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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Energy Projects

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Central Rivers Power, NH LLC

J. BRODIE SMITH HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project No. 2287-053

GORHAM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project No. 2288-057

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Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC

SHELBURNE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project No. 2300-057

UPPER GORHAM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project No. 2311-067

CROSS POWER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project No. 2326-054

CASCADE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project No. 2327-047

SAWMILL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project No. 2422-058

RIVERSIDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Project No. 2423-031

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Town & Country Inn

1033 20, US-2

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Shelburne, New Hampshire

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Tuesday, October 22, 2019

33

34 The public scoping meeting, pursuant to notice, convened

35 at 6 p.m.

36

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

2 MR. HANSEN: All right, folks. We are going to  
3 get started, if you don't mind. You ready, Dan?

4 MR. HAWKINS: Sure.

5 MR. HANSEN: Great. So, welcome to the evening  
6 meeting. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's scoping  
7 meeting for what we're calling the Androscoggin River  
8 Projects. Hydro projects. Nearby, close by here in Gorham  
9 and Berlin. So, the projects that we are going to be  
10 talking about this evening are the following eight. The  
11 eight projects are owned by two distinct licensees, but all  
12 eight of them are within an I think, 11 mile stretch of each  
13 other, so we have decided to treat them all as one large  
14 complex, if you will, for the purposes of our environmental  
15 assessment. That seems to make the most sense to do it this  
16 way.

17 So, the projects are J. Brodie Smith in Gorham,  
18 that we toured today. Then tomorrow we will be looking at  
19 Shelburne, Upper Gorham, Cross Power, Cascade, Sawmill and  
20 Riverside. The numbers to the right there are the FERC  
21 project numbers and the last three digits are the subdocket  
22 numbers, which I highly recommend if you are looking for  
23 anything to do with the relicensing of these projects, make  
24 certain that you use the correct subdocket; it will narrow  
25 down the search tremendously. All of these numbers right

1 here are scoping document so you don't have to scribble them  
2 down right now.

3 All right. So, we'll start with introductions.  
4 My name is Ryan Hansen. I'm with the Federal Energy  
5 Regulatory Commission. I'm a fisheries biologist and I am  
6 the coordinator for the relicensing of these eight projects.  
7 I have two colleagues with me. I'll let them introduce  
8 themselves.

9 MS. NOVAK: I'm Suzanne Novak, I'm doing outdoor  
10 recreation planning. I'm a cultural resources specialist  
11 with FERC. I'll be doing primarily contact with cultural  
12 resources. You'll have a new rec planner shortly. But  
13 until she is on board, I am the recreation planner.

14 MS. COLBERT: I'm Julia Colbert. I'm an  
15 environmental engineer on the project, so I'll be doing  
16 project facilities and operations and project economics.

17 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, very much. So, I'll  
18 start with a couple housekeeping items. We'll move on to a  
19 description of the projects as presented by the licensees  
20 themselves. So, they've got some nice slides for us there.  
21 We'll talk about the purpose of scoping. Go through the  
22 resources that we have preliminarily identified at this  
23 time as important enough for us to take a look at in our  
24 environmental assessment. We'll talk about the schedule.  
25 The types of information that we are requesting at this

1 time. We'll finish up going over FERC's online resources to  
2 help you all submit these comments and letters and then  
3 we'll have some time at the end for additional comments or  
4 questions if need be.

5 All right. So, housekeeping, first thing, we  
6 have a sign-in sheet here. This is a public meeting so it's  
7 important that we know who attended. It's also helpful for  
8 Dan here, so as opposed to this afternoon I'm actually going  
9 to pass this around. So everyone please just sign your name  
10 and affiliation for the record, that would be very helpful.

11 And this is Dan. Dan is a court reporter. He is  
12 going to be transcribing everything that is said this  
13 evening. The transcript of tonight's meeting will be  
14 available on [ferc.gov](http://ferc.gov). I believe it's 7 to 10 days,  
15 somewhere in that range. So, you can go back and read what  
16 all was said if you miss anything. Before you speak, please  
17 provide your name and you affiliation so that Dan is able to  
18 put the right comments with the right folks. Every time you  
19 speak, please do this. I know it can be repetitive but it's  
20 really, really, helpful for Dan. And even if you spoke a  
21 lot this afternoon, it would still be helpful if you  
22 continue to do so so that we can attribute everything  
23 correctly.

24 If you would like to submit written comments,  
25 which I think a lot of folks probably will, I want to point

1 out that the filing deadline is November 23rd. And we  
2 strongly prefer that you file any comments electronically.  
3 If you would like to send us comments by mail you're  
4 certainly welcome to do so. This is the mailing address  
5 here for the Commission, and I will gladly share that with  
6 you if you need it afterwards.

7           So, if you've never dealt with FERC before, we  
8 are a five-member commission that is appointed by the  
9 President. And underneath the Commission there's a large  
10 staff that, we do the regulation of the interstate  
11 transmission of oil, natural gas, and electricity. We also  
12 do the licensing and inspecting of private, municipal and  
13 state hydropower projects which is why we are here this  
14 evening. Myself and my colleagues, we work in the Office of  
15 Energy Projects. It's the office at FERC that handles  
16 hydropower licensing and more to the point, we are in the  
17 Division of Hydropower Licensing which is aptly named. We  
18 also have another division, Hydropower Administration and  
19 Compliance. These are the folks that deal with licensees  
20 after they have a license and make certain that they comply  
21 with the terms of that license. We also have the Division  
22 of Dam Safety Inspections who comes out and visits every  
23 FERC project, at least I believe every five years. They  
24 take a look and make sure everything is looking good. We  
25 have five regional offices around the country. However, the

1 hydropower licensing folks, all of us and everyone who does  
2 this, for the most part, are all centered in Washington D.C.

3

4 Now, we're going to turn it over and learn a bit  
5 about the projects, and we'll start with Central Rivers  
6 Project so I'll bring Andy up.

7 MR. QUA: Thank you, Ryan. Good evening,  
8 everyone. I am Andy Qua, I'm with Kleinschmidt Associates.  
9 We're helping Central Rivers with their relicensing of these  
10 two projects. We are also helping Brookfield / Great Lakes  
11 with the relicensing of the rest of this group. I'll jump  
12 right in here. J. Brodie Smith is located in the city of  
13 Berlin. It's just downstream from the Great Lakes,  
14 Riverside Project. The Gorham Project is in the Town of  
15 Gorham, approximately 2.8 miles upstream of the Shelburne  
16 Project located at river mile 131.2.

17 This shows the FERC project boundaries in red, so  
18 that's all the lands within the project boundary under FERC  
19 jurisdiction and what we will be looking at in terms of  
20 environmental resources there.

21 A photo of the dam and spillway. I'll go over  
22 some of the details of that. The pre-application documents.  
23 Also have much more detail than I'll cover on these slides.  
24 The boundary extends up 2,500 feet downstream from the dam  
25 and upstream about 1,200 feet. Upstream of the dam the

1 boundary follows the contour of the water surface elevation,  
2 1,009.7 feet mean sea level. There is a peninsula park  
3 located up, in and around the project facilities. About ten  
4 acres. It provides a lot of areas to walk and view the  
5 river and is maintained within the project boundary. At  
6 this time there's no proposal to change that boundary. It's  
7 part of the process.

8           As I mentioned, the impoundment is about 1,200  
9 feet long. Surface area of 1009.7 feet. That's about eight  
10 acres impoundment. The project is operated as run-of-  
11 river such that flow into the project equals -- or flow out  
12 of the project equals that flowing into the project,  
13 maintaining a relatively stable impoundment level.

14           The dam itself is 500 feet long. There are  
15 several sections with either steel or wooden flashboards.  
16 There's also a canal that feeds water directly into the  
17 intake that's about 500 feet long, 100 feet wide. The  
18 powerhouse itself contains one 15 megawatt unit; a pretty  
19 good size for this stretch of the river. The hydraulic  
20 capacity is 3,200 CFS and it can actually operate to a lower  
21 level which I think we have in the pre-application document,  
22 if that is of interest. The intake has trash racks to keep  
23 major debris from going down into the units. Spacing on  
24 those racks is three inches. And there is a 1,500 foot  
25 primary transmission line bringing power from the generator



1 to connect to the local grid.

2           The Gorham Project. This one is a little bigger,  
3 a little bit bigger project boundary footprint. The  
4 boundary extends downstream a little over 2,000 feet,  
5 upstream a little over 4,500 feet. The boundary similar to  
6 Smith follows a contour created by that impoundment. That's  
7 723 feet mean sea level. There's also recreation facilities  
8 at this project, including a picnic area, fishing access, a  
9 canoe portage, some informational signs, and kiosks. Again,  
10 like Smith there's no proposal to change the project  
11 boundary as it exists today.

12           A few of these stats: impoundment, 4,700 feet  
13 long, encompasses about 32 acres and again, it's a run-of-  
14 river facility, so water flowing out of the project is equal  
15 to that coming in from upstream. The Gorham Dam is 417 feet  
16 long, also has several sections with varying size, heights  
17 of flashboards and the materials. And it also has a 15  
18 foot wide sluice gate which is used to help control higher  
19 level flows. Also, it has a canal similar to Smith, a  
20 little shorter; 415 feet and 60 feet wide.

21           Gorham powerhouse is four units. Two 400  
22 kilowatt and two 675 kilowatt. Total hydraulic capacity is  
23 about 2,800 CFS. It has a fairly short transmission line to  
24 connect to the grid of about 200 feet. I'll wrap it up with  
25 these two projects. Again, they are run-of-river projects

1 so they are using what inflow comes to them rather than  
2 peaking or ponding like some other facilities do -- keeping  
3 levels and flows fairly stable. There's no current proposal  
4 to change the project boundaries, how they're operated, or  
5 the facilities under routine maintenance repairs that is  
6 just part of owning and operating the sites. And Central  
7 Rivers will continue to maintain the existing level  
8 recreation and the amenities that are there.

9 Contact information. Curt Mooney is the manager  
10 of relicensing process for Central Rivers and the project  
11 manager on Kleinschmidt's end, being assisted by Kayla  
12 Easler.

13 Any questions about these two facilities?

14 Thank you, Ryan.

15 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.

16 We'll now have Randy Dorman up, and he will tell  
17 us about Brookfield's six projects.

18 MR. DORMAN: So as said, I'm Randy Dorman from  
19 Brookfield Renewable, we are essentially the parent company  
20 of Great Lakes Hydro America which is the licensee for these  
21 six projects. I'm also clearly not as smart as my  
22 counterpart, Curt Mooney, who had his consultant do the  
23 presentation portion of the evening.

24 So, I'm going to talk about the six projects we  
25 have in relicensing. The Central Rivers Projects are kind

1 of interlaced in between all of these, and as we go through  
2 this discussion I'm going to work from the top of the river  
3 and work our way down. So, we'll go from Sawmill all the  
4 way to Shelburne here. So, this is just an overview of the  
5 presentation.

6           So, this is a pretty good map to give you a sense  
7 of where things are at and how far they are apart. So,  
8 we've got Sawmill at the top of the river and then a little  
9 less than half a mile below that is our Riverside station  
10 and then a little less than two miles below that we've got  
11 the Cross Project followed by the Cascade and we've also got  
12 a Gorham Project that we are calling the Upper Gorham to  
13 distinguish it from Curt's Gorham. And then our lowermost  
14 project is Shelburne. So, it's at the very end of all of  
15 them.

16           We're going to talk a little bit and we're going  
17 to show maps of the project boundary, so the FERC project  
18 boundary is basically expected to contain any facilities or  
19 lands necessary for project operations. So, that's going to  
20 include your project structures like your dam, your  
21 powerhouse, it's generally going to include your  
22 impoundment. And we'll talk about this a little bit more  
23 later but we don't have any -- unlike the Central Rivers  
24 project, we don't have any formal recreation facilities that  
25 are part of our FERC project. And we're not proposing any

1 changes to our project boundaries.

2           So, we a couple of summary tables of all of our  
3 projects. They're generally fairly small in terms of the  
4 footprint. Our longest reservoir is Sawmill at the very  
5 top, but our largest impoundment is Shelburne at the very  
6 bottom. And so, you can see that the length of the  
7 reservoir goes anywhere from 1,600 feet up to Sawmill, 18,  
8 almost 9,000 feet. And then our impoundments range all the  
9 way from seven acres to 250 for Shelburne and 250 in context  
10 is a pretty small impoundment as a lot of hydropower goes.  
11 And so, the surface elevations of all these impoundments go  
12 from almost 1,100 feet down to about 700 feet so we've got  
13 a, like, 400 foot drop over this 11 mile stretch.

14           And this is another snapshot of the whole  
15 portfolio. The total megawatts of these assets combined is  
16 a little over 25 megawatts, so this is a pretty nice  
17 collection of assets. Individually they might look a little  
18 small but together as a unit, they're pretty nice. And so  
19 in terms of the capacity, they range from a little over 3  
20 megawatts to a little under 8 megawatts. Riverside would be  
21 our largest station at some point, 9 megawatts. And the  
22 Sawmill is our smallest at just a little over 3 megawatts.

23           And one of the things, we've got a variety of  
24 bypass reaches here ranging from Shelburne, which really  
25 doesn't have a significant bypass reach, also Cross doesn't,

1 to Upper Gorham which actually has a mile long stretch of  
2 the river that's bypassed by the project.

3 MR. HANSEN: Ryan Hansen with FERC. Randy, what  
4 is a bypass reach?

5 MR. DORMAN: So, a bypass reach is essentially a  
6 portion of the natural riverbed where water is diverted  
7 around to go from the dam to the powerhouse. And so,  
8 without any kind of minimum flow that bypass reach would be  
9 totally dry, and so we've got a variety of minimum flows for  
10 each of these bypass reaches. Generally, for aquatic  
11 habitat for fish and other organisms, but was that helpful?

12 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.

13 MR. DORMAN: All of the projects are operated as  
14 run-of-river, as Andy said, which basically means inflow  
15 coming into the top of the impoundment should basically  
16 match outflow coming out from below the project. Because  
17 we've got this run-of-river requirement, we generally have  
18 very little fluctuation in our impoundments. Where that  
19 would change would be if our flashboards, which are, kind of  
20 a temporary devices that raises up the impoundment. If our  
21 flashboards drop, which they do under high flows, then you  
22 can get, like, a pretty rapid change in the impoundment  
23 level, or if we're doing maintenance. Those are really the  
24 only two circumstances where we would expect to see  
25 significant change in the impoundment level. Otherwise it

1 should be expected to be pretty stable.

2           So, now we're going to go through each of the six  
3 projects working downstream, so we're going to start with  
4 Sawmill. And this will be where we start our tour tomorrow.  
5 And so, as you can see, Sawmill's got the longest  
6 impoundment. This red line, this is our project boundary.  
7 And you can also see that our project boundaries are drawn  
8 very tightly, so they're generally basically the project  
9 structures, so our dam and powerhouse, and they're basically  
10 the normal high water mark for the impoundments. So,  
11 there's not a lot of project land in any of our projects.

12           So, I don't know, Kyle, is there any kind of  
13 like, geographic feature up by the top of the impoundment  
14 that anyone would recognize?

15           MR. MURPHY: It actually goes upstream more  
16 towards (inaudible).

17           MR. DORMAN: Okay. So, 720 foot long dam, crest  
18 elevation, it's got different sections and some are higher  
19 than others and so the different elevations range from 1,087  
20 to 1,094.7. Powerhouse, we've got four generators there.  
21 Total hydraulic capacity is 2,750 CFS. And we've got an  
22 1,800 foot long transmission line out of this project.

23           The next project down is our Riverside project.  
24 And this has got a little more complicated layout than  
25 Sawmill. And again, you can see the project boundary.

1 It's fairly tight; it's the impoundment, you get a little  
2 jog of land over on the east bank. Powerhouse down at the  
3 bottom, and then we've got a pretty long penstock with the  
4 project boundary kind of jotting out on either side. And  
5 so, it's two steel penstocks, 1,400 feet long, 660 foot  
6 long, timber crib dam. And again, we've got different  
7 elevations for that dam that range from 1,074.2 to 1,076.6.

8

9           Inside the powerhouse we've got two turbines,  
10 total generating capacity of 7.9 megawatts. So, this is,  
11 again, our biggest project in the collection. And we've got  
12 much shorter transmission, just 400 foot long, 22kb  
13 transmission for Riverside.

14           Continuing down, the next one is Cross. And this  
15 is more like Sawmill in terms of the layout. It's a little  
16 more straightforward; we don't have a big length of  
17 penstock so we don't have any bypass reach. You can see the  
18 dam powerhouse and then the impoundment is basically all she  
19 wrote for the project boundary here. So, 556 foot dam.  
20 Crest elevation ranges 918 to almost 922 feet. And we've  
21 got 42 inch flashboards. Inside we've got five generating  
22 units across and, I don't know, oh, I guess just a 20 foot  
23 transmission line here across, so super short.

24           The next one down is Cascade and this has got a  
25 little more interesting layout. Again, you can see the

1 project impoundment drawn pretty tightly. We've got the  
2 Cascade Dam. What makes this a little interesting is the  
3 powerhouse is actually inside a working paper mill. So, it  
4 makes access a little interesting. All of these sites were  
5 developed by James River back in the day. So, this one is  
6 still in a working paper mill. The other thing you can  
7 notice is that the project impoundment, and this is typical  
8 for all of the project, really goes up to the base of Cross  
9 Dam. So, almost all of these project boundaries are on top  
10 of each other.

11           So, 580 foot, 3 foot long concrete Dam, crest  
12 elevation 898. Do you know what the flashboards are on  
13 this, Kyle?

14           MR. MURPHY: I want to say 4 inches but I've got  
15 to check.

16           MR. DORMAN: Yes. That sounds right. Three  
17 turbines there. Total hydraulic capacity of a little less  
18 than 3,000 CFS. And, 430 foot long transmission line here.  
19 Upper Gorham project. And again, this is a little more  
20 complicated, too, where we've got, we do have a fairly, this  
21 is the longest bypass reach in our portfolio here, where we  
22 have got a dam. This stretch right here, this would have  
23 been the river channel that is bypassed as the flows are  
24 going down the power canal through the powerhouse. We had a  
25 little debate earlier today about this island in between the



1 bypass reach and the power canal, and I think we concluded  
2 that the project does not include the island. So, the  
3 project boundary goes up to the shores of the island but the  
4 island itself is not in the project boundary.

5 MR. HANSEN: Ryan Hansen, FERC. I think two of  
6 the prior projects, in the impoundment there were small  
7 islands that were not excluded and I was curious whether it  
8 was simply a matter of scale, why this one is excluded and  
9 those were not?

10 MR. DORMAN: So, one of the things when we were  
11 looking through the drawings, and this is something we have  
12 to do a little more homework in. Some of the older exhibit  
13 G's, those would be the project boundary maps with FERC,  
14 didn't include the bypass reach in the project so if you,  
15 sort of imagine, if you take that mentally, that bypass  
16 reach out, suddenly you see why you wouldn't have the island  
17 in there. So, we've got an open question, is that bypass  
18 reach actually in the project boundary? And if it is when  
19 did it get put in and why? But I think that would, I think  
20 if the history kind of follows like I think it did, I think  
21 that maybe explains why the island was excluded.

22 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.

23 MR. DORMAN: But that's, again, we've got to dig  
24 into that, that's just the hypothesis. So, 775 foot long  
25 dam. A couple of dikes. The power canal is a little over

1 3,000 feet long, 100 feet wide. It's a pretty big power  
2 canal. And so, the powerhouse, four turbines, a total  
3 capacity of a little under 5 megawatts. And again, a  
4 pretty short jog for transmission; we've only got a 50 foot  
5 long transmission line. And finally, Shelburne. So, this  
6 is our lowermost project. And this one, as I said before,  
7 this has actually got our largest impoundment here. And  
8 there are a bunch of islands, and those all look like those  
9 are definitely in the project boundary at the top of the  
10 impoundment. So, 551 foot long concrete dam, crest  
11 elevation 724 feet. We do have, so this would be like, the  
12 powerhouse and the dam. And then we've got a road that  
13 actually runs in front of this, and I've already spaced on  
14 the name of the road.

15 AUDIENCE: North Road.

16 MR. DORMAN: North Road. So, I've used my  
17 lifeline, so that, I guess, is it for the show. So, I'm  
18 done. Shelburne powerhouse, we've got three turbines,  
19 and again, total hydraulic capacity is a little over 3,000  
20 CFS. And this actually has a very long transmission line.  
21 We've got 5.5 miles of transmission associated with this  
22 project.

23 A quick slide, kind of, on Brookfield's community  
24 involvement. Since 2017, we've provided over \$15,000 to  
25 local charitable causes for scholarships, schools,

1 community events, local service organizations. We belong to  
2 the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce and we partner  
3 with New Hampshire Bureau of Lands to create some  
4 recreational and trail opportunities at Gorham Island. We  
5 also do public notices whenever we're going to do some kind  
6 of drawdown for maintenance or construction. And we do  
7 annual public safety campaigns associated with swimming,  
8 boating, snowmobiling. And then, we've got a regional  
9 office up in Berlin and we've got a lot of employees that  
10 are engaged in volunteerism and do in-kind support of  
11 community.

12           So, just a quick summary of the whole portfolio.  
13 All of our projects are operated in run-of-river mode.  
14 We're not proposing any changes to the project boundaries.  
15 We're not proposing any changes to project operations or  
16 project facilities as part of this relicensing. And we have  
17 no formal managed recreation facilities as part of our  
18 project descriptions. That's all, I think.

19           This contact information. So, there's me.  
20 There's Laura Cowan who is the project manager for  
21 Kleinschmidt. And Kayla Easler, I guess to work on all  
22 eight projects as our project coordinator.

23           Well, Ryan. I'll give that back to you, Ryan.

24           MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Randy.

25           So, this is the Why Are We Here slide. So, we're

1 doing scoping as a part of our responsibility under the  
2 National Environmental Policy Act which states that when a  
3 government entity, I guess, does an action that could affect  
4 the environment, we need to take a look at that, do an  
5 environmental assessment. It's part of FERC's regulations  
6 as well. The government action that is being posed at this  
7 point is the relicensing of these eight projects. In case  
8 that wasn't clear.

9           So, what we're doing is we're coming out here to  
10 help, to get you all to help us identify resource issues and  
11 concerns that we need to deal with in our environmental  
12 assessment. We've taken a stab, after reading the PADs, on  
13 what we think are important issues that we're going to need  
14 to look at, but without input from local agencies, on the  
15 federal, state, and local level, Native American tribes,  
16 NGOs and the public, we're going to miss things. So, we  
17 like to, we definitely, you know, come out and try to get as  
18 much help as we can from folks who know the projects and  
19 resources better than anyone.

20           Tonight we'll have a little discussion of some of  
21 the existing environmental conditions. Maybe potential  
22 information needs if that were to come up, and we'll discuss  
23 the resource issues. Speaking of which, the resource issues  
24 that we have currently identified as being something that  
25 we're definitely going to take a look at in our

1 environmental assessment can be found in section 4.2 of our  
2 Scoping Document 1. If you don't have a copy you can get  
3 one on eLibrary. If you don't know how to do that I can  
4 help you figure that out as well. But anyway, we received  
5 that on September 18th, 2019.

6           And as of this time we plan on looking at  
7 aquatic, terrestrial, threatened and endangered species,  
8 recreation, cultural, aesthetic, and developmental issues in  
9 our environmental assessment. So, we're going to go through  
10 the resource areas one-by-one and basically just, you know,  
11 state the resource possible effects that we have foreseen.  
12 And then, you know, area-by-area after we get through this,  
13 I'll ask if there's anything that we've missed, anything you  
14 can help us with, anything that you would like to add. You  
15 know, basically, just any information that will be helpful  
16 for us in this process.

17           So, for aquatic resources we plan tentatively  
18 right now to look at the effects of project operation and  
19 maintenance on water quality in the project areas. And in  
20 particular, temperature and dissolved oxygen are two things  
21 that we'll be taking a close look at. We'll be looking at  
22 the effects of operation and maintenance of the projects on  
23 aquatic habitat. That includes the distribution of that  
24 habitat and the suitability of it in the project-affected  
25 areas for aquatic animals and plants.

1           And we will look at the effects of project  
2 operation and maintenance on fish impingement, entrainment,  
3 and survival in the river. And to define these terms,  
4 again for folks who may not be familiar, impingement of fish  
5 is when the fish were to get stuck upon some sort of rack or  
6 excluding device. That usually leads to harm or death of  
7 the fish oftentimes. Entrainment is when a fish is actually  
8 sucked through a turbine and spat out the other side.  
9 Sometimes in one piece, sometimes not. And so those are all  
10 things that we'll be looking at in our environmental  
11 assessment on the aquatic side.

12           So, with that said, is there anything under the  
13 aquatic umbrella that you think that we might have missed at  
14 this point or that you would like to bring up or that we  
15 can add to it?

16           Very good.

17           For terrestrial resources, we'll be looking at  
18 the effects of operation and maintenance on riparian,  
19 littoral, and wetland habitats as well as the associated  
20 wildlife that use them. And the effects of project  
21 operation and maintenance on nesting Bald Eagles, which we  
22 understand are in the area. So, those are, at this time,  
23 what we've identified as terrestrial resources that we're  
24 going to examine in the environmental assessment.

25           Once again, I'd like to open the floor if there's

1 any other terrestrial issues that anyone in the audience  
2 would like to bring up at this time. Now would be a good  
3 time to do so.

4 All right. Very good.

5 Threatened and endangered species. We will be  
6 looking at the project, the effects of the project operation  
7 and maintenance on the two threatened species, federally  
8 threatened species that are in the project area. Those  
9 being the Canada Lynx and the Northern Long-eared bat; or  
10 have the possibility that they could be in the project  
11 area. We'll probably be adding to this, probably some  
12 closer looks at some state species that we discussed this  
13 afternoon, so I expect that that list will be expanded to  
14 take a look at some of those species that are important here  
15 in the state.

16 So, with that said, do we have any other  
17 information on threatened or endangered species on the  
18 federal or state level that anyone would like to bring up or  
19 talk about right now?

20 All right. Very good. And for those of you  
21 familiar with the Endangered Species Act, we will be  
22 consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service on these  
23 critters so it's, if you're familiar with how that works  
24 it's not just FERC saying we're doing it. We've got the  
25 experts that we are consulting with.

1           For recreation we're going to be looking at the  
2 effects of project operation and maintenance on the existing  
3 recreation facilities in the area. That will include the  
4 adequacy of the existing recreational facilities and the  
5 access to those. And we will also look at the effects of  
6 the operation and maintenance on aesthetic resources, and  
7 public access within shoreline protection areas. We know  
8 that there's a lot of recreation in this area, that's very  
9 important. So, we think this is, you know, going to be an  
10 important part of our environmental assessment.

11           With that said, is there anything that's not -  
12 Yes, sir?

13           MR. JUDGE: Will there be opportunity to -

14           MR. HANSEN: I'm sorry, could you state your  
15 name, please?

16           MR. JUDGE: Stan Judge. I'm a Selectman in  
17 Shelburne.

18           MR. HANSEN: Thank you, sir.

19           MR. JUDGE: Would there be opportunity to comment  
20 on some of these as we go along? Rather than later.

21           MR. HANSEN: Yes, sir.

22           MR. JUDGE: Recreation may or may not be an area  
23 to comment on, but we could input in the future?

24           MR. HANSEN: Yes, sir. We're accepting - this  
25 is a pretty early stage. This is the start of the



1 relicensing process for these projects. We have an upcoming  
2 deadline for the submission of written comments on our  
3 Scoping Document 1 we're discussing this evening as well as  
4 the pre-application documents that the licensees have put  
5 together. And that deadline will be November 23rd. But  
6 with that said, we accept comments anytime during the  
7 proceeding. And as we go along, you know, and get into the  
8 portion where the licensee filed the license application,  
9 there's an awful lot of opportunity for public input. So  
10 anything that doesn't, you know, come up today, there's  
11 certainly plenty of, ample time to make us aware and to get  
12 involved.

13           Anything under the recreation umbrella that  
14 anyone would like to bring up tonight? Obviously, like I've  
15 said, there's plenty of time to do so. If not tonight,  
16 bring it to mind; but anything else that we would like to  
17 talk about at this moment?

18           All right.

19           For cultural resources we'll be looking at the  
20 effects of project operation and maintenance activities on  
21 properties that are included in already or eligible for  
22 inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Are  
23 there any other issues under cultural or perhaps historic  
24 that anyone wants to discuss at this time, or talk about?  
25 Okay. And we will be working with the State Historic

1 Preservation Office on this endeavor as well so they would  
2 be very helpful in making certain we identify resources of  
3 interest.

4 We're taking a look at the effects of project  
5 operation and maintenance on aesthetic resources in the  
6 area. So, this is basically the way things look, the way  
7 things sound, and this can be just the way our transmission  
8 line looks, this can be light pollution, noise pollution,  
9 anything that affects the human or animal habitat in an  
10 aesthetic manner. That's what we're getting at with this,  
11 with this bullet.

12 Are there any aesthetic issues in particular that  
13 anyone has tonight that they would like to bring up or alert  
14 us to?

15 Very good.

16 Developmental resources. FERC is required to  
17 balance the need for environmental mitigation or any sort of  
18 project-induced mitigation with the public interest as well  
19 as how much that would cost. So, any recommended  
20 environmental measures that come in to the FERC, in our  
21 environmental assessment we will have to take a look at not  
22 only what they will do-- the effect of those recommended  
23 measures --but how much they will cost, and make a call  
24 whether including that would be in the interest of the  
25 public.

1           So, it's also important to note that certain  
2 environmental measures could have an effect on project  
3 generation and we're going to look at that as well. In  
4 particular, things like, you know, provision of a higher  
5 minimum flow, along those lines, you know, that could effect  
6 generation and cause that to be lower. But all of these  
7 things will be taken into account for all of the measures  
8 that we analyze in our environmental assessment.

9           Does anybody have anything on the developmental  
10 side at this time you want to talk about?

11           Okay.

12           And then as an update from this morning's  
13 meeting, or this afternoon's meeting, I think we will likely  
14 be including a socioeconomic resources section because, you  
15 know, you've made clear that obviously tourism dollars are  
16 very intact in the tax base that goes along with that and  
17 very important to the area so we will be getting into that,  
18 I think as well, more than likely. It's already something  
19 we've learned that we plan on adding in.

20           So, we're asking for a number of different types  
21 of information both tonight and in writing by November 23rd.  
22 If you look at section 6 of our Scoping Document 1, you'll  
23 see this list as well as probably some others on there as  
24 well, but if you're aware of any significant environmental  
25 issues that we need to talk about in our environmental

1 assessment that haven't come up tonight, then certainly  
2 include those. If you have any information of data, or data  
3 that describes the environmental conditions here currently  
4 or in the past, all of that is really useful; so if you have  
5 any knowledge of that we would love if you could let us  
6 know.

7           If you're aware of any resource plans or future  
8 proposals that could affect the project area or could be  
9 affected by these projects in the relicensing of them, that  
10 would be very useful to know. If there are any  
11 comprehensive plans that could apply to this project area we  
12 would like to know about those. If you look at our Scoping  
13 Document 1, we have a list of FERC-approved comprehensive  
14 plans and these are plans that could be filed by any type of  
15 stakeholder that basically lay out any variety of types of  
16 plans for an area. It could be something environmental  
17 along the lines of habitat restoration. It could be  
18 fisheries restoration. It could be putting in a new trail  
19 network; it could be any number of things. But these things  
20 are sent into the FERC and we take a look and make certain  
21 that they do apply to what we do, and if so, we approve  
22 them. We have a current list of all the approved plans on  
23 our website, state-by-state. We've looked at all the ones  
24 in New Hampshire that we have on file and we have a list of  
25 those that we think are the ones that we're going to need to

1 take a look at during this process.

2           If you see any on that list or you don't see  
3 anything on that list that you think should be there that's  
4 currently approved by FERC, let us know. Or if you have a  
5 plan that FERC has no idea exists, we would like to know  
6 about that as well because we very well may need to take  
7 that into account in our analysis.

8           And then we are also asking for study requests.  
9 If you take a look at section 5 of the licensees' pre-  
10 application documents you will see a list of studies that  
11 they are proposing to do in the next two years, a year to  
12 two years. And take a look at that. If you notice that  
13 there's anything missing, if there's information that you  
14 think is important that needs to be collected for us to be  
15 able to make a decision on the relicensing of these  
16 projects, we ask that you request a study.

17           If you look at Appendix A of our Scoping Document  
18 1 it will tell you exactly what you need to detail in your  
19 request so we understand what you're asking for. It allows  
20 us to evaluate it. So, take a look at what is being  
21 proposed. If you think that initial information is  
22 important please request a study. And I'll explain how we  
23 deal with those here in just a second.

24           So, these are all kind of things that we hope to  
25 see in letters that are sent to us by November 23rd. Some

1 of these things we'll accept after that date, but anything  
2 you can get in by the 23rd is really the most important,  
3 especially study requests. Any study requests after the  
4 23rd, is difficult to get, to get through the process. So  
5 we really want to see those on time so please don't forget  
6 those.

7           So, the upcoming schedule for these relicensing  
8 proceedings. Obviously, today is the scoping meeting. The  
9 next big date are the comments on the Notice of Intent and  
10 the pre-application documents filed by the licensees, which  
11 are available on our eLibrary system. They're all there for  
12 you to take a look at as well as the Scoping Document 1, is  
13 there as well. And any study requests that you have, these  
14 are due November 23rd, so please don't miss this date, it's  
15 very important to keep things rolling.

16           The steps that happen after that. We will be  
17 issuing a Scoping Document 2 by January 7th. Basically that  
18 is the Scoping Document 1, we've already issued but updated  
19 to include all of the new issues that we have learned about  
20 during the scoping process. So, SD1 is, kind of, a first  
21 shot; SD2 is an edited version where we have more  
22 information. And we will be issuing that by January 7th.

23           By that same day the licensees here will need to  
24 file proposed study plans. And what those are is the  
25 studies that they're proposing to do in their PADs, they

1 will detail exactly what those studies will entail. So,  
2 they will list them one-by-one and we'll go through the  
3 methodology, we'll go through what data they're looking to  
4 collect, how they're going to analyze this data. So to get  
5 a real good idea of what and why the information is being  
6 collected.

7           We're going to have a study plan meeting by  
8 February 6th of next year. As I was saying earlier, that  
9 might be face-to-face here. We may come back up for that  
10 depending on how many study requests we get. Or we may do  
11 it by teleconference if there aren't that many, we don't  
12 receive that many and it seems like a simple meeting we may  
13 do it by telephone. But if there are a lot that we need to  
14 move through we'll come back up and we'll all sit down and  
15 talk about those and try to come to some sort of  
16 understanding of everybody's information needs.

17           After that we have a 30 day period for folks to  
18 file comments on the proposed study plan. We can take a  
19 look at what the licensees are proposing, anything that you  
20 want to add or you don't like, or things that -- whatever  
21 your comments may be, we would like those filed by March  
22 6th. We then give the licensees two months to take all of  
23 the comments and everything that we talked about at the  
24 study plan meeting and let them revise their study plan.

25           The revised study plan may be identical to their

1 original study plan. It may include new studies that other  
2 folks have recommended. It may include the same studies but  
3 maybe the methodology's changed based on input from a  
4 resource agency. It could be any number of things. But the  
5 final study plan will need to be filed by May 6th and that  
6 is the final proposal put forth by the licensees that says  
7 "Hey, this is exactly what we're going to collect. This is  
8 exactly how we're going to do it."

9           Then 14 days after that for everybody to take a  
10 look at that and file comments on that revised study plan  
11 and then by June 5th the Director of the Office of Energy  
12 Projects, who is our boss, will make a determination on  
13 exactly which studies need to be performed by the licensees.  
14 Keep in mind that this decision is based on FERC's  
15 information needs. So, any, you know, requests for studies  
16 for information that we don't find useful, we more than  
17 likely will not require. But basically what that document  
18 will say is it will tell you which ones were proposed by the  
19 applicant that we're going to require. Which ones were  
20 maybe they proposed that we don't think are necessary and we  
21 will say don't do these.

22           And we'll go through one-by-one, anything that's  
23 submitted. Any requests that's submitted. We will say,  
24 yes, we think you should do this, or you shouldn't, and  
25 here's why. And then that's the final decision. I think



1 there may be one more conflict resolution step if you don't  
2 agree, but for the most part that's, at that point  
3 everybody knows what needs to be done.

4           If you want to see the schedule for this  
5 relicensing proceeding for all of these projects, take a  
6 look at appendix B of our SD1. It's all laid out in there.  
7 So, it's like three pages long, perhaps. It's a lot of  
8 dates. And please note that that schedule upholds for all  
9 eight of the projects. So, it's the same for all of these  
10 projects all the way down the list.

11           I recommend [ferc.gov](http://ferc.gov), it's very useful if you  
12 want to be involved in this proceeding. We have our eFiling  
13 capability, which is a real easy way to sign up and  
14 anything you want to get to the Commission be it a letter,  
15 be it, you know, a copy of a plan you want to, submit.  
16 Anything. You can do that through eFiling. It's  
17 electronic. It comes straight to the Commission in a day's  
18 time or less. It's the best way to do it and we highly  
19 recommend that anything that you want to send us, that's the  
20 best route to go.

21           We have a Quick Comment feature which will allow  
22 you to send a message, I think it's, I think I said earlier  
23 it's six thousand characters. It's somewhere in that  
24 neighborhood. Directed to FERC, and I think of it like  
25 texting FERC. But it's considered, anything that you send

1 through Quick Comment is considered in the same manner that  
2 any other letter would be. Even though it seems a more  
3 informal way to submit, and it kind of is, that doesn't mean  
4 that we take that submittal any less seriously. So, that  
5 can be useful. Obviously, oftentimes lots of folks from the  
6 public tend to use that because, you know, they don't need  
7 to write something up on letterhead and have it signed, and  
8 so Quick Comment is an easy way to get those comments to us.  
9

10 Our eLibrary is our massive online depository of  
11 documents. Anything about any of these projects that has  
12 been issued by the FERC or has been filed by any  
13 stakeholder since probably the '90s at some point, is  
14 available just clicking on a link and it will pop up there  
15 for you. So, pretty much anything you need to know or would  
16 like to know about these projects is available on [ferc.gov](http://ferc.gov)  
17 free of charge. It's a great resource. So, anything you're  
18 looking for, it's on there somewhere. You might have a hard  
19 time finding it, but it's there.

20 And then I highly recommend that anyone who is  
21 interested go to our eSubscription service and that is a  
22 service where it's easy to sign up. I think you just give  
23 us your email address and then tell us what dockets in  
24 particular you're interested in. You know, it maybe all  
25 eight of these that we've discussed tonight. It maybe two

1 of the eight, you know, whatever. But you subscribe docket-  
2 by-docket and then every single time - something gets  
3 issued by the FERC or submitted to the FERC on that project-  
4 you'll get an email link saying something has come in  
5 with a description of what it is. You will likely tend to  
6 leave most the things that come in right away because  
7 there's so many things that oftentimes come in that aren't  
8 useful to you; but you will also, at the same time, will get  
9 everything that is very useful to you, so I highly recommend  
10 signing up for that so you will not miss anything on the  
11 docket that may be important to you.

12 If you have problems with any of these services,  
13 we have FERC online support at [ferc.gov](http://ferc.gov) as well as this toll  
14 free number; and these are, we have a dedicated staff to  
15 helping folks with our eLibrary, our eFiling, all of this.  
16 They're really good at their job. Anything that you can't  
17 figure out, call them, they'll walk you through it.  
18 They're fantastic. It's a good resource. As I said earlier  
19 today, this whole thing is difficult to use at times. We  
20 use it every single day. So, don't be afraid to reach out  
21 to those folks and ask them. That's what they do all day  
22 long.

23 So with that, if we have any final comments or  
24 questions, now would be a good time to bring those up.

25 All right. So, then I guess the last thing is,

1 tomorrow we're going to be meeting at the uppermost project,  
2 is that Sawmill?

3 AUDIENCE: That's right.

4 MR. HANSEN: At 9 a.m., and we're going to visit  
5 six of Brookfield's projects which should be very  
6 informative. So anyone who's here I certainly invite you to  
7 come and join us. And I guess rain gear; I hear it's going  
8 to rain.

9

10 AUDIENCE: It sounds like it.

11 MR. HANSEN: Yes, sir. Randy, could you provide  
12 the address again?

13 MR. DORMAN: 972 Main Street.

14 MR. HANSEN: 972 Main Street. And that's at 9  
15 a.m. And with that, I hope to see you all tomorrow and  
16 thank you very much. With that I will close the meeting.  
17 Thank you.

18

19 [Whereupon at 7:00 p.m., the public scoping  
20 meeting concluded.]

21

22

23

24

25

## 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:

7 Central Rivers Power, NH LLC

8

9

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11

12

13 Docket No.: P-2287

14 Place: Shelburne, New Hampshire

15 Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2019

16 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original

17 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy

18 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription

19 of the proceedings.

20

21

22 Dan Hawkings

23 Official Reporter

24

25