1	FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
2	SCOPING MEETING
3	R. L. HARRIS HYDROELECTRIC
4	PROJECT NUMBER P-2628-065
5	CAUSE NUMBER PF-18-4
6	WEDOWER MARINE SOUTH
7	9681 HIGHWAY 48
8	LINEVILLE, ALABAMA 36266
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10	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2018
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- 2 MS. SALAZAR: Welcome to the scoping meeting --
- 3 the second scoping meeting, that is, for the R.L. Harris
- 4 Hydroelectric Project. Thank you all again for joining us
- 5 today. My name is Sara Salazar and I'm an environmental
- 6 biologist with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- 7 From this point forward in the representation, I'm going
- 8 abbreviate our agency name as FERC or F-E-R-C or the
- 9 Commission. And also, I'll be abbreviating the project name
- 10 as Harris Project.
- 11 So, I'm going to be the FERC coordinator for the
- 12 re-licensing process of the Harris Project. And before we
- 13 get into the meeting I want to cover our agenda. First,
- 14 we're going to introduce the rest of the FERC staff that is
- 15 here with us today and run through a couple of housekeeping
- 16 items and our meeting protocols.
- 17 Next, I'll briefly summarize the FERC
- 18 jurisdiction and balancing, provide an overview of the FERC
- 19 Integrated Licensing Process and review our schedule for the
- 20 Harris Project, then we're going to review the purpose of
- 21 scoping, and after that, Alabama Power will provide a brief
- 22 overview of the Harris Project facilities and operations and
- 23 then we're going to move onto the resource issues that we've
- 24 identified to date, Alabama Power's preliminary list of
- 25 proposed studies, FERC's information needs and how to

- 1 request studies. And last, we'll review the procedures for
- 2 providing your comments, both written and verbal.
- Angie, before we get started, do you want to do
- 4 the safety housekeeping items. I forgot about that.
- 5 MS. ANDEREGG: So, we always start with a brief,
- 6 just safety overview, just so we know what to do in the
- 7 event of an emergency. I don't think we're going to lave
- 8 inclement weather today, but if something were to crop up,
- 9 we'll all go downstairs away from windows.
- In the event of a fire there are steps on this
- 11 side and this side. Please use the steps. Don't use the
- 12 elevator. And we'll meet out in the parking lot. There are
- 13 fire extinguishers on either side of the room by the exits.
- 14 And in the event somebody needs emergency services, I'm
- 15 going to ask Amanda Fleming, who will dial 9-1-1. Okay.
- 16 MS. SALAZAR: Thank you. Alright, so let's
- 17 introduce the rest of our FERC staff here today. Well,
- 18 actually, I wanted to mention that in addition to being the
- 19 FERC coordinator for re-licensing, I'm going to be covering
- 20 the review and analysis of the terrestrial resource issues,
- 21 so the plants and the wildlife, including the threatened and
- 22 endangered species.
- Okay, so Steven Boller isn't here with us today,
- 24 but he is the chief of our South Branch and that's the group
- 25 under the Division of hydropower licensing. Allan Creamer

- 1 is right over here waving. He's going to be handling our
- 2 aquatic resource issues, including threatened and endangered
- 3 aquatic species.
- 4 (0:04:32.8)\* is not here with us today either,
- 5 but he'll be covering the geology and soils resources,
- 6 engineering and developmental resources. Rachel McNamara
- 7 will be covering recreational, land use, cultural, and
- 8 tribal resources. And Kristen Wallack is our attorney from
- 9 the FERC Office of General Counsel.
- 10 Okay, so a couple more housekeeping items. If
- 11 you haven't already done so and if you'd like to speak
- 12 especially, we encourage you to fill out a registration form
- 13 so that we have a record of everyone who spoke today. Also,
- 14 there are several handouts over on the registration table,
- 15 including Scoping Document One, which includes some
- 16 background information about the Harris Project, explains
- 17 the FERC scoping process, and includes a copy of the
- 18 Project's schedule at the end.
- 19 We also have a schedule that's all on one sheet.
- 20 This is the Integrated Licensing Process flow chart. We'll
- 21 talk about that more later. And we have a couple of
- 22 brochures. These are both available on our website, but we
- 23 encourage you to take the copies on the table today too.
- 24 The smaller one explains our E-library or electronic library
- 25 and how to submit documents to the record for the Harris

- 1 Project. And this larger one is a really reader-friendly
- 2 summary of the hydropower licensing process and how you can
- 3 participate.
- 4 I also wanted to mention that we have a court
- 5 reporter to transcribe our presentation and all the public
- 6 comments. So that we have an accurate record of this
- 7 proceeding, we ask that everyone follow our speaking
- 8 protocols, which I'm trying to model. We ask you to speak
- 9 into the microphone and speak clearly and audibly. You may
- 10 need to spell your name for accurate recording and we just
- 11 need you to state your name and affiliation before you
- 12 speak. If you use any acronyms, please define them and
- 13 speak one at a time. Questions are welcomed, so just let us
- 14 know if you have any.
- 15 Okay, so let's review which hydropower projects
- 16 require a FERC license. Licenses or an exemption from
- 17 licensing are required for all non-federal hydroelectric
- 18 projects, including state, municipal, and private projects
- 19 that are located on navigable waterway, occupy federal
- 20 lands, use surplus water from a federal dam or affects
- 21 interstate commerce by being connected to the interstate's
- 22 electricity grid.
- 23 These photos represent some typical projects
- 24 that come to mind when you think of a hydropower project,
- 25 but the Commission also has jurisdiction over ocean energy

- 1 projects as well. So, per the Federal Power Act, the
- 2 Commission is required to give equal consideration to energy
- 3 conservation and environmental resources as well as
- 4 developmental values, like power generation. Typical
- 5 environmental considerations include fisheries, water
- 6 quality, wildlife, vegetation, recreation, and esthetics.
- 7 Typical developmental considerations include energy
- 8 production, navigation, irrigation, flood control, and
- 9 drinking water.
- 10 The Commission carefully balances these
- 11 competing uses of project resources to ensure that
- 12 hydroelectric projects meet our comprehensive developmental
- 13 standard. This standard, as described in Section 10(a) of
- 14 the Federal Power Act, is that the licensed projects will be
- 15 the best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or
- 16 developing waterways for beneficial public uses.
- 17 Okay, so to set the stage for the meeting, I'm
- 18 going to just provide some very basic information about the
- 19 project. The FERC project number and docket number is
- 20 2628-065. The project has a total (0:09:25.3)\* capacity of
- 21 135 megawatts. It is located on the Tallapoosa River in
- 22 Randolph, Clay, and Cleburne Counties, Alabama, Harris, Sam,
- 23 and Pounds Harris Lake, which is 9,788 acres and there are
- 24 7,392 acres of land adjacent to the lake and the Project
- 25 boundary. The project also includes a little over 15,000

- 1 acres of land within the James D. Martin Skyline Wildlife
- 2 Management Area, which is located about 110 miles north of
- 3 Harris Lake in Jackson County, Alabama. There are also 4.9
- 4 acres of federal land administrated by the Bureau of Land
- 5 Management within the Project boundary.
- 6 Harris Project is under Commission jurisdiction
- 7 and it was originally licensed in 1973. The current license
- 8 expires in 2023 and today we're talking about the FERC
- 9 re-licensing process.
- 10 The Harris Project will be using the
- 11 Commission's Integrated Licensing Process or the ILP. There
- 12 are two main phases in all of the Commission's licensing
- 13 processes, pre-filing and post-filing and filing, in both
- 14 cases, refers to the filing of the license application. As
- 15 you will see in our handouts with the project schedule, the
- 16 ILP does have some quick turnaround times.
- 17 The ILP regulations have established timeframes
- 18 to complete various steps for all stakeholders, including
- 19 the Commission staff. These duties and timeframes are
- 20 intended to keep things moving, so the ILP has been referred
- 21 actually as a "high speed train." Once it leaves the
- 22 station, you need to be on board for each step of the
- 23 process because it continues to move ahead, whether you are
- 24 on board or not.
- 25 The pre-filing phase includes all of the steps

- 1 necessary for the Applicant to develop a license
- 2 application. It is generally lead by the Applicant, but the
- 3 Commission staff are involved during scoping and during
- 4 study plan development.
- 5 Resource agencies and other stakeholders are
- 6 consulted during scoping, during study plan development, the
- 7 review of the study results, and during the development of a
- 8 preliminary licensing proposal, and that's the last step
- 9 before the license application is filed. Pre-filing ends
- 10 when the Applicant files a license application.
- 11 And then for post-filing phase is lead by
- 12 Commission staff, but it also includes public comment
- 13 periods and parties may intervene in the process. The
- 14 license application will describe the existing and proposed
- 15 project operation and provides information the Commission
- 16 staff will use to prepare an Environmental document. Ex
- 17 parte rules apply and that just refers to off-the-record
- 18 communications with the Commission and its staff about the
- 19 merits of a project.
- 20 Generally, after the license application is
- 21 filed any meetings and discussions with the Commission staff
- 22 about the merits of the project must be publicly noticed so
- 23 that all interested stakeholders have the opportunity to
- 24 participate. Post-filing includes the preparation of an
- 25 Environmental document and ends with the issuance of a

- 1 license order and closure of the re-hearing period.
- 2 Additional details and guidance about the ILP is available
- 3 on our website, but we're going to cover a couple more steps
- 4 too.
- 5 So, this is a slide showing the handout I
- 6 mentioned before. It shows both the pre-filing and the
- 7 post-filing phase of the ILP. If you would like to stay
- 8 involved in the licensing process, I strongly encourage you
- 9 to pick up a copy of that handout, if you didn't already.
- 10 Let's take a closer look now at the pre-filing
- 11 steps. So, here we've zoomed in a bit on the pre-filing
- 12 phase of the ILP and the dates for the Harris Project are in
- 13 red font. I know it's a little bit small, so feel free to
- 14 follow along with me. We're looking at the top half again
- 15 of the handout.
- 16 We've completed the first few steps of the
- 17 process, but the comment periods are all still ahead of us.
- 18 We are currently on the step outlined in blue with the tiny
- 19 train. We've toured the portion of the Harris Project
- 20 surrounding Harris Lake yesterday. Some of you were there.
- 21 And now we're conducting the second scoping meeting. I'll
- 22 discuss other pre-filing steps, including the comment
- 23 periods on study plan development in a little bit.
- And now here we've zoomed in on the post-filing
- 25 steps in the process and that's at the bottom half of the

- 1 handout. On this slide, the first and last steps are
- 2 highlighted in orange, which are the license application
- 3 filing date and the Commission issuing a license order.
- 4 Stakeholders will have opportunities to comment after the
- 5 license application is filed and after the Commission issues
- 6 its Environmental Document.
- 7 Okay, I'm jumping back to where we are now in
- 8 the process. In this slide you can see the remaining steps
- 9 for scoping highlighted in orange. We encourage all
- 10 stakeholders to review the Applicant's Pre-Application
- 11 Document or PAD and the Commission's Scoping Document 1 or
- 12 SD1. Also, if you are interested in following the project
- or providing feedback throughout this process we strongly
- 14 encourage you to E-subscribe to receive email notifications
- 15 of each filing on this project docket. The brochures and
- 16 our website have instructions for E-subscribing and E-filing
- 17 comments.
- 18 Okay, so the first opportunity to provide
- 19 comments is going to be in about a month. The schedule
- 20 notes that comments on the PAD and Scoping Document, as well
- 21 as study requests are due by September 29, 2018. However,
- 22 please note that any dates on the schedule that fall on
- 23 weekends or a holiday will be due the next business day.
- 24 So, for example, September 29 is actually a Saturday and
- 25 that means that the comments will be due October 1.

- 1 So the Commission staff will review all of the
- 2 comments on Scoping Document 1 and we'll issue a Scoping
- 3 Document 2 by November 13 of this year, if needed, to
- 4 incorporate your feedback. In addition, the Applicant will
- 5 review all of the comments on the Pre-Application Document
- 6 and any study request and then they'll incorporate that
- 7 feedback in their proposed study plan which is also due to
- 8 be filed on November 13. We'll discuss the information
- 9 needs and study requests a little bit more shortly.
- 10 So, now let's cover the purpose of scoping.
- 11 Scoping is the process of identifying potential impacts of
- 12 projects on the environment and the community. It is driven
- 13 by the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA and FERC
- 14 regulations and other regulatory requirements. The scoping
- 15 process helps us to encourage stakeholder participation,
- 16 including federal, state, local agencies, Indian Tribes, and
- 17 other interested stakeholders.
- 18 It helps us to identify significant
- 19 environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the
- 20 proposed action. It also helps us to determine the depth of
- 21 analysis and significance of issues to be addressed in our
- 22 Environmental Document and that includes eliminating any
- 23 issues or resources that don't require detailed analysis, as
- 24 well as identifying any potential cumulative impacts to the
- 25 project area.

- Scoping also helps us to identify reasonable
- 2 alternatives to the project that we should evaluate. And
- 3 last, it helps us to gather existing information and
- 4 identify information gaps that should be filled during the
- 5 pre-filing steps of the licensing process.
- 6 Okay, so now we're going to view a video from
- 7 Alabama Power about the Project's operations and facilities.
- 8 MS. ANDEREGG: So, what I'd like to do is start
- 9 with a video
- 10 [Video played]
- 11 [In 1906, Alabama Power Company was founded on
- 12 the vision of providing clean and reliable energy and when
- 13 the company first brought electricity to the state in 1914
- 14 it made the lasting commitment to protect Alabama's rivers
- 15 and surrounding lands while harvesting the waters for the
- 16 good of every citizen.
- 17 The dream of harvesting the power of the rivers
- 18 in the state put the service of Alabama has lead to the
- 19 fleet of 14 hydroelectric generating facilities the company
- 20 has today. Of these 14 facilities, 4 are located on the
- 21 Tallapoosa River, R.L. Harris, Martin, Yates, and Thurlow
- 22 Dams. Harris is the most upstream dam located above Martin,
- 23 Yates, and Thurlow.
- 24 It takes years to secure licensing and approvals
- 25 from federal agencies to develop a hydroelectric project.

- 1 In 1968, Alabama Power submitted an application for its
- 2 original license to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- 3 for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project, then called the
- 4 Crooked Creek Project and in 1973 a 50-year license was
- 5 issued. The license will expire in November 2023.
- 6 In 1974, construction got underway at the site
- 7 of Alabama Power's youngest hydro plant located in Randolph
- 8 County, 10 miles southwest of Wedowee and 8 miles southwest
- 9 of Lineville. It's an amazing achievement of technology and
- 10 construction. Amid national challenging economic conditions
- of the 1970s and heavy floods later that decade, the R.L.
- 12 Harris Hydroelectric Project was finally completed and went
- 13 into service in 1983. It was named in honor of R.L. Harris,
- 14 who served 45 years at Alabama Power as a director and Vice
- 15 President of Operations.
- To turn water into power is simple, yet,
- 17 ingenious. A dam is constructed which holds back water
- 18 forming a reservoir and a powerhouse is constructed to house
- 19 the equipment used to convert the energy from the water in
- 20 the reservoir into electricity. Water enters the dams
- 21 through an opening located below the reservoir's surface
- 22 called an "intake" and it moves into the plant through a
- 23 giant pipe called the "penstock." Once in the penstock, the
- 24 water travels through the large pipe to the turbine and the
- 25 pressure of the water causes the blades of turbine to spin.

- 1 Connected to the spinning turbine is a vertical
- 2 shaft which is connected to a generator on the other end.
- 3 Electricity is created by the generator. The electricity
- 4 from the generator is then sent of the plant and onto the
- 5 power grid using transmission lines. The water exits the
- 6 plant through a draft tube and re-enters the river in the
- 7 tailrace.
- 8 At Harris, the concrete gravity dam is
- 9 approximately 1,142 feet in length with a maximum height of
- 10 151 1/2 feet. There is a 310-foot long gated spillway
- 11 section with six spillway gates and two non-overflow gravity
- 12 dam section. Each spillway gate has a capacity of 42,000
- 13 cubic feet per second, which is equivalent to over 18
- 14 million gallons of water per minute. The head works
- 15 contains six intake gates and a penstock. The concrete
- 16 powerhouse is 186 feet long and 150 feet high. Inside are
- 17 two vertical generators rated 67 1/2 megawatts each and two
- 18 vertical Francis turbines rated 95,000 horsepower each.
- 19 A skimmer weir was included as part of the
- 20 original construction to help ease or mitigate impacts to
- 21 water temperature and water quality by allowing Alabama
- 22 Power to change the depth to which the water is pulled into
- 23 the penstock. A higher elevation setting on the skimmer
- 24 weir will allow for water to be taken from a higher
- 25 elevation in the reservoir. The skimmer weir at Harris can

- 1 be adjusted up to 18 vertical feet extending from the plant
- 2 and carrying the electricity that serves homes, businesses,
- 3 and industrial customers are two 150-kilvolt transmission
- 4 lines. They extend a mile and a half northwest of the dam
- 5 to the Crooked Creek Transmission Substation at which point
- 6 the electricity generated at R.L. Harris is placed onto the
- 7 power grid.
- 8 The multipurpose water storage reservoir created
- 9 by the dam is named Lake Harris. It's also known locally as
- 10 Lake Wedowee. Lake Harris covers 9,870 acres in Clay,
- 11 Cleburne, and Randolph Counties and includes 367 miles of
- 12 stunning shoreline. Water levels on the lake fluctuate
- 13 seasonally to provide the many benefits this facility was
- 14 built to support, both upstream and downstream in addition
- 15 to generating renewable hydroelectric power.
- 16 At full pool, the reservoir level is at 793 feet
- 17 above sea level where it stays from May 1 to October 1. In
- 18 the winter months, there is a mandatory draw down of 8 feet,
- 19 which creates additional space of the storage of variable
- 20 and often unpredictable rainfall during the winter and
- 21 spring seasons. So, beginning October 1 the water level is
- 22 gradually lowered to a winter pool elevation of 785 feet
- 23 where it remains until April 1. In April, it's gradually
- 24 raised back to full pool at 793 feet, which allows the wet
- 25 season rainfall to be stored throughout the often dry

- 1 summer months. This seasonal fluctuation of water levels on
- 2 Lake Harris is in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of
- 3 Engineers Water Control Manual for Harris.
- 4 Additional, Alabama Power operates Lake Harris
- 5 for flood control according to the U.S. Army Corps of
- 6 Engineers Water Control Manual or the Alabama Coosa
- 7 Tallapoosa River Basin. During high flow conditions flood
- 8 control procedures are implemented. During drought
- 9 conditions, Alabama Power operates its reservoirs in
- 10 accordance with Alabama Power's Alabama ACT Drought Response
- 11 Operations Plan or ADROP, which outlines coordinated drought
- 12 response efforts among Alabama Power and relevant state and
- 13 federal agencies.
- 14 Harris is a peaking hydroelectric facility and
- 15 generally operates Monday through Friday to provide crucial
- 16 and almost immediate support during times of peak demands,
- 17 such as during hot summer days or cold winter mornings. In
- 18 2005, Alabama Power begin implementing the Harris Green Plan
- 19 that includes specific daily and hourly releases, also
- 20 called pulses from Harris Dam to improve the conditions of
- 21 the Tallapoosa River for downstream aquatic resources.
- The reservoir supports a number of sport
- 23 fisheries. Anglers frequently seek large mouth bass as well
- 24 as Alabama bass. Several bass fishing tournaments take
- 25 place on Lake Harris annually. Other fish commonly found in

- 1 the reservoir include channel catfish like white crappie and
- 2 white bass. Fish found in more river ream environments
- 3 upstream of the reservoir and downstream of Harris dam
- 4 include an Alabama shiner, lipstick daughter, silver stripe
- 5 shiner, and bronze daughter.
- 6 Surrounding the reservoir are 7,392 acres of
- 7 project lands. The current land use plan identifies this
- 8 acreage by category, such as recreational use areas, hunting
- 9 lands, natural undeveloped lands, and prohibited access
- 10 lands. Lake Harris also has a scenic easement of the entire
- 11 shoreline. This easement restricts certain activities, such
- 12 as cutting trees larger than a specific diameter or clearing
- 13 specific types of vegetation within the easement area.
- 14 Lake Harris and surrounding areas provide high
- 15 quality habitats for a variety of upland and semi-aquatic
- 16 wildlife species, such as the grey fox, whitetail deer,
- 17 Virginia possum and grey squirrel. Birds commonly found in
- 18 the area include wild turkey, the morning dove, and the
- 19 downy woodpecker. However, there are no published reports
- 20 of any threatened or endangered species occurring within the
- 21 project lands at Lake Harris.
- 22 As part of 1988 Wildlife Mitigation Plan,
- 23 Alabama Power began management practices associated with
- 24 wildlife enhancement, including management activities for
- 25 wood duck, Canada goose, and osprey. Located predominately

- 1 in the northern Piedmont upland region of Alabama, Lake
- 2 Harris and the surrounding area includes open water,
- 3 deciduous and evergreen forests with only small areas of
- 4 agricultural and residential development.
- 5 Southern Piedmont Dry Oak Forest is predominant
- 6 in the area. Other species commonly found here include
- 7 white oak and northern red oak, hickory species such as
- 8 pignut hickory as well as loblolly pine, red maple, and
- 9 American sweet gum.
- 10 The Harris Project also includes an additional
- 11 15,063 acres of Project lands near Skyline, Alabama. This
- 12 acreage was added to the Harris Project after the lake was
- 13 built as a mitigation measure to benefit wildlife through
- 14 the Harris Wildlife Mitigation Plan. Harris Project lands
- 15 at Skyline are located approximately 110 miles north of Lake
- 16 Harris bordering the Tennessee State Line and Jackson County
- 17 Alabama. This is approximately 18 miles north of Scottsboro
- 18 and approximately 37 miles east of Huntsville, Alabama. The
- 19 Project lands are in the Tennessee River Basin with the
- 20 closest water source being a small stream known as Little
- 21 Coon Creek. These 15,000 acres are leased to the State of
- 22 Alabama and included in the Skyline Wildlife Management
- 23 Area. Skyline provides quality habitats for a variety of
- 24 wildlife species, including bald eagle, fox sparrow,
- 25 redheaded woodpecker and short-eared owl.

- 1 There are no published reports of any threatened
- 2 or endangered species occurring within the Harris Project
- 3 lands at Skyline. However, species that potentially can be
- 4 found in the surrounding areas include Alabama \*(0:29:30.4)\*
- 5 mussel, Cumberland bean, shiny pig toe mussel, and Indiana
- 6 bat and long-eared bat. Unlike the Lake Harris area, the
- 7 majority of the Skyline area is forested and generally
- 8 dominated by white oak, chinkapin oak, post oak, and shumard
- 9 oak with varying amounts of hickory, sugar maple and other
- 10 species.
- 11 Additionally, the Skyline areas features species
- 12 such as American beech, tulip tree, American basswood, and
- 13 northern red oak. At Skyline there are outstanding hunting
- 14 opportunities available through the State of Alabama's
- 15 Wildlife Management Area Hunting programs. Food plots and
- 16 greens fields, which are areas planted and set aside as a
- 17 supplementary food source for wildlife are maintained.
- 18 Additionally, Skyline has a designated hunting area that is
- 19 accessible to individuals with physical disabilities.
- 20 Hunting and fishing are only two of the many recreational
- 21 activities Lake Harris provides. Boating, swimming,
- 22 picnicking, hiking and sightseeing are also enjoyed here.
- 23 Alabama Power maintains eight public boat launch
- 24 sites, a tailrace fishing platform, a hunting area for the
- 25 physically disabled, a marina, and Flat Rock Park where

- 1 visitors can spend the day by the lake. Alabama Power is
- 2 committed to sustaining Lake Harris for the good of all
- 3 Alabamans. Alabama Power has shoreline permitting
- 4 guidelines that include easement and construction standards
- 5 and encourage the use of best management practices that
- 6 minimize the impacts of construction on existing resources.
- 7 In addition, the company's Renew Our Rivers
- 8 Program is the largest river system cleanup project in the
- 9 southeastern United States. During a 2016 Renew Our Rivers
- 10 event on Lake Harris a record number of volunteers collected
- 11 three 30-yard dumpster of trash.
- 12 From the time ground was first broken to build
- 13 Harris Dam through today, Alabama Power as remained
- 14 committed to the protection of the river and surrounding
- 15 lands while harnessing the waters as a source for clean,
- 16 cost efficient, and renewable energy and this commitment
- 17 will continue in the future under the new license. The FERC
- 18 license for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project will
- 19 expire in November of 2023 and Alabama Power has begun
- 20 taking steps to re-license the project.
- 21 In 2016, Alabama Power notified the Federal
- 22 Energy Regulatory Commission that it intends to use the
- 23 Integrated Licensing Process or ILP to re-license the Harris
- 24 Project. ILP offers many opportunities for the public to
- 25 participate and encourages collaboration. Alabama Power

- 1 anticipates working closely with resource agencies and
- 2 interested stakeholders to identify and resolve potential
- 3 issues so that re-licensing at the Harris Project can be
- 4 achieved.
- 5 R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project is an
- 6 important resource for both Alabama Power and the citizens
- 7 of Alabama and it will continue to play a vital role in
- 8 continuing to provide electricity to the state of Alabama.]
- 9 MS. ANDEGREE: Okay, so I'm going to add just a
- 10 few things to the video. So, as the video said and you all
- 11 know, Lake Harris -- the Harris Project is located the
- 12 Tallapoosa River. A large percentage of it, 95 percent of
- 13 it is in Randolph County and the dam is located 10 miles
- 14 southwest of Wedowee. So, the Harris Project is the first
- 15 of four Alabama Power projects on the Tallapoosa River, so
- 16 there's Harris, then about 78 river miles downstream is
- 17 Martin Dam, eight river miles downstream of Martin is Yates
- 18 and then another two miles downstream of Yates is Thurlow
- 19 Dam. There are no other projects above Harris on the river,
- 20 so no core projects. There's no other Alabama Power
- 21 projects, no one else. So, I say that just to point that
- 22 all of the water coming into the lake is not dependent on
- 23 releases from any other project, so it's just dependent on
- 24 good old Mother Nature, rainfall, and inflows.
- 25 So, Harris went into service in 1983 and the

- 1 license that we are operating under currently is the
- 2 original license, so we've never been through a re-licensing
- 3 process on Harris until now.
- So, we talked about the components of the
- 5 project in the video. The video mentioned that there are
- 6 lands that are adjacent or contiguous to the lake that are
- 7 project lands. So, this is the current land use plan map
- 8 that was filed originally, I think, in 1995 and then we
- 9 updated it or filed a new land use plan a little bit later,
- 10 but the different colors on the map represent different like
- 11 designated uses for those lands.
- 12 So, everything in yellow are recreation lands.
- 13 The green is natural undeveloped, so we allow like primitive
- 14 camping and hiking, but those lands are set aside to not be
- 15 developed. So these kind of pink areas are hunting lands
- 16 that are in the project. There is also a hunting area here
- 17 that's close to the dam. That's where the handicap hunting
- 18 is located. And then the dark red are like security, like
- 19 prohibited access lands that are right around the dam.
- 20 And the video mentioned that Harris has a scenic
- 21 easement where activities like along the shoreline are kind
- 22 of restricted. Some things are prohibited. And that scenic
- 23 easement is kind of unique to Harris as far as the Alabama
- 24 Power projects go, but the intent of the scenic easement was
- 25 to maintain the natural esthetic around the lake.

- 1 So, the Skyline Wildlife Management Area that's
- 2 in Jackson County the dark pink -- I'm not sure how well you
- 3 can see it. It's right around here, this like darker pink
- 4 color those are Alabama Power Project lands. So was the
- 5 15,000 acres. The other shad of pink and the teal those are
- 6 also part of the Skyline Wildlife Management Area, but those
- 7 are, I guess, owned and operated by the Department of
- 8 Conservation.
- 9 So, I just wanted to point out that the Alabama
- 10 Power Project -- the Harris Project lands are about a
- 11 quarter of the overall Skyline Wildlife Management Area.
- 12 The whole thing is about 60,000 acres, so it's a really big
- 13 Wildlife Management Area.
- 14 And the video had a good graphic of how the lake
- 15 level changes throughout the year, but as we're going
- 16 through the re-licensing process this is what we'll look at
- 17 the most when we talk about how we operate the project.
- 18 This is operating guide curve. Sometimes we call it the
- 19 rule curve. So from May 1 through October 1 we're at full
- 20 pool. That's 793 feet msl. Then beginning on October 1, we
- 21 gradually lower the lake down to 785, so that's the winter
- 22 pool level. And it stays at 78 until April 1 when we start
- 23 to raise it back up to full pool. We strive to maintain the
- 24 lake at or close to the operating guide curve. If it's ever
- 25 goes above the guide curve, then we're in flood control and

- 1 we're following the Corps of Engineer's flood control
- 2 procedures that are in their water control manual. And if
- 3 you wanted to learn more about operations and you haven't
- 4 been at some of our other meetings that we've had in the
- 5 past year, we have a really good video on our website that
- 6 gives a lot more details about how the project is operated
- 7 and how we manage water and so you know if you ever have
- 8 30, 45 minutes to view it it's out there on our website.
- 9 So, we have several tools that we've set up to
- 10 use during re-licensing. I am the project manager for the
- 11 Harris re-licensing and so any issue-related questions --
- 12 really anything just email me. The only other email that
- 13 you might use is when we're requesting RSVPs for meetings.
- 14 We might ask you to RSVP to Harris
- 15 Relicensing@southerncom.com or to Cecile Jones, who works in
- 16 our group and she's kind of managing the meeting logistics
- 17 as we go through all of these re-licensing meetings, but
- 18 anything issue-related just don't hesitate to contact me.
- 19 We also have a relicensing website. It's
- 20 HarrisRelicensing.com and we're going to use this as kind of
- 21 our document repository. It's going to have our calendar,
- 22 information about upcoming meetings as we're sharing like
- 23 study plans and major documents like our Pre-Application
- 24 Document. It's out there now. The video that you just
- 25 watched we're going to put out there on the website and so

- 1 if you want to watch it again or if you know of somebody
- 2 else who might benefit from watching it, it'll be out there
- 3 on the website.
- And so I'm going to make a quick plug for a
- 5 meeting that we have coming up. So in the Integrated
- 6 Licensing Process schedule that's ins the Scoping Document
- 7 the next official study plan meeting is in mid-December, but
- 8 what Alabama Power will be doing between now and then is
- 9 having a series of meetings with stakeholders so that we can
- 10 discuss our study plans and kind of you know hash those out
- 11 -- hash out the details.
- 12 And the next meeting that we have will be on
- 13 September 20 in Oxford or in the Oxford Civic Center, which
- 14 is in Anniston, I think. We're going to send out a
- 15 Save-the-Date and information about that meeting tomorrow,
- 16 but I just want to go ahead and mention it while I have you
- 17 all here. If you've been in some of our meetings, recently
- 18 we've talked about establishing Harris Action Teams or HAT.
- 19 We had to come up with some kind of cute acronym and that's
- 20 the one that won.
- 21 So, the idea is to kind of divide up the major
- 22 issues that kind of fall into different resource categories
- 23 so that as we go through the re-licensing process you can
- 24 participate on those issues and things that you care about
- 25 the most. For you to participate in every single meeting

- 1 that we have would be probably impossible, so it would be a
- 2 full-time job. So, we've divided things into these HAT
- 3 categories and you can sign up for a HAT or HATs. If you
- 4 haven't already done so, we're going to have signup sheets
- 5 on the table or if you think about it later on and want to
- 6 email me, feel free, but we'll be communicating, in large
- 7 part, through the HATs. And so if we need to have a meeting
- 8 on our -- say, on the recreation study, then we'll set up a
- 9 meeting with that HAT, so that kind of subset of
- 10 stakeholders and so that way there's, hopefully, makes the
- 11 best use of everybody's time. Thanks, Sara, for letting me
- 12 make that plug for that meeting. I'm going to turn it back
- 13 over to you.
- 14 MS. SALAZAR: Thank you, Angie. The next series
- 15 of slides are fairly detailed, so bear with me. We're going
- 16 to review the preliminary list of issues that we plan to
- 17 analyze in our Environmental Document and this list was also
- 18 provided on pages 16 through 19 of the Scoping Document. We
- 19 would like your feedback on this list of issues. If they
- 20 accurately reflect your interest in the Harris Project, then
- 21 no action is needed, unless you would like to confirm that
- 22 for the record. If you have any suggested changes, you'll
- 23 need to tell us either today during the public comment
- 24 period today or file your comments with the Commission.
- 25 And just a heads up, the issues that are marked

- 1 with an asterisk represent the resources that we tentatively
- 2 identified that could be cumulative affected through
- 3 continued operation and maintenance of the project.
- 4 So the lists are organized through resource
- 5 area. And starting with the geology and soils resources and
- 6 so far we've identified the affects of continued project
- 7 operation on soil and shoreline erosion and the
- 8 sedimentation in Harris Lake, as well as project affected
- 9 reaches of the Tallapoosa River downstream from the dam.
- 10 We also identified the affects of potential
- 11 operation guide curve changes on erosion of lake shorelines,
- 12 any increase in sedimentation in Harris Lake caused by such
- 13 changes, and erosion of riverbanks and sedimentation along
- 14 the project affected reaches of the Tallapoosa River
- 15 downstream from the dam.
- And continuing with the water resources, we have
- 17 identified the affects of continued project operation for
- 18 both power generation and flood control on water quantity,
- 19 including its relationship to the lake level, flooding
- 20 downstream from Harris Dam, and droughts or low flow
- 21 periods. We also identified the affects of continued
- 22 project operation on water quality; particularly, Dissolved
- 23 Oxygen or DO and water temperature.
- We also identified the affects of any
- 25 construction activities on water quality in the project

- 1 boundary and the affects of potential operation guide curve
- 2 changes on water quality and nutrient levels in Harris Lake
- 3 that are associated with the tributaries.
- 4 And last on this slide, we identified the
- 5 potential project operation guide curve changes on water
- 6 withdrawals, wastewater assimilation, water quantity, and
- 7 timing of releases for downstream navigation hydropower use;
- 8 for example, the green flow releases and downstream flooding
- 9 potential.
- 10 Okay, so a couple for water resources that we
- 11 identified include the affects of potential operation guide
- 12 curve changes on water usage during drought conditions. So
- we're talking about the Alabama Drought Response Operations
- 14 Plan and the affects of land management practices within the
- 15 project boundary on water quality and the Skyline Wildlife
- 16 Management Area.
- 17 The next resource area I have here is fisheries
- 18 and aquatic resources. So far, we identified the affects of
- 19 low Dissolved Oxygen and/or low water temperatures on
- 20 aquatic resources in Harris Lake and then project affected
- 21 reaches of the Tallapoosa River downstream from the dam.
- 22 And also, the affects of continued project operation,
- 23 including lake level management, and downstream flow
- 24 releases or the Green Plan on near shore aquatic plants,
- 25 other aquatic habitat, fish, and other aquatic organisms in

- 1 Harris Lake, as well as along the Project's affected reaches
- 2 of the Tallapoosa River downstream from the dam.
- 3 And this slide has the rest of our fish and
- 4 aquatic resource issues. First, we have the affects of
- 5 continued project operation on fish movements in the
- 6 Tallapoosa River. Then we have the affects of continued
- 7 project operation on fish entrainments and impingements and
- 8 the affective entrainments and turbine-induced mortality on
- 9 lake fisheries. Then we have the affects of providing
- 10 woody debris and other physical structure as fish habitat in
- 11 Lake Harris on the lake's aquatic community, including game
- 12 fish populations.
- 13 And last, we have the affects of potential
- 14 operation guide curve changes on near shore aquatic habitat,
- 15 fish, and other aquatic organisms in Harris Lake and along
- 16 the Project's affected reaches of the Tallapoosa River
- 17 downstream from the dam.
- 18 Moving on to the terrestrial resources, we
- 19 tentatively identified the following issues, the affects of
- 20 the frequency, timing, amplitude and duration of lake
- 21 fluctuations and flow releases from the Project on riparian,
- 22 wetlands, and lateral vegetation community types. We also
- 23 identified the project operation on maintenance activities,
- 24 such as road and facility maintenance and project-related
- 25 recreation on vegetation and wildlife, including any

- 1 non-native and evasive species.
- 2 And last, we identified the affects of project
- 3 operation and maintenance on avian species, including avian
- 4 electrocution and collision with project transmission
- 5 facilities.
- 6 So next, we have the issues related to
- 7 threatened and endangered species. So, first is the affects
- 8 of current operation, so water level management and the
- 9 Green Plan flow releases and any potential operation guide
- 10 curve changes on federally-listed freshwater mussels, such
- 11 the fine-lined pocketbook and southern pig toe. We also
- 12 identified the affects of land management activities within
- 13 the project boundary of the Skyline Wildlife Management Area
- 14 on federally-listed threatened and endangered aquatic
- 15 species, including the pale zone shiner, spot finch
- 16 (0:49:17.1)\* Alabama lamp mussel, Cumberland beam,
- 17 fine-rayed pig toe, pale Lilliput, rabbit's foot, shiny pig
- 18 toe, stuff box mussel, and the (0:49:32.8)\* pearly mussel.
- 19 And last, we identified the affects of continued
- 20 project operation, including potential operation guide
- 21 changes and maintenance at Harris Lake and management
- 22 activities at Skyline Wildlife Management Area on
- 23 federally-listed threatened and endangered wildlife and
- 24 plant species, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, grey
- 25 bat, Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat, priceless

- 1 potato bean, little (0:50:06:4)\* and white fringeless
- 2 orchid.
- 3 Okay, so these are the recreation and land use
- 4 issues that we identified, including the adequacy of
- 5 existing recreation facilities and public access to meet
- 6 current and future recreation demands, the affects of
- 7 project operation, including lake fluctuation and potential
- 8 operation guide curve changes on access to existing
- 9 recreation facilities. Also, we identified the adequacy of
- 10 existing shoreline management policies and shoreline
- 11 compliance program to control non-project use of project
- 12 lands; for example, permitting piers, boat docks, and other
- 13 facilities. And last, we identified the adequacy of the
- 14 exiting shoreline management policies and shoreline
- 15 compliance program to protect environmental and cultural
- 16 resources of the Project.
- 17 And this is the last slide on these. For
- 18 cultural resources, we identified the affects of the project
- 19 operation and maintenance on historic and archeological
- 20 resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National
- 21 Register of Historic Places and the affects of the project
- 22 operation and maintenance on properties of traditional
- 23 religious and cultural importance to Indian Tribes.
- 24 And so last, we have developmental resources and
- 25 we tentatively identified the affects of potential

- 1 operational changes on energy and capacity benefits of the
- 2 project, and the affects of protection, mitigation, and
- 3 enhancement measures on the cost of project power.
- 4 Okay, so Alabama Power's preliminary list of
- 5 proposed studies includes studies related to all of the
- 6 resources on this slide here, so geology and soils, water
- 7 quantity and quality, fisheries, federally-listed threatened
- 8 and endangered species, recreation, land use, cultural
- 9 resources and developmental resources. I'm not going to
- 10 read what all of the details are about the studies, but you
- 11 can see a summary of those on pages 20 through 22 of the
- 12 Scoping Document. Also, Alabama Power provides a lot more
- 13 detail on the proposed studies in Appendix T of the Harris
- 14 Pre-application Document or PAD, which was filed to the
- 15 Commission's E-library on June 1 of this year.
- Okay, so now we're going to move onto the
- 17 Commission's information needs and how you can request
- 18 studies. We are asking for your help in collecting any
- 19 information that will assist us in conducting an accurate
- 20 and thorough analysis of the Project's specific and
- 21 cumulative affects associated with re-licensing the Harris
- 22 Project. The types of information requested are listed on
- 23 pages 22 through 23 of the Scoping Document and they
- 24 include, but are not limited to comments on the also on this
- 25 slide. We're looking for your comments on the

- 1 pre-application document and/or the Scoping Document 1,
- 2 significant environmental issues that should be addressed in
- 3 the Commission's Environmental Document, study requests
- 4 using the seven study criteria, which we'll talk about in a
- 5 minute, information or data describing past and present
- 6 conditions of the project area and comprehensive plans,
- 7 resource plans, future proposal in the project area.
- 8 We request that federal, state, and local
- 9 resource agencies, Indian Tribes, non-government
- 10 organizations, and the public send this type of information
- 11 to the Commission using the instructions on page 23 of the
- 12 Scoping Document. And I just want to thank you all in
- 13 advance for your comments and for assisting us with this
- information-gathering phase of the process.
- 15 So, so this slide covers the comment periods and
- 16 pre-filing. The next opportunity is to comment during the
- 17 pre-filing phase of the licensing process are highlighted in
- 18 orange on this slide. First, stakeholders can file with the
- 19 Commission any comments on the Applicant's Pre-Application
- 20 Document, the Commission's Scoping Document, and any study
- 21 requests. And then stakeholders can provide comments on the
- 22 Applicant's proposed studies during the study plan meeting
- 23 and that includes the meetings that are going to be before
- 24 the ILP meeting.
- 25 And then stakeholders may file comments on the

- 1 Applicant's revised study plan. And I'm going to cover the
- 2 dates more thoroughly in a minute, but I wanted to point out
- 3 that the revised study plan is going to be due next March,
- 4 March 13 and the comments will be due 15 days later on March
- 5 28, so that's an example of one of the quicker turnaround
- 6 times that you need to keep your eye on if you want to file
- 7 comments on that document.
- 8 Okay, so this is a slide highlight the study
- 9 plan development steps of the process. And there's a lot of
- 10 overlap because it's still pre-filing, but I'm going to
- 11 point out more of the dates this time. First, stakeholders
- 12 will file the study request with the Commission by October 1
- of this year. Next, we ask that everyone please review the
- 14 proposed study plan, which will be filed by November 13 of
- 15 this year. And then on or about December 13, the Applicant
- 16 will hold the ILP study plan meeting to discuss the proposed
- 17 study plan and stakeholders may comment on the proposed
- 18 studies during that study plan meeting.
- 19 Then by February 11 of next year, you'll need to
- 20 file any comments on the proposed study plan with the
- 21 Commission. And then the Applicant will file a revised
- 22 study plan by March 13 and then you'll have an opportunity
- 23 to comment on that revised play by March 28 of next year.
- 24 Following that, on April 12 of next year, the
- 25 Commission will issue a study plan determination and that

- 1 will identify the approved studies, including any Commission
- 2 modifications or additional studies. Mandatory conditioning
- 3 agencies, like the 401 certifying agencies, can file a
- 4 Notice of Study Disputes by May 2 of next year. And then the
- 5 Commission will resolve any study disputes through its
- 6 dispute resolution process, which is outlined on the flow
- 7 charts and in Appendix B of the Scoping Document.
- 8 And the first study season will begin after the
- 9 Commission's study plan determination and there's any
- 10 disputed studies will begin after the Commission's
- 11 determination on any study disputes.
- 12 So, here we have our study criteria. We ask
- 13 that everyone to use these criteria for file study requests,
- 14 if any. They're summarized on this slide, as well as in
- 15 your Scoping Document in Appendix A. And I'm not going to
- 16 read through all of them, but they're very important. So if
- 17 you plan to file a study request, please follow these study
- 18 criteria.
- 19 If you have any questions about it, you can
- 20 contact me, but we also have a guide on a website. It's
- 21 called "Guide to Understanding and Applying the Integrated
- 22 Licensing Process Study Criteria.
- So, if you would like to provide written
- 24 comments on the Scoping Document, the Applicant's
- 25 Pre-Application Document, or any study requests you can

- 1 either give them to the court reporter today or mail them to
- 2 the Commission or file them electronically and the
- 3 Commission strongly encourages electronic filing.
- 4 Again, you can find the filing instructions on
- 5 page 23 of the Scoping Document, as well as on the FERC
- 6 brochures. Please remember to use the Harris Project
- 7 number, which is also the docket number on all of the Harris
- 8 Project filings. And again, that's P-2628-065. And as
- 9 noted in the presentation, the deadline for filing these
- 10 comments and study requests falls on a Saturday, so the
- 11 deadline will actually be October 1.
- 12 So, I know we've covered a lot of detailed,
- 13 process information today. If you have any questions about
- 14 the process, feel free to contact me. My email and phone
- 15 number are in the Scoping Document or you can contact my
- 16 supervisor, Steven Boller and you can ask your questions any
- 17 time.
- 18 Okay, so just as a friendly reminder before we
- 19 start the comments period -- I don't think anyone's signed
- 20 up as of yet, but in case anyone decides they would like to
- 21 provide comments today, I'll just remind you to please use
- 22 the microphone, which we're going to be passing around and
- 23 speak clearly and audibly. Remember to state your name and
- 24 the name of your organization you represent, if you
- 25 represent an organization. The Court Reporter may ask you

- 1 to spell your name for accurate recording and define any
- 2 acronyms that you use, speak one at a time, and that's it.
- 3 So, we can begin the comment period now, if
- 4 anyone would like to provide public comments.
- 5 MR. CREAMER: Allan Creamer with FERC. I would
- 6 really encourage you if you have any thoughts on the issues
- 7 that we've laid out. I know we ran through these things
- 8 fairly quickly, but I would really encourage you to provide
- 9 any comments that you do have if you want to talk in this
- 10 forum. It certainly helps us identify where we need to go
- 11 and it helps Alabama Power kind of identify where they need
- 12 to start thinking with regards to potential studies, so
- don't be shy.
- 14 MS. STOKES: I'll start. I'm Sarah Stokes with
- 15 the Southern Environmental Law Center and I'm glad to see
- 16 that you're going to be sitting --
- 17 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name please.
- 18 MS. STOKES: Sure. Stokes, S-t-o-k-e-s. Got
- 19 it? Alright.
- Thank you for setting the different temperature
- 21 regimes because that is something our clients are very much
- 22 interested in; especially, because the cold water is not
- 23 necessarily conducive to the river. The Green Plan right
- 24 now doesn't seem to be adequately providing for what the
- 25 fish need in the river, so specifically study different

- 1 temperature regimes for the fisheries in the river. Thank
- 2 you.
- 3 MR. CREAMER: Thank you. Anybody else? We did
- 4 that good of a job, huh.
- 5 MR. SMITH: My name is Lonny Smith. I'd just
- 6 like to make a follow-up question there for -- you made a
- 7 statement about the water is not either cold enough or hot
- 8 enough to provide what the fish need. Could you expand on
- 9 that please? Give us some details of what you're talking
- 10 about and why.
- 11 MS. STOKES: I am not a scientist. I've only
- 12 read the science, but it doesn't seem -- the cold water is
- 13 affecting our native species and so we really need to have
- 14 more of a -- more of what the river used to have, which was
- 15 a warmer water. But we have scientists here who have
- 16 written theses on it.
- 17 MS. GOAR: Laconya Goar, L-a-c-o-n-y-a, G-o-a-r,
- 18 Alabama Department of Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries.
- 19 We have some scientific studies that show that our fish
- 20 populations below the dam are not doing as maybe they were
- 21 pre-dam. We all know that there are cold water releases
- 22 from this dam and we all sort of understand that fish
- 23 communities at different parts of their life cycle require
- 24 different temperatures to survive, thrive, and recruit into
- 25 the fishery and so, one of our concerns or several of our

- 1 concerns for recreational fisheries is that we're making
- 2 sure that the water that is released from the dam is
- 3 adequate for the downstream fisheries. Does that sort of
- 4 answer your question?
- 5 MR. SMITH: Yes.
- 6 MS. GOAR: Okay. And so that's a part of one of
- 7 the studies that Alabama Power will be conducting is to just
- 8 to check on that and make sure that if there's any
- 9 mitigation that we can do through the Green Plan that we're
- 10 putting it on the table and we're talking about that and
- 11 we're exploring all options available to us.
- 12 MR. SMITH: Give the details of what kind of
- 13 study it is that you're talking about and what the facts are
- 14 in there. I'm kind of tired of hearing from people on TV
- 15 and other places -- certain allegations without any details
- 16 of -- to substantiate what you're talking about.
- 17 MS. SALAZAR: Can I jump in really quick here?
- 18 So, we are in the information gathering process of our
- 19 process, so there may be some unknowns like that. I'm not
- 20 sure you know what all the studies that have been done to
- 21 this point. It's not on our record yet, so to the extent we
- 22 have details and we develop details as we move through our
- 23 study plan development and the actual studies we need to get
- 24 all of that data onto the record so that we can analyze it
- 25 and know as much as possible when we write the environmental

- 1 analysis, so we want to work with the facts.
- 2 MS. GOAR: And I can piggyback off of that that
- 3 there's been several -- there's a host of scientific data
- 4 collected on the Tallapoosa River that the power company and
- 5 FERC will analyze to look at what has happened in the past
- 6 and what's happening now. The power company is also very
- 7 much involved in making sure that we have adequate studies
- 8 to assess that, so we may can't speak to specific facts
- 9 today, but that's a part of this process and part of us
- 10 working with the power company and with FERC to figure these
- 11 questions out.
- 12 MR. CREAMER: Thank you. Good discussion. Any
- 13 other comments? Okay, seeing none.
- 14 MS. SALAZAR: So, does anyone have any other
- 15 questions that we could try to answer before we adjourn?
- 16 MR. THOMAS: My name is David Thomas,
- 17 T-h-o-m-a-s. And I'm not sure this is the right time to
- 18 ask, but has there been any studies -- I see that the
- 19 targets for the lake level are staying the same. Is there
- 20 any studies being done if we change that the lake level only
- 21 goes down 4 feet instead of 8 feet or vice versus?
- 22 MS. SALAZAR: So, we're still at the very
- 23 beginning of the process and we have the baseline. That's
- 24 what did today. And right now is the point where we're
- 25 starting to look at other alternatives. So, it's a great

- 1 time to get involved in the process. And if you're
- 2 interested in a different type of operation, then you need
- 3 to attend the meetings or file comments with FERC or both,
- 4 actually, so that we can look at those alternatives.
- 5 MR. THOMAS: Okay. So, I made a verbal comment
- 6 that I would like to change the level 4 foot. Now, how do I
- 7 go about putting that into a written comment also or over
- 8 the Internet?
- 9 MS. SALAZAR: Well, your comment just now will
- 10 be on the transcript and that will be on our record, but I
- 11 still encourage you to continue to participate in this
- 12 process so that you can see that alternative through.
- MS. ANDEREGG: Angie Anderegg. So, one of the
- 14 studies that we've identified already is to evaluate a
- 15 change in the winter pool. So, one of the draft study plans
- 16 that's in the Pre-Application Document is -- oh, my gosh,
- 17 it's like the longest name in the world. It's some kind of
- 18 broker or feasibility analysis and so we're already
- 19 proposing to evaluate raising that winter pool from 1 to 4
- 20 feet. So, that will be a part -- that will be one of the
- 21 big studies that we're going to be doing during the
- 22 re-licensing process to see if that's feasible.
- MR. CREAMER: Thank you.
- 24 MS. GORDON: Lisa Gordon, EPA. I just have a
- 25 question for Sarah or FERC. The document refers quite a bit

- 1 to downstream when the studies are being planned, but
- 2 downstream doesn't seem to be defined. We know from the
- 3 original application that the impacts go very, very far
- 4 downstream. Can you clarify it for us so that we c an make
- 5 the appropriate comments down the road what FERC means by
- 6 "downstream" for the studies in this plan?
- 7 MS. SALAZAR: I might have to have Allan jump
- 8 in, but I think we're still sort of casting a broad net or
- 9 we have a broad paintbrush at this point, so we need your
- 10 help to define that extent. And that's all part of the
- 11 information gathering process. During the study plan
- 12 development, you can present why you think a certain extent
- 13 makes sense for that sort of study.
- 14 MR. CREAMER: This is Allan Creamer with the
- 15 FERC. Generally, what we do is we look at what's going on
- 16 within project boundary and then we look at project-affected
- 17 reaches of the river. That would be to the extent that we
- 18 would look at project affects. At this point, we're still
- 19 -- you know like Sarah said, we're still early and so we're
- 20 not exactly sure yet to what extent we are going to be
- 21 looking downstream. So, I think that's going to be part of
- 22 the whole study plan development and the scope of what the
- 23 studies are.
- 24 MS. GOAR: Laconya Goar, Alabama Division of
- 25 Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries again. To answer or to

- 1 provide our assessment of that, Lisa, from our perspective,
- 2 we would think that the project affected parts would be down
- 3 almost to Horseshoe Bend and we'd like to see that included,
- 4 from our perspective, of resources that are impacted.
- 5 MR. CREAMER: Thank you. Any further comments?
- 6 MR. SMITH: Talking about the downstream --
- 7 Lonnie Smith. Downstream affects was that not studied --
- 8 has that not been studied for the last, what, 50 years? I
- 9 mean should we not know what those affects are at this
- 10 point? I mean like you're talking about the fish -- the
- 11 local fish, I guess, not getting what they need. Maybe we
- 12 can introduce some new fish like trout.
- 13 MR. CREAMER: It's Allan Creamer with the FERC
- 14 again. To kind of get at that question, they have been
- 15 looking at the Green Plan flows for the last 10, 15 years.
- 16 What we're talking about here is, is going forward any
- 17 potential studies and how far down the river that we're
- 18 going to look with those studies.
- 19 I would imagine a lot of this is going to
- 20 piggyback off of what has been done already, but we're early
- 21 in the process. And as we go through the study plan
- 22 development, these types of questions will hopefully be
- answered.
- 24 Any other comments? We had some good dialogue
- 25 here today.

- 1 MS. MCNAMARA: Sarah and Allan both know this
- 2 too. This is Rachel McNamara with FERC. Our study process
- 3 and the ILP anticipates having two years worth of study to
- 4 gather all of the information necessary to file the license
- 5 application. And so while we're talking about study
- 6 development there's a lot of work we recognize that's
- 7 already been done and we are happy to use that information,
- 8 if it's available.
- 9 This two-year study process helps fill in the
- 10 gaps, so if there's information we haven't collected, if
- 11 there's not sufficient information for us to make our
- 12 decisions that's what we're trying to collect during this
- 13 two-year period. And so that's one of the reasons why we're
- 14 asking for anybody who does have existing information to
- 15 file that on the record with us. We know some of it exists.
- 16 We needed it to be provided to us so that we can do our
- 17 analysis and so that we can also determine what additional
- 18 information would need to be collected.
- 19 So, we don't want to just do study for study
- 20 sake. That's not our purpose here.
- 21 MR. CREAMER: Thank you, Rachel. Any other
- 22 comments? Going once, going twice, okay. Thank you.
- 23 MS. SALAZAR: So, I just want to thank everyone
- 24 again for attending the meeting and for your comments today
- 25 and for any comments that you might file to our record,

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1
     either this first opportunity or maybe later down the road
 2
     in the process. We look forward to reviewing all of your
 3
     comments and the data that you submit. And so we look
     forward to working with you for the rest of the licensing
     process and I guess I'll just adjourn the meeting. Thank
 5
 6
     you all.
7
                  (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned)
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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: R.L. Harris Hydroelectric
7	Project
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	Docket No.: P-2628-065
15	Place: LINEVILLE, ALABAMA 36266
16	Date: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2018
17	Date:
18	were held as herein appears, and that this is the original
19	transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy
20	Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription
21	of the proceedings.
22	
23	
24	Fedor Razzuri
25	Official Reporter

## ERRATA SHEET

DEPOSITION OF: Scoping Meeting for R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2628-065)

DATE OF DEPOSITION: August 29, 2018 PAGE 1 of 1 pages

Page	Line	Correction
1	6	replace "WEDOWER" with "WEDOWEE"
3	7	replace "lave" with "have"
3	23	replace "Boller" with "Bowler"
4	4	replace "(0:04:32.8)*" with "Monte Terhaar"
4	8	replace "Wallack" with "Wallach"
5	21	replace "interstate's" with "interstate"
6	6	replace "esthetics" with "aesthetics"
6	20	replace "(0:09:25.3)*" with "installed"
6	22	replace "Sam," with "Dam"
6	23	replace "and Pounds" with "impounds"
7	19	replace "duties" with "due dates"
15	1	replace "feet extending" with "feet. Extending"
17	2	replace "river ream" with "riverine"
17	4	replace "daughter" with "darter"
17	5	replace "daughter" with "darter"
19	4	replace "*(0:29:30.4)*" with "lamp-"
20	13	replace "as" with "has"
21	20	replace "core" with "Corps"
22	25	replace "esthetic" with "aesthetic"
23	5	replace "shad" with "shade"
25	6	replace "ins" with "in"
27	2	replace "cumulative" with "cumulatively"
27	6	replace "affects" with "effects"
27	10	replace "affects" with "effects"
27	17	replace "affects" with "effects"
27	21	replace "affects" with "effects"
27	24	replace "affects" with "effects"
28	1	replace "affects" with "effects"
28	10	insert "more" after "couple"
28	11	replace "affects" with "effects"
28	14	replace "affects" with "effects"
28	18	replace "affects" with "effects"
28	22	replace "affects" with "effects"
29	4	replace "affects" with "effects"
29	6	replace "affects" with "effects"
29	8	replace "affective entrainments" with "effect of entrainment"
29	9	replace "affects" with "effects"
29	13	replace "affects" with "effects"

29	19	replace "affects" with "effects"
29	22	replace "lateral" with "littoral"
29	23	insert "effects of" after "identified the"
29	23	replace "on" with "and"
30	1	replace "evasive" with "invasive"
30	2	replace "affects" with "effects"
30	12	replace "affects" with "effects"
30	15	replace "spot finch" with "spotfin"
30	16	replace "(0:49:17.1)*" with "chub,"
30	16	replace "beam" with "bean"
30	18	replace "stuff box" with "snuffbox"
30	18	replace "(0:49:32.8)*" with "slabside"
30	19	replace "affects" with "effects"
30	25	replace "priceless" with Price's"
31	1	replace "(0:50:06:4)*" with "amphianthus,"
31	6	replace "affects" with "effects"
31	14	replace "exiting" with "existing"
31	18	replace "affects" with "effects"
31	21	replace "affects" with "effects"
31	25	replace "affects" with "effects"
32	2	replace "affects" with "effects"
32	16	replace "onto" with "on to"
32	21	replace "affects" with "effects"
33	16	replace "opportunity is" with "opportunities"
34	23	replace "play" with "plan"
35	3	replace "agencies" with "agency"
35	9	insert "if" after "and"
35	10	insert ", they" after "studies"
35	13	delete "to"
35	13	replace "file" with "filing"
36	16	replace "Boller" with "Bowler"
36	19	replace "comments" with "comment"
39	20	replace "sure you know" with "sure, you know,"
39	21	insert "are" after "point"
39	23	insert "—" after "studies"
40	24	replace "did" with "discussed"
41	18	replace "broker" with "operating curve"
42	4	replace "c an" with "can"
44	16	replace "needed" with "need"

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