10 They went up and down the reservoir with equipment and they  
11 found that it's actually a 77-acre reservoir, not 350. And  
12 there's about 560 acre-feet storage now. So, this is  
13 current information.

14           There is sedimentation that has occurred up and  
15 down; it's up against the dam in some spots. And then  
16 around the riverbend. So, you can go on line, we have that  
17 information here if you're curious. The reservoir has  
18 decreased significantly from the numbers originally  
19 proposed, or originally thought to be the case, back in the  
20 30's, for whatever that's worth.

21           And the project boundary, which is the Federal  
22 Energy Regulatory Commission project boundary, is  
23 essentially the line that FERC draws around the project  
24 that they have jurisdiction over. It extends about 3.5  
25 miles upstream. So the project does have existing



1 facilities and there are a few that are proposed from  
2 discussions with Virginia Department of Game and Inland  
3 Fisheries, and stakeholders in the process.

4           We have proposed some new facilities as well.  
5 So, you guys know about the boat ramp and then there's the  
6 canoe portage. But we're also talking about putting a  
7 bench out near the dam for fishing, and then the canoe  
8 portage is pretty deep in some places, so hopefully it will  
9 help facilitate people getting down. Then some picnic  
10 facilities, a shelter and some tables.

11           Project operations. This is a general operation  
12 schedule; operations are completely dependent on the flows  
13 that come downstream. It's a modified run-of-river. So,  
14 the way the city operates the project is if flow is  
15 available and the electric demand is there, they will  
16 operate for a little bit in the peak shaving mode. Then if  
17 flows are above 430 CFS, they release some to the gate and  
18 through the project. If they are below 430 CFS they have a  
19 little bit of head fluctuation that they can operate within,  
20 but then they stop it where the absolute bottom is three  
21 feet below the pool. And then they let it refill.

22           So, it's entirely flow-dependent. There's always  
23 at least 25 CFS flowing downstream because of gate leakage.  
24 And the city is not proposing any changes to current  
25 operations for the new license. So that's the city's

1 proposal. And that is all I have.

2 MS. CONNER: All right. So now we're going to go  
3 through the list of resource issues. And if you have a  
4 scoping document with you, you'll turn to page 11. It's the  
5 bottom of 11 onto page 12. Bottom of page 10, rather. And  
6 then, just again, be thinking about any additional issues or  
7 concerns. As we're going through this document, if you  
8 disagree with some of the issues that would be a great time  
9 to tell us why you're disagree with what we've identified  
10 thus far. So, we're happy to have that the information.  
11 All right.

12 So, geology and soils. What we've identified as  
13 an issue currently is the effects of the project related  
14 reservoir fluctuations on geology and soils, especially  
15 reservoir shoreline erosion, the up and down of the  
16 reservoir and how it impacts the shoreline.

17 Now aquatics, there are six bullets, I won't read  
18 them all. I will allow you to take a moment afterwards, but  
19 essentially, it's looking at water quality, the aquatic  
20 resources downstream of the project. How the fluctuations  
21 of spawning are impacted. Flow fluctuations. Impingements  
22 mortality. Entrainment and impingement mortality. And then  
23 species of special concern. The Eastern hellbender has been  
24 identified.

25 So, these are aquatic resource issues that we've

1 identified that will be discussed in our environmental  
2 document.

3 Then terrestrial resources. How does the  
4 project's up to three foot daily reservoir drawdown and  
5 associated downstream flow fluctuations impact wetland  
6 habitat and associated wildlife and botanical resources.

7 In threatened and endangered species, the  
8 Virginia Fringed Mountain Scale has been identified as being  
9 within the area. So we want to be aware of that and make  
10 sure there are measures to protect this species. I found  
11 that picture online. I thought you all might like to know  
12 what it looked like because I didn't know what it looked  
13 like. And that's it.

14 MS. CONNER: And then, for recreation. What is  
15 currently existing, is it adequate? Is it meeting current  
16 recreational demands? The portage trail there, which is a  
17 nice feature to be able to get around the dam if you so  
18 choose.

19 Cultural resources. How does continued project  
20 operation and maintenance impact historic properties,  
21 archaeological resources, and traditional cultural  
22 properties. Developmental resources. What are  
23 the effects of the recommended environmental measures on the  
24 project's economics.

25 All right. So those are the resource issues, a

1 brief overview; we can discuss those at the end.

2           The next steps. For you as stakeholders and the  
3 public there will be the next thirty days you have to  
4 continue to review the documents and file any comments you  
5 have with the Commission. But again, I'm going to give you  
6 a chance at the end of this presentation to give your oral  
7 comments to get them on the record so that we know what  
8 they are today, as opposed to maybe waiting thirty days  
9 until November 2nd, that is when comments are due on the  
10 scoping document.

11           We'll discuss the filing on the next slide -- on  
12 page thirteen, and it shows, gives you some information  
13 about how to sign up for eFiling, which is our electronic  
14 version of the record; it's a way that we can send you  
15 notices when documents are issued or are received. It's a  
16 way for you to file your comments, and it's a useful tool.

17           Again, November 2nd, that is the due date for  
18 comments on the scoping document, so we put it in nice,  
19 bright red. And then, yes, so keeping in the loop; there  
20 are a couple different ways, and most of these documents,  
21 all of these documents I have on the table in the back. We  
22 do have a FERC online brochure; again, as Allyson was  
23 talking about the FERC project number, P-1235. You need  
24 that number to search for documents and to put your  
25 documents on the record. That's on the scoping document.

1           eSubscription, that is the process for you to get  
2 email notifications that something has been filed or  
3 something has been issued. It's just a quick email with a  
4 link. You click on the link and then you're taken to that  
5 document.

6           eLibrary, that is our repository for all public  
7 documents for the project. This is where they're archived,  
8 and you can search from many years back; most things are in  
9 PDF and Word files, the older, you know, thirty years back,  
10 maybe not quite yet, but you can still get them.

11           And then the mailing list. If you would like to  
12 get hard copies of things that are issued, you can add your  
13 name to the mailing list but you have to request this. And  
14 in order to do that you would send an email to  
15 FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov and I got that, it is also in the  
16 scoping document. But that is, you want FERC online support  
17 at FERC.gov to be able to get on the mailing list for things  
18 to be mailed to your address.

19           So, at this point I'm going to open up the floor  
20 for you all to come up here if you have comments, if you  
21 have questions. This is the moment for you to chime in.  
22 We'd like to hear from you, but again, please state your  
23 name and let us know what you're thinking and we'll go from  
24 there. So, I'm going to sit, I'll give you guys a moment,  
25 and if no one wants to speak, that's fine, then we'll close

1 the meeting, but I'll give you all a chance to do that.

2 I want to check, are you all confirmed? That's  
3 all right, I'll give you all a few minutes. Yes,  
4 absolutely.

5 MR. SHIMMER: My name is William Shimmer, and  
6 basically just a simple question: The reason we came,  
7 because we received paperwork through the mail and we came  
8 to see what it was about. So from what I have gathered,  
9 this meeting, this is simply is a formality to ensure the  
10 dam can operate in the future as it has basically for my  
11 lifetime, for 30 years, for the previous 28 years; but the  
12 30 years. Is that pretty much correct?

13 I wasn't aware that the dam wasn't currently  
14 generating power. I was aware because this is a small  
15 community and I know a lot of folks that work for the city,  
16 that there was an issue with the dam. I didn't know that it  
17 wasn't generating, but my understanding from this meeting is  
18 that is in the process of being corrected so it will begin  
19 to generate electricity again at some point.

20 Okay. That's pretty much the long and the short  
21 of it. We just wanted to come and make sure that we were  
22 informed as to what was going on.

23 I guess the only thing is, that three foot drop -  
24 - well, there's two things on my mind. One, I know from  
25 having lived on the river all my life that there is a lot of

1 silt in, going behind the dam. Is there anything being  
2 thought about to address getting rid of some of that silt so  
3 it's a little easier to launch, and to pull boats out there?

4 I mean, when the river has drawn down some, the  
5 very center of the river is just a mud bank there. So,  
6 that's just one thought; just kind of wondering if anything  
7 is going to be done about the silt, which doesn't really  
8 affect me; I just know some of my friends that fish have  
9 questioned why it's allowed to build up.

10 Then the other thing is because we are readily  
11 affected by the full pond level, or when it's not full pond,  
12 when you get down to that three foot drawdown, we literally  
13 have 20 to 30 feet of nothing but mud, knee deep, from what  
14 we consider the bank of the river out to where the water is.  
15 I'm not really sure what my question is there, other than is  
16 there some way to regulate the flow so that we have more of  
17 a full pond scenario versus these drastic, you know --  
18 because the running joke with me and some of my friends is,  
19 I get up on Saturday morning and the river is beautiful and  
20 I think, "Man, that's going to be great, I'm going to go  
21 fishing this afternoon" and by lunchtime there's 20 feet of  
22 mud between me and the water.

23 So, and that's, that's - I've kind of gotten  
24 used to it, that's living on the river; but I'm just  
25 questioning, is there something that can be done to

1 alleviate some of that at least. That's pretty much it.

2 Thanks for the opportunity to speak.

3 MS. CONNER: Tim, do you want to address, or --  
4 it's your choice.

5 MR. LOGWOOD: Tim Logwood, the Director. I know  
6 the three foot drawdown has historically been an operational  
7 level. You know, the new turbine will give us greater  
8 flexibility in our operations. You know, we still need to  
9 make it economical as far as whether we're peak shaving or  
10 just using energy. The energy and the demand side as far as  
11 peak shaving, those values do fluctuate from year to year,  
12 so we'll do our best -- you know, we're not making any  
13 proposals in our operations, but we do to keep that window  
14 there just in case we need that drawdown.

15 MR. SHIMMER: That's fine.

16 MR. LOGWOOD: I don't think, I'd have to look at  
17 our water levels probably in the past seven, eight years, I  
18 don't think we've drawn it down as much as three feet; I  
19 think it's been less than that.

20 I'd like to come out maybe to your property and  
21 see what it looks like at some point.

22 MR. SHIMMER: Okay. And that's fine. I probably  
23 have your phone number somewhere. When it goes ankle deep  
24 sometime, I'll call you.

25 MR. LOGWOOD: Okay.



1                   MR. LOGWOOD: Of course, we do draw down for  
2 maintenance; we have to do that; and there's been times  
3 we've had to clear some debris that we had to draw down, but  
4 that's just a temporary situation. Historically we have  
5 tried to hit those peaks, and sometimes it does take a  
6 drawdown that far.

7                   MR. SHIMMER: Okay. That's fine.

8                   MR. COPELAND: John Copeland Game and Inland  
9 Fisheries.

10                  I thought that the points addressed in your  
11 scoping are appropriate but perhaps there's some additional  
12 things that could be considered. There's some interaction  
13 between a couple of your categories. There's overlap  
14 between aquatic resources and recreation resources in terms  
15 of flow needs.

16                  So, for example, an opportunity exists to  
17 coordinate summer flows with Claytor dam operations. That's  
18 pretty well discussed in the Claytor project's recreation  
19 resources, recreation flow study. That's an opportunity  
20 that I see that exists. I think both our agency and the  
21 Fish and Wildlife Service, and DEQ all question the 25 cubic  
22 feet per second minimum flow. Given that on the Grayson  
23 town gauge, the low flow condition of record is 32, it's  
24 actually higher.

25                  So, that's a question we have with regard to

1 aquatic resources. Also, since they're in the process of  
2 installing a new turbine, we don't have clear knowledge of  
3 the capabilities of that new turbine with regard to things  
4 like ramping, peak timing, things of that nature that might  
5 affect aquatic resources and recreation downstream.

6           And while there's a generation schedule, a  
7 generation schedule, we think needs to be tied to the  
8 seasonal, biological effects. So there needs to be some  
9 seasonal aspect to how they operate and how it effects  
10 aquatic resources.

11           A couple other things that I noted in our  
12 comments about the draft license application, we had a  
13 paragraph on the existence of Bald Eagles and a nesting  
14 site, a nesting pair nearby. There needs to be some  
15 consideration in future documentation of potential Bald  
16 Eagle habitat on the reservoir. with the possibility that  
17 the Bald Eagles that nest nearby could also use that area  
18 for foraging and nesting as well.

19           And I think I had one more point here. Of  
20 course, every dam of course blocks the flow of sediment  
21 downstream, so in this case, our intention is with increased  
22 flow or storm water flows, we get a lot of movement of fines  
23 over the dam. but the gravels, coarse gravels and  
24 substrates of a larger nature that are important for things  
25 like fish volume and habitat are missing elements

1 downstream, and they are blocked by the dam.

2           So, there really was no discussion of that in the  
3 draft license application. And I don't think it has come  
4 up, that we noted also there's no mention in the draft  
5 license about a power generation warning system. I know  
6 there's existing signage; but for example at Claytor Dam  
7 they have a -- I think it's typical to have some kind of a  
8 warning light and siren that indicates generation is getting  
9 ready to occur.

10           And that's all I noted at this point. Thank you.

11           MS. CONNER: Thank you.

12           One last chance, if anyone else is so inclined.  
13 I did have one question, and it was that the generation  
14 schedule, is there a place online where the local landowners  
15 are able to look to see when generation starts and stops?  
16 Is that something that currently exists or has been brought  
17 up, or may need to be in the future?

18           MR. LOGWOOD: No, there is not. You know, we've  
19 never thought about doing that. Does Claytor Lake do that?

20           MS. CONNER: I don't know specifically about  
21 Claytor. I know several projects --

22           MR. SHIMMER: What they do at Claytor is they  
23 project, they forecast flows downstream, so they created a  
24 website where you can go a certain distance downstream, they  
25 know what the flow conditions will be for like a 24-hour

1 period into the future?

2 MR. LOGWOOD: I mean, what's the reason? Is that  
3 for safety, or --?

4 MR. SHIMMER: For recreation.

5 MR. LOGWOOD: Recreation. I understand for that  
6 dam, but I don't know if that's something we could do or  
7 not.

8 MS. CONNER: Yes, I was just curious as far as  
9 the fluctuation. I know landowners have talked about, you  
10 know, they wake up in the morning and there's not a river to  
11 get to. So, maybe planning purposes. It doesn't happen at  
12 every project, but information is helpful. I don't think  
13 it's a difficult thing, especially if operations are known  
14 in advance.

15 MS. JAKUPCA: They don't really know too far in  
16 advance if you're following --

17 MR. LOGWOOD: Well, you know, historically, when  
18 we had the foundry, we didn't know where our peaks were  
19 going to occur; we just -- we tried to follow that, and  
20 store water when we had to. You know, you can predict -- in  
21 the wintertime. You know, without the -- in wintertime  
22 you're going to be peaking in the morning. Mostly, 8 to 10  
23 o'clock time frame. We could probably do some better  
24 predicting on that. As far as a warning system for  
25 generation, that is something we should do an assessment

1 there.

2 And I didn't answer your question as far as silt  
3 levels. There's no proposal to remove silt. You know  
4 that's, that's -- probably would make the project not  
5 economical at all.

6 MR. CALLIHAN: Can I ask a question? So is  
7 power generation based on demand, or is it based on  
8 schedule? Will it occur on a set schedule, dependent on  
9 inflow? I mean obviously if we have a ton of water coming  
10 up from -- it takes 24 hours from the water in Floyd to get  
11 to my house. So, you know, when it's pouring rain in  
12 Floyd, I know that the river is going to be drawn off some  
13 to accommodate that. So barring that circumstance, is the  
14 power generation going to be on a fairly regular schedule,  
15 or I think I heard you mention, since the foundry is gone,  
16 apparently they were a user of power, so that shifts some of  
17 the generation schedule?

18 MR. LOGWOOD: We generate generally when we have  
19 water, and when we don't have water we're trying to store  
20 that water, let it fill up so when we think the peak would  
21 be there. We can better predict our peaks now without the  
22 foundry

23 MR. CALLIHAN: Right.

24 MR. LOGWOOD: So if we've had water all month,  
25 we've run it all month. And anything more than what the

1 plant would be used to produce, we would open the gates,  
2 pass that water.

3 MR. CALLIHAN: Tim, you're referring to peak as  
4 in peak user demand?

5 MR. LOGWOOD: Correct. Electrical use demand.

6 MS. CONNER: Can you give a brief timeline,  
7 perhaps, of when you're coming back online?

8 MR. LOGWOOD: I don't think there's been -  
9 December is the targeted date of this year. And again,  
10 we're not proposing any new operations, but we do have more  
11 flexibility with this turbine, and then there's going to be  
12 probably a learning curve on our end as far as flows.

13 MS. JAKUPCA: As far as that goes, I think the  
14 turndown on it is about 100 CFS. So, I know ramping is  
15 typically discussed when you have multiple units on a  
16 route; like Claytor, then they turn one on and then they  
17 turn another one on, and then they turn another one on so  
18 that downstream fisherman aren't blown out of the water. If  
19 it's just one unit, and between 100 and 430 CFS. Ramping it  
20 would be more difficult with this one than it would be with  
21 a small system.

22 MR. CALLIHAN: You mean, more difficult as in  
23 like you mean the fluctuations are less with this one, or-  
24 ?

25 MS. CONNER: Well, it just -- the one on/off

1 situation it's not a full bring this one on line, and --.

2 MR. CALLIHAN: When you're going from minimum,  
3 when you're not generating to when you're generating in the  
4 like downstream area, if someone's on the bank, what's the  
5 typical rise in the water level?

6 MS. CONNER: John could answer that better.

7 MR. COPELAND: Not that I'm saying that -- I'm  
8 not there, I don't stand below the dam all day every day --  
9 and I may be speaking out of turn, but I pass by there  
10 multiple times a day and I've never noticed a huge  
11 difference unless there are high waters coming from Georgia.

12 MR. SHIMMER: I'd say, unless it's noticeable  
13 when I've been on a boat in the Little River, and it goes  
14 from no generation to generation. All of a sudden, you're  
15 going downstream. And I tried to keep temperature monitors  
16 in that section a few years back, and they always get blown  
17 up on the bank; just couldn't keep them in place.

18 MR. LOGWOOD: Did I answer everybody's questions?

19 MS. CONNER: All right, I believe. Oh, your  
20 question, yes. All right, one more thing. Just tell us  
21 your name.

22 MS. HALL: The question has nothing to do with  
23 the project.

24 MS. CONNER: Wait one moment, can you tell us  
25 your name one more time.

1 MS. HALL: It's Jeanette Hall.

2 MS. CONNER: Jeanette Hall.

3 MS. HALL: It has nothing to do with the project.

4 MS. CONNER: Oh, all right.

5 MS. HALL: Something I'd like to understand.

6 MS. CONNER: Okay.

7 MS. HALL: In the document it says the project  
8 does not occupy lands of the United States, is that  
9 something I should have understood, or what does that mean?

10 MS. CONNER: Sure, it's not located on federal  
11 lands as, like a Corps dam which is on lands that are owned  
12 by the Corps, which is federal land.

13 So it's privately owned. The City owns it.

14 MS. HALL: Oh.

15 MS. CONNER: So, it's just a distinguishing  
16 factor between a federal project and a non-federal project.  
17 So it does not occupy land owned by the United States  
18 Government.

19 Unfortunately, sometimes there are some  
20 oversights. It is not a federal project.

21 One more chance. Any other questions, any other  
22 discussions, things that need to be cleared up?

23 MR. LOGWOOD: I do want to add -

24 MS. CONNER: Sure. Please.

25 MR. LOGWOOD: I don't have the numbers in front



1 of me but, you know, I don't want to get in a big discussion  
2 versus peak shaving versus energy use on the plant, but peak  
3 shaving not only affects our current bill for that month,  
4 all right, but it also affects our future rates, because our  
5 rates are set again the following June, okay?

6           And what our peak is on APCO's peak, sets our  
7 demand charge for the next year and that also set's our  
8 transmission rates; so there's economics in there to help  
9 reduce the peak periods; and I'm talking about peak in  
10 electrical demand. All right. I'm not talking about this  
11 energy use. I just wanted that saved for the record as  
12 well.

13           MS. CONNER: All right. One last shot. Unless  
14 you're coming tomorrow morning, and you can speak tomorrow  
15 morning, too.

16           I will officially close this meeting. We  
17 appreciate you attending, and your comments and the  
18 questions. I hope you have a wonderful evening. Thank you.

19

20           [Whereupon, the public scoping meeting concluded  
21 at 8:04 p.m.]

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

3 This is to certify that the attached proceeding  
4 before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the  
5 Matter of:

6 Name of Proceeding: MUNICIPAL HYDROELECTRIC  
7 PROJECT

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17 Docket No.: Project No. 1235-017

18 Place: Radford, VA

19 Date: Monday, October 2, 2017

20 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original  
21 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy  
22 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription  
23 of the proceedings.

24

Dan Hawkins

25

Official Reporter