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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - - x
IN THE MATTER OF: : Project Number
SANTÉE COOPER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT : P-199-205
- - - - - x

Clarendon County Hospital Center
50 Hospital Street
Manning, SC 29102

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping
meeting, pursuant to notice at 7:40 p.m.

MODERATOR: RON McKITRICK

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:40 p.m.)

MR. MC KITRICK: Good evening, everyone. My name's Ron McKitrick. I'm the project manager for the Santee Cooper project. I'm with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and I'm located in Atlanta, Georgia. I welcome you all here tonight for the second of three scoping meetings that we're going to have. We were in Moncks Corner last night, here tonight. Santee Cooper has been very good. We've had two days of site visits and we've probably seen 1 percent of the project, but we are exhausted and have seen a lot, so we have some idea of what the project's about. We look forward to tonight and the opportunity for you to come to tell us what your concerns or what your issues or what you think is important about this project.

What I'd like to do is there'll be three people talking to you tonight: myself, Pete Foote is our environmental consultant and John Delude with the South Carolina Public Service Authority. We'll be talking to you just a little bit about what we're doing, a little bit about the project, and then what tonight's about is really listening to what your concerns are.

(Slides.)

MR. MC KITRICK: Hopefully, as the sun goes down,

1 the light will go up on this. That's been what's happening
2 so far, so maybe in another five minutes you'll be able to
3 see this. If you happened to get a copy of this you can
4 follow along if it's of interest.

5 But I would like to briefly cover the agenda.
6 You've already registered; if you have not registered, we
7 appreciate you doing that so we can keep track of everyone
8 that is here. If you want to speak, if you want to be an
9 observer, if you want to be on our mailing list or not.
10 We'll talk a little bit about the purpose of why we're here
11 tonight, the scoping process, why FERC's involved with this.
12 We'll talk a little bit about the schedule of what we will
13 be doing so you can participate when things will be coming
14 out for you to look at, what types of information is really
15 helpful to us in preparing the document that we'll be
16 preparing, the environmental assessment. John will be
17 talking a little bit about the project, the project
18 features, some of the environmental measures that are being
19 proposed by Santee Cooper.

20 Then we'll spend a little bit of time going
21 through the scoping document that everyone hopefully got or
22 we have additional copies up here. That goes through some
23 of the resources that we've identified where there may be
24 issues that we need to cover. We will then listen -- talk a
25 little bit about cumulative impacts, as well as then -- the

1 meat of the meeting is to listen to the people that are here
2 tonight, realizing that you have an opportunity to give oral
3 comments as well as you can submit written comments within a
4 month.

5 The last page that we'll be giving you is the
6 address of, of course, the project that you would write to
7 the Commission if you have written comments and you can also
8 file those electronically with the Commission.

9 I'd like to spend just a couple minutes -- I have
10 some people with me and I'd like them to introduce
11 themselves so you can see them and hear a voice. Again, my
12 name's Ron McKitrick. I'll start over here.

13 MR. FOOTE: I'm Peter Foote with Lewis Berger, a
14 contractor to FERC. I'm the deputy project manager.

15 MR. ANDERSON: I'm Dave Anderson. I'm a FERC
16 contractor dealing with recreation issues.

17 MR. KULIK: I'm Brandon Kulik, (inaudible).

18 MR. CREAMER: I'm Allan Creamer (inaudible).

19 MR. HATHAWAY: I'm Darryl Hathaway with the
20 Office of General Counsel (inaudible).

21 MR. MC KITRICK: We have a couple more folks who
22 haven't shown up, so that's fine.

23 Scoping. What is scoping? What we're trying to
24 do is really identify the issues that we need to prepare for
25 what we call an environmental assessment. And the

1 environmental assessment is done -- or federal agencies do
2 that because of a federal law called the National
3 Environmental Policy Act, that was passed back in '69 or '70
4 that says the action agency has to write an environmental
5 document that explains the issues of your actions, what the
6 impacts may be and tell the decisionmakers, as well as the
7 public, if there is an action taken what might happen as a
8 result of that.

9 And that is done through a certain process. One
10 part of that is talking to the public, the resource
11 agencies, non-governmental organizations, tribes, to see
12 what their concerns are so that when we put our
13 environmental assessment together, we will have gone,
14 listened, and we will then assess those things that you have
15 identified to us.

16 So that is really the purpose here tonight is to
17 listen to you, see if we have covered the issues in the NEPA
18 document -- excuse me, in the scoping document that we have
19 handed out, see if we need to add anything or take anything
20 out. So you can help us in that regard. The scoping
21 document, again, was issued about April 20th. Hopefully you
22 have a copy of that. If you don't, please get a copy before
23 you leave.

24 Briefly, on the schedule, as I mentioned, the
25 scoping process is occurring May through June. There'll be

1 a notice that we call ready for environmental analysis. We
2 plan to issue that in September, if we keep on schedule.
3 What that basically says is that we have all the information
4 and we need FERC staff and the contracting staff to move
5 ahead on this environmental assessment document that I
6 talked about. So we'll start the preparation of that.

7 After we issue that notice -- our anticipation is
8 to issue that notice in September and complete our
9 environmental assessment April of 2006. That will then
10 identify what the impacts of relicensing may be, identify
11 what -- any kind of mitigation or enhancement measures that
12 may be included, and we'll be able to move forward to the
13 Commission for an order for any license that may be issued
14 with the terms and conditions in that license shortly after
15 that.

16 Types of information that are particularly
17 helpful to us. One, as I've talked about over and over
18 again, making sure that we've identified the significant
19 issues that everybody's concerned about that. We have a
20 list of those, Pete will go through some of those, before
21 you come to us. If there's additional ones or things that
22 we don't need to cover, let us know.

23 If there's additional studies out there that you
24 know about that are associated with this area that maybe we
25 do not have yet -- information is critical to this

1 environmental assessment, it has to be based on data or
2 information that's available. If you, as an individual or a
3 county or a city or public, knows of something that may be
4 tucked away in a library or in somebody's desk that would be
5 helpful in assessing any of these issues, please let us
6 know. It would be helpful and we can use that information
7 in our assessment.

8 Any types of information in addition to that that
9 help us identify past and present or potentially -- excuse
10 me, past or present conditions or any conditions that may be
11 anticipated in the future, it would be helpful for, again,
12 defining what the project -- what it looks like here today
13 or any kinds of information of what it looked like in the
14 past to help set the stage for the decisionmakers as well as
15 the public of the changes that have taken place over time.

16 If, as particularly city, county, or state
17 governments, if you put together comprehensive plans for
18 future -- what you want in the future in this area, those
19 are very important to be given to us so that we can evaluate
20 that in the context of where this project is today and what
21 the individuals or the city or the county would like that to
22 be in the future. So identifying those plans to us, getting
23 them to us, is very important.

24 And certainly why we're here is your comments,
25 which we'll get to very shortly, realizing that this will

1 all be transcribed. I'm going to ask people to come up here
2 to speak. There's a microphone; don't be intimidated.
3 They'll be put on the record so that we can make sure that
4 we get your statements correct and that will be part of the
5 information that we'll use to move forward from. If you
6 don't want to make an oral comment, you can certainly file
7 written comments with us -- they carry just as much weight -
8 - or you can do both, which is fine.

9 John, if you can come up and give us a little bit
10 of information about the project, we'd appreciate it.

11 MR. DELUDE: Thanks, Ron.

12 Before I get started, Ron had asked me if there
13 was anything I could do about that sun shining on that
14 screen, and I told him I don't know but I'll see what I can
15 do. And so you're welcome.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. MC KITRICK: Good job.

18 (Slides.)

19 MR. DELUDE: On behalf of Santee Cooper, let me
20 first of all tell you how much we appreciate you coming out,
21 taking time out of your busy schedules. Those of you who
22 have come out here in the evening hours are on your time and
23 so, therefore, I will do my very best not to waste any of
24 it.

25 Ron and Peter have asked me to keep this as short

1 as possible, but he also indicated, based on two days of
2 site visits that he's seen 1 percent of the project, so I
3 will do my very best to share with you this project in a
4 very short period of time, but it's difficult to do.

5 For the record, my name is John Delude and I'm
6 the manager of FERC relicensing for Santee Cooper.

7 First of all, let me describe the project for
8 you. The Santee Cooper watershed is relatively large. It's
9 one of the largest watersheds this side of the Mississippi.
10 It covers over 15,000 square miles. It extends from where
11 we are here in Manning all the way up through Charlotte, all
12 the way over to Asheville, and then it continues back down
13 and goes all the way to Charleston.

14 It's made up of three sub-basins. Those sub-
15 basins consist of the Catawba watery, the Brague and the
16 Saluda. The Saluda and the Brague come together to form the
17 Congree River. The Congree River comes together with the
18 Catawba watery system and at their confluence is the
19 beginning of our project.

20 As that water enters the Santee Cooper system,
21 the concept is relatively simple and that is this: to
22 divert the water of the Santee River into the Cooper River
23 for its project purposes, and there are numerous. And
24 that's accomplished by the construction of a large dam known
25 as the Santee Dam on the Santee River which diverts water

1 from Lake Marion through a diversion canal into a lower
2 impoundment. That impoundment is formed by a large dam
3 also, referred to as Pinopolis Dam. Part of that Pinopolis
4 Dam consists of a hydro project, which is the Jeffries
5 Hydro. Also part of that is a large navigation lock.

6 Now the hydraulic control for this entire project
7 is typically accomplished at Jeffries Hydro. Jeffries can
8 pass approximately 28,000 CFS of water. By performing that,
9 we can generate about 130 megawatts of electricity.

10 I also mentioned that there's a large navigation
11 lock attached to that. That lock is 160 foot long, 80 foot
12 wide -- excuse me, 60 foot wide, 180 foot long and about 75
13 foot high. At the time it was constructed, it was the
14 largest single lift lock in the world. It serves a dual
15 purpose: it primarily provides navigation for recreational
16 boat traffic going into the system, but it also serves as a
17 fish passage for the project.

18 That is significant in that the way we measure
19 fish at Jeffries Lock is through an acoustic counter, and we
20 basically measure the total amount of fish and then we
21 basically normalize that through a herring unit, which is
22 equivalent to a herring -- which is a fish of approximately
23 a third of a pound. In the last five-year average, we
24 passed over 3 million herring units through Jeffries Lock.

25 The hydraulic control, as I mentioned, is at

1 Jeffries. However, when we have waters that exceed the
2 capacity of this plant to pass water down into the Cooper
3 River, the excess flow then goes through the spillway
4 located below Manning and travels back into the Santee
5 River. We have a continuous flow requirement at the Santee
6 Dam. We pass approximately 500 CFS of flow at all times
7 through that dam -- at least that's our license requirement.
8 We pass actually about 600 CFS through a small two-megawatt
9 unit and we generate electricity with that. That provides
10 water for the other multiple uses of that river system.
11 That's the way the project operated for approximately 50
12 years.

13 When it was finally determined by the Federal
14 Government that they had some concerns about siltation in
15 Charleston Harbor, they believed it to be based upon the
16 freshwater that was being diverted from the Santee River
17 down into the Cooper River. Because of that, they were
18 authorized by the Federal Government to construct a project
19 referred to as the Cooper River Rediversion Project, which
20 is located just north of St. Stephen, and the purpose of
21 which was to redivert the water back into the Santee River.
22 And what that accomplishes is that we can generate
23 electricity, the Corps can provide a structure that we can
24 generate electricity with to mitigate the loss of generation
25 that occurs at Jeffries because we are now restricted to

1 only 4500 CFS weekly average through that plant.

2 The remaining waters now go down through St.
3 Stephen. We can generate approximately 84 megawatts of
4 power at that facility. So now the hydraulic control
5 consists of St. Stephen, Jeffries and then, when it exceeds
6 the capacity of those two plants, the flow then goes out the
7 spillway and through the Santee Dam.

8 In addition to that St. Stephen project, when it
9 was constructed there was a concern obviously with the
10 reduced flow that fish passage for certain types of species
11 of fish that have to spawn upstream would not occur in the
12 same numbers because of that reduced flow. So a fish
13 passage facility was constructed at St. Stephen as part of
14 the Corps project at the direction of the federal and state
15 resource agencies. That project -- that fish lift is
16 located adjacent to the hydro. You can visit that -- with
17 calling in advance, you can visit that project and it's an
18 interesting one. They pass -- over the last 10 years
19 they've averaged over 350,000 American shad annually and
20 they average over 600,000 blueback herring annually, and
21 they average a bunch of other fish that they pass that I
22 won't describe. But they are passing a lot of fish here and
23 a lot of fish here. And our project is fortunate, we have
24 two facilities that actually pass fish above the dams.

25 One thing I want to point out: the St. Stephen

1 project is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and
2 it's not part of the FERC relicensing effort. However, it's
3 an integral part of the Santee Cooper project. So we
4 recognize that aspect of it, but it is not inside the
5 project boundary and is not part of the license.

6 We operate our project through a rule curve,
7 which is a guideline and a basis for how to operate.
8 Essentially it's measured at the spillway at the upper lake.
9 Beginning January 1st of each year, our lake is -- we try,
10 as a guideline, try to be around elevation 72.5 and then we
11 raise that lake throughout the year until about the middle
12 of the year, June 30th, to about 75.5. So there's about a
13 three foot differential on the lake system from the
14 beginning of the year to the middle of the year and then it
15 drops back down. The purpose of this rule curve is to
16 maximize the impoundment and minimize the amount of water
17 that goes through the dam so that we can sustain all the
18 multiple uses of the project.

19 This is just a five-year snapshot of what a
20 typical condition would look like. This is the rule curve
21 in purple and this line you see in dark blue represents what
22 the lake's elevation actually was throughout the year. This
23 is beginning in '96, '97, '98, '99, 2000. As you can see,
24 we attempt to stay on that rule curve. However, when you
25 have these large flows -- and these green and yellow lines

1 represent the amount of flow and this is flow in CFS. Keep
2 in mind, I said Jeffries can pass about 28,000 CFS. We have
3 inflows in 1996 exceeding 80,000, in 1997 exceeding 100,000
4 CFS.

5 This is a typical year and so was '97, however,
6 you can see in '98, if you recall, it was a very wet year.
7 The lake was very high. When the lake gets to elevation
8 76.8, we must spill. It's in our license. For dam safety
9 purposes, that's as high as we can allow the lake to raise
10 to and then from then on we have to spill to make sure that
11 we don't exceed it. That was a very wet year.

12 And what happened in the beginning of '99 and
13 2000, anybody in Manning can tell me what happened because
14 everybody's tied to this lake, and that's drought. And you
15 can see where the lake elevations went. And you can
16 certainly see what happened in 2000 -- which was very
17 difficult for those of you who have businesses around the
18 lake -- our lakes got down to elevation, below elevation 72
19 in June and July. Can you imagine 4th of July on our lake
20 system with elevation of lakes at the same elevation or
21 below the elevation that you would have in the wintertime?

22 The operational constraints at St. Stephen are an
23 important issue that have to be considered in this whole
24 process. They include the fact that we have this maximum
25 average weekly flow for Jeffries Hydro of 4500 CFS. That's

1 a maximum. However, what we've determined through the
2 experience of operating at that level is it has become a
3 target figure. That means when we have a drought it would
4 be obviously in everyone's interest if we could reduce that
5 flow.

6 In the Cooper River, however, based on the
7 condition that existed pre-redirected, there were numerous
8 large industries that relied on the condition of that river
9 to construct facilities located in the area known as Bushy
10 Park, which is near Goose Creek. By doing so, they're
11 utilizing the freshwater for their industrial uses. There's
12 also public use -- there's Charleston CPW, which withdraws
13 water from the Cooper River at that point. If we drop our
14 flows below 4500 weekly average what we find is that we have
15 a problem with salinity levels going beyond the level at
16 which people can utilize that water.

17 So what we have seen in recent conditions like
18 those in the drought was that even when flows into the
19 system were less than 4500 CFS, we were passing 4500 CFS
20 weekly average out of Jeffries. If you recall, we also
21 passed 500 CFS out of the spillway -- it's a continuous flow
22 to sustain that river system. You have evaporation in the
23 summertime that probably exceeds several thousand CFS, all
24 of that is leaving the system at a time, during the drought,
25 we had less than 3000 CFS coming into the system. Those

1 reduced flows at Jeffries, combined with that downstream
2 use, is what I'm discussing and the impacts caused on them
3 by drought.

4 We also have a contractual requirement -- when
5 the Federal Government told the Corps to build that project,
6 they required the Corps of Engineers to establish a contract
7 with Santee Cooper on how to operate the system. And for
8 the Federal Government to maintain and obtain the benefits
9 that they planned for in that project, it's absolutely
10 imperative that they maximize the two plant system. That
11 means whatever waters that we don't utilize at Jeffries,
12 that 4500, anything in excess of that must flow out of St.
13 Stephen, and then waters beyond those flows then are
14 released through the spillway.

15 Finally, that whole project has created a
16 situation downstream that has been of concern for those who
17 live below that Santee Dam, and that is this: the waters
18 that normally would have gone down to Cooper River for
19 generation are now primarily combined with a spill. So when
20 we have excess flows, you have St. Stephen flowing at almost
21 24,000 CFS and you now have a spill on top of that.

22 The spill, for the purpose of information I would
23 just pass along, typically occurs twice a year. That's been
24 the average since the project's inception. It is
25 approximately 22,000 CFS or equivalent to -- almost

1 equivalent to what St. Stephen can put out. Each one of
2 those events lasts approximately 16 days. So you have two
3 spills a year, 22,000 on average, and they last each about
4 16 days.

5 Here are some proposed measures. All of these
6 that I have shown here we already do as voluntary
7 enhancements to the project. The reason why we do them is
8 because we've sat down with the state agencies who manage
9 our project and they've either educated us about a condition
10 that we needed to be aware of or we've worked with them in
11 restoring or developing a plan for helping them manage the
12 resource along with us.

13 We propose that we increase our locking
14 operations to six per day during fish passage season at
15 Jeffries. We do that now. We have a minimum of six locks
16 per day contingent upon conditions allowing us to lock:
17 wind, flows, other types of things, lock availability.
18 That's very important to maximize the number of fish that
19 that project can pass.

20 We also would provide a continuous flow at St.
21 Stephen of 5600 CFS from February 1st to April 15th. The
22 reason for that is to attract and queue the fish up in the
23 tailrace canal at St. Stephen. So we already provide that,
24 that's basically one unit running continuously during that
25 time frame. Obviously it is done very well because St.

1 Stephen alone -- but then combined with Jeffries, passes
2 more shad and herring than any other project in the United
3 States that targets shad and herring.

4 We continue to implement attraction flows at
5 Jeffries. That's our recommendation. What that consists of
6 is very simple. We put a siphon over the side of the lock
7 and we provide attraction flow inside the lock, so that as
8 fish queue up inside the tailrace canal -- I'm talking about
9 down in Moncks Corner -- as they get in front of that
10 powerhouse, as that powerhouse is operating, they may not be
11 able to locate the lock. This attraction flow helps them
12 find the lock, get in the lock, and then we can pass them on
13 through.

14 And finally we have already installed and have --
15 we have a procedure in place and we have already installed
16 some manatee exclusion devices. Manatees are an endangered
17 species. They are a part of our system. There are not
18 many, but they do come visit us infrequently. When they do,
19 if they pass through our lock and get into the lake system
20 and then can't find their way out before the wintertime,
21 they will -- they could possibly die from hypothermia. We
22 have a procedure in place on how to operate the lock in the
23 event we see a manatee. We also have the lock configured
24 such that when we release water out, they don't become
25 impinged on the drain ports and drown, because it's a

1 mammal.

2 There's another interesting endangered species
3 associated with our project and that's the short-nose
4 sturgeon. It's not a very pretty critter, but it is a very
5 important species and Santee Cooper wants to assist the
6 resource agencies in restoring that species to a viable
7 population. A population does exist in the Cooper River.
8 There have been a few found in the Santee River and there's
9 a small population that resides in the lake that probably is
10 transient between the lakes and the rivers.

11 There is a lot of debate out there about how to
12 address this particular issue. We believe this: we believe
13 that there's a lot of information that is -- it became very
14 obvious to us that there are a lot more questions than there
15 are answers on how to solve this problem. And so what our
16 proposal is is that we institute a comprehensive short-nose
17 sturgeon enhancement program that would evaluate the various
18 conditions and life stages of that animal and then, once
19 we've gotten answers to the very important questions of the
20 biology of that species to determine how best to restore it
21 to its historical spawning areas above our dam. Obviously
22 they exist above our dam, but how they exist, where they go,
23 where they're surviving, what are they feeding on are many
24 questions that most people don't have answers to.

25 We also propose to develop the river flow

1 recommendations for the Santee River. Presently, I
2 mentioned to you, we have a 600 CFS flow that we allow into
3 it, we provide through that river at the direction of FERC
4 to sustain that river. We want to review that. We're
5 reviewing that now with resource agencies to look at
6 navigability, habitat enhancement, project operations, and
7 all of those have to be done in the context of the
8 contractual obligations that we have with the Federal
9 Government that have directed us on how to utilize these
10 flows.

11 And finally there are a number of proposed
12 measures that are in the scoping document. I won't go into
13 each and every one of them, but they deal with recreation
14 and cultural resources, and we would propose to incorporate
15 those in any terms and conditions that we have in our next
16 license.

17 And this is our objective, and it may appear to
18 be simple but I think it's appropriate, and that is this:
19 we're going to maintain the balance of the multiple uses of
20 the Santee Cooper project. Plain and simple. We have been
21 doing that, we will continue to do that, we're going to do
22 that into the future. We think we have done a very good job
23 of that and we believe that by maintaining that balance then
24 we will have satisfied the multiple uses of the resource.

25 MR. MC KITRICK: Thank you, John.

1 (Slides.)

2 MR. FOOTE: Again, for the record, my name is
3 Peter Foote. I'm a FERC contractor. First of all, of
4 course, we're talking about a hydro project and I'm sure
5 you've noticed that we were able to arrange a water feature
6 for tonight's meeting.

7 I just wanted to briefly review what we've
8 identified in our scoping document as to the issues that we
9 would be addressing in the environmental assessment. First
10 of all, we are planning to do a cumulative effects analysis
11 on water quality and diadromous fish resources. Diadromous
12 fish include the diadromous fishes such as American shad and
13 herring and the tetradomous species such as the American
14 eel.

15 The proposed geographic scope for the analysis is
16 the Santee River from the head of Lake Marion downstream to
17 the head of tide in the Santee River and the Cooper River
18 from Lake Moultrie downstream to the head of time. Now this
19 is what the scoping document says, but we realized after we
20 wrote that that the head of tide is actually the tailrace of
21 the Jeffries station, so we'd be up for suggestions as to
22 how far downstream we should take that analysis.

23 The temporal scope, we typically try to look 30
24 to 50 years into the future, which is the range of potential
25 license term for any new license that might be issued for

1 the project.

2 The general resource issues that we'll be
3 covering are all those listed there, which we typically
4 treat in all our EA's. The one item on the bottom, the
5 developmental analysis, is actually an economic analysis
6 that we do on the project to look at the cost of the
7 environmental measures that are proposed. I'll talk about
8 that in a second.

9 Some of the specific resource issues that we've
10 identified -- and again, the whole list is in the ST-2, or
11 ST-1 document. But these are just some of the highlighted
12 ones. First of all, we'd be looking at the effects on water
13 quality, typically temperature and dissolved oxygen. We'd
14 be looking at the effects of flow releases on aquatic
15 resources on both the Santee and Cooper Rivers. We'll
16 obviously be looking at the diadromous species passage at
17 all the project facilities, as well as at the Corps
18 facility, and the effects on fish restoration activities
19 that are planned for the Basin.

20 We'll be looking at the project effects on
21 shoreline erosion, riparian habitat and wetlands, and the
22 effects of operations on federally-listed species.

23 We'll also be looking at the effects on
24 recreational access and navigability, as well as the
25 adequacy of the existing and proposed recreational

1 facilities for meeting present and future recreational
2 demand.

3 We'll assess the effects of the proposed project
4 on properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in
5 the National Register of Historic Places.

6 And then, as I mentioned, we'll be doing an
7 economic analysis looking at the costs of the various
8 mitigative and enhancement measures that are proposed by the
9 licensee, by staff, and by other parties, the agencies and
10 NGO's. It's a piece of information the Commission likes to
11 have to look at the total picture of what's proposed for the
12 relicensing.

13 I also wanted to mention at this point that
14 tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 we will be holding a technical
15 conference in the Holiday Inn at Moncks Corner to
16 specifically discuss the fish passage, entrainment, and
17 outmigration issues related to the operation of the project.
18 Santee Cooper had requested this, you know, since we were
19 going to be in the area, thought it would be good to get
20 everyone together to discuss this relatively major issue.

21 Okay. At this point we're going to turn the
22 meeting over to those who would like to make some comments.
23 When you come up to make comments, please identify yourself.
24 I will be calling your name in the order that you signed in,
25 but for spelling, et cetera, you might need to repeat your

1 name.

2 One other thing, the comments -- any written
3 comments related to scoping should be filed by June 20th.

4 So at this point there's -- I think four people
5 indicated they'd like to speak. David Wielicki.

6 MR. WIELICKI: Thank you very much. I appreciate
7 the opportunity. My name is David Wielicki, I'm here
8 representing the South Carolina Waterfowl Association.
9 We're a non-profit organization headquartered right on the
10 shores of Lake Marion near Remini, South Carolina, and we're
11 involved in waterfowl and wetland conservation issues across
12 the State of South Carolina and also in youth education
13 programs. I'm also a resident of Clarendon County. I live
14 on Lake Marion and raise my family here, too, so this is an
15 issue important to our association and to me personally
16 also.

17 We've been involved in watching this situation
18 over the past several years. Our organization has worked
19 for years with Santee Cooper to do various projects that
20 enhance waterfowl resources, from putting up over 1200 wood
21 duck boxes on the Santee Cooper lakes to working with Larry
22 McCord and his staff on native aquatic vegetation.

23 Several years ago we started working with various
24 individuals to start the Santee Cooper Lakes Waterfowl and
25 Fisheries Coalition with the idea of bringing together

1 diverse groups: the chambers of commerce, the hunters, the
2 fishermen, different individuals who had an interest in the
3 fish and waterfowl resources on the lake and their
4 importance to the local economy. This area is one of the
5 most economically depressed in the State of South Carolina
6 and the counties around the Santee Cooper lake system see
7 \$250- to \$400 million a year in economic impact from
8 recreation on these lakes, so it's very important to these
9 local people. And we got going on this coalition to try to
10 develop a plan to enhance those waterfowl and fisheries
11 resources.

12 Santee Cooper has been very good about working
13 with us. Joey Moore is going to talk a little bit more --
14 he's the chairman of that coalition -- he's going to talk
15 about some of the things that the coalition came up with to
16 enhance fish and waterfowl resources on the lake to the
17 benefit of everyone in these communities and in the state.

18 We have had a great working relationship with
19 Santee Cooper. As I mentioned, the nest box programs,
20 worked with Santee Cooper on the development of the Hickory
21 Top waterfowl management area. So they've done a lot of
22 things, irregardless of the relicensing effort, to make
23 things better for fish and waterfowl resources. And we look
24 forward to doing a lot more with them.

25 One thing that our organization is very concerned

1 about is about last summer we heard that National Marine
2 Fisheries, that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that the
3 Coast Conservation League and American Rivers wanted to see
4 greatly increased flows come out of this whole effort.
5 We've even heard comments from agency people that they would
6 rather see the dams blown and see the river go back to the
7 way it is, we've heard comments such as well why would
8 anybody want to live on flat water, we've heard some really
9 disturbing things that would greatly impact the people in
10 these communities.

11 I'm going to speak -- other people are going to
12 speak about the potential economic damage of increasing
13 those flows to these counties, I'm going to talk a little
14 bit about what I feel as a waterfowl biologist with over 18
15 years of experience, the kind of impact we believe our South
16 Carolina Waterfowl Association believes it will have on
17 waterfowl.

18 Number one, we've heard figures as high as
19 maintaining 10,000 cubic feet per second through the Santee
20 Dam. Those type figures would cause decreasing water flows
21 in the spring -- I mean, decreasing water levels in the
22 spring on the lake on into the summer months. I'm not a
23 fisheries biologist but I've talked to enough fisheries
24 biologists to know that that would be catastrophic to our
25 freshwater fish spawning in the Santee Cooper lakes, which

1 drives the local economy. Fishing is tremendously important
2 to this area. Having decreasing water levels in those time
3 periods would greatly damage the spawning for crappie, for
4 bass, for catfish, for all of the freshwater fish species
5 that are very important to the local economy and to the
6 recreational fishermen, to the bass tournaments that bring
7 in millions of dollars, to the people that fish from the
8 bank, just to everybody who enjoys fishing on the Santee
9 Cooper lakes.

10 In addition to that -- and others will talk about
11 it -- if those flows are increased in an average year, we
12 would have lake levels in the summer that would be similar
13 or lower than the levels that we had during our recent
14 drought period. You don't have to talk to many business
15 owners in the area to realize how damaging that would be to
16 these local economies. Many people went out of business
17 during the last drought. To have that every year would be
18 catastrophic to these counties. You'd have low water levels
19 lowering property values, poor fish spawn reducing the
20 quality of fishing on the lakes.

21 From a waterfowl standpoint, at first glance, you
22 look at lowering water levels and you think well maybe
23 that's a benefit to waterfowl; you know, a lot of moist soil
24 vegetation might grow out into the lake. Well, if you let
25 the water out of the bathtub and there's not enough water to

1 come back in, you're not going to have water flooding that
2 vegetation and benefiting waterfowl.

3 We also have a national wildlife refuge system
4 that Santee Cooper has been very beneficial in helping, our
5 coalition that's been involved in, and much of the waterfowl
6 habitat on that 15,000 acre national wildlife refuge depends
7 on having high enough water levels in the fall to allow the
8 refuge to flood those waterfowl impoundments that are
9 beneficial to waterfowl, to shore birds, to just thousands
10 of migratory birds that come through this area. If we have
11 10,000 CFS flows through the spring and summer, you know,
12 will we get those water levels back in the fall and winter?
13 I doubt it.

14 We'll have a great amount of damage to our wood
15 duck population. Falling water levels in the spring and
16 summer will mean decreased brood habitat for wood ducks.
17 The nest boxes on the Santee Cooper lakes alone produce
18 anywhere from 5- to 7,500 wood duck ducklings a year, in
19 addition to many hooded merganzers. Having decreasing water
20 levels during those time periods will damage breeding
21 habitat for wood ducks, brood habitat for wood ducks, will
22 greatly decrease our wood duck population on the Santee
23 Cooper lakes.

24 So we're very concerned about this. I really
25 believe there's gotta be balance and I hope that's what FERC

1 is going to work on, to create a balance that really speaks
2 to the mission that Santee Cooper brought forth, which is to
3 maintain a balance of multiple uses.

4 We have a wish list of things that we would like
5 to see done for fish and waterfowl enhancement, and Joey
6 Moore is going to talk more about those. We know we're not
7 going to get them all; we hope to get a lot of them. But we
8 feel -- and we've aligned ourselves with South Carolina DNR
9 -- that we have a practical approach to this that's going to
10 benefit fish and wildlife and is also going to mean a strong
11 economy for these rural counties in South Carolina that
12 really cannot afford to have havoc wreaked upon the lake
13 system.

14 So, anyway, I appreciate the opportunity to
15 speak. Thank you very much.

16 MR. FOOTE: Joey Moore?

17 MR. MOORE: Good evening. My name is Joey Moore
18 and I read notes, too, okay, so I'll probably continue. I'm
19 not a public speaker.

20 Like I said, I'm the Chairman of the Santee
21 Waterfowl and Fisheries Coalition. I'm also past president
22 and a member of the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce
23 here in Manning. With that, I'd like to recognize our
24 county officials: Dwight Stewart, chairman of the county
25 council, Bill Houser, county administrator -- see if I've

1 got anybody else. I think we've got the president of the
2 current -- Cleve Dowell, chamber of commerce, incoming
3 president Donald Hardy of the chamber of commerce. And,
4 like I said, I want to thank you all for coming.

5 And on behalf of Clarendon County Chamber of
6 Commerce and the Santee Cooper Waterfowl Coalition, I'd like
7 to welcome Santee Cooper to this. They've worked with us
8 well. I'd like to welcome FERC, the Federal Energy
9 Regulatory Commission, to Clarendon County and to Manning,
10 South Carolina. You've had a chance to tour it today. I
11 think you've seen an area that is vital and the Santee
12 Cooper lakes are a strong part of our economic impact to
13 this area. That is why we are participating and talking on
14 behalf of chambers and on fisheries and waterfowl coalition.
15 I appreciate you all having this public forum site here in
16 Clarendon County and in Manning.

17 Our coalition began in 1998. As you see a lot of
18 times with those rule curves and water level changes, we
19 started really working with landing owners, fishing guides,
20 real estate people, homeowners, and outdoorsmen that were
21 concerned about some of the issues on the lake. And at the
22 time we had had vegetation losses, high water levels, low
23 water levels following that and everything, and we started
24 out, and we started out in Moncks Corner. And it evolved
25 into moving into Clarendon County. It sort of, at one point

1 in time, got to an adversarial point, and that was not the
2 issue or what we wished to do. So we became a coalition
3 that was really trying to work with Santee Cooper and in the
4 process DNR and a bunch of things. We've sort of acted as a
5 go-between between the agencies, non-governmental agencies,
6 DNR, Santee Cooper and those, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

7 And it's been our goal to work with them, not
8 against them, as I said. We've accomplished several of our
9 goals already and just sort of to toot our horn a little
10 bit, our first goal that we accomplished was working with
11 U.S. Fish and Wildlife, we met with Bill Graybill, at the
12 time I think of Atlanta, came up and met with us and we
13 discussed some issues on the Santee National Wildlife
14 Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge at that point. The
15 refuge had fallen from a high over probably 9 or 10
16 employees down to two. Concerns, we did not have any
17 planning, that type of stuff, going on on the refuge.

18 We worked with them, worked with Graybill through
19 our legislative delegation, and we got the employment back
20 up to a level of seven, eight people at a time. We've
21 gotten the refuges planted again. We've worked with South
22 Carolina Ducks Unlimited, Santee Cooper, DNR, our groups and
23 some other interested parties have gotten the refuge back up
24 and running, planted, water structures, pumps rebuilt and
25 stuff done like that. And that was, like I said, just as a

1 team-working type effort, so we've done that.

2 And as David referred to earlier, we participated
3 in DNR and Santee Cooper on the Hickory Top WMA, which now I
4 think at this point in time David is a WMA and Clarendon
5 County that is for public hunting and stuff like this and it
6 was an area that was really going downhill but with the
7 efforts of all these things we got back into a WMA and a
8 waterfowl-type project. And that is in our county area.

9 What I would like to do, and some of your lists
10 up there -- and part of the things that we're really
11 concerned with is the list that you had key to us is the
12 recreational, economic -- you didn't have it in there, I
13 added it to it -- and cultural resources that you referred
14 to in that section. As all of us in Clarendon County -- and
15 we represent -- Clarendon County is present here but we have
16 five counties that surround this lake. You have Calhoun,
17 Sumter, Orangeburg, Berkley and Clarendon -- and I hope I
18 got those right and didn't leave anybody out.

19 But like I said we have especially been
20 interested in and Clarendon County's whole focus and whole
21 goal and we've hung our hats here from the chamber to the
22 county governments to everything to working with the
23 recreational outdoor activities and we've tied it to our
24 neighbors at Santee Cooper lake system. And it's worked
25 well. As you all -- I think you all toured today the John

1 C. Land landing, which was a -- our group didn't do it, but
2 I participated in that, along with DOT, state agencies, and
3 stuff, and we built a recreational facility at that time
4 which was second to none on the lake systems and we hosted a
5 lot of top events, BASS Top 150, Everstart, FLW, Jerry Ryan
6 and whole bunch of them.

7 I fish some myself and I was lucky enough to fish
8 with the economist from Alban -- I won't hold that against
9 him, since it was Alban and wasn't Clemson. But anyway the
10 economic impact to our area, like I said, resulted from each
11 one of these tournaments to the tune of about \$500- to
12 \$750,000 per event, during a two-week event.

13 So here again that's why we're hanging our hats
14 on this for our economic thing. We're a rural county.
15 We're economically depressed. We depend on the interstates.
16 We depend on our lake system for growth, recreational, golf
17 courses, waterfowl recreation, skiing and fishing.

18 That sort of gives an overview of what we're
19 after. And David, we have filed this list with I think you
20 all already and, like I said, this is the Santee Cooper
21 Waterfowl and Fisheries Coalition Recommendation for
22 Restoration Under the FERC Relicensing. I think you all
23 have this. And, like I said, we'd just submit our program -
24 - I'm going to sort of just smoothly, not smoothly but
25 quickly go over what we were after.

1 Basically we're into several different topics.
2 We're into ecosystem restoration program, is what we'd like.
3 We'd like to work with everybody to try to work with several
4 issues, which was an aquatic vegetation issue, which we've
5 worked with aquatic council with, DNR, and Santee Cooper and
6 we've come to an agreement to get -- to restore some aquatic
7 vegetation in our lake systems. We currently -- used to
8 have, if our numbers are correct, somewhere around 47,000
9 acres of aquatic vegetation in the lake, which was too much,
10 we know it. We ended up -- we didn't, Santee Cooper, at the
11 time -- that's when we might have been on the other side of
12 the list -- but introduced a large number of grass carp,
13 sterile grass carp in the system and we lost -- we went from
14 47,000 acres of aquatic vegetation, which again is too much,
15 down to just about zero. We lost a lot of the noxious
16 weeds, we lost our native aquatic stuff and everything. So
17 we've gotten together, we've met, and we'd like to see that
18 restoration and working with that project during this scope
19 here. And hopefully, like I said, that will work.

20 We wanted Santee Cooper's part of the list to do
21 some economic impacts of the fishing and hunting on the
22 Santee Cooper lakes. We had requested that, possibly under
23 the FERC relicensing or whatever, that we could get some
24 economic impact studies to actually see because we do not
25 have those available that I know of currently to know

1 exactly what that is bringing into the area and to the
2 economy of the area.

3 One of the other issues on this thing was the
4 upper lake, which I think you all said you all went to the
5 heads of the swamp system. The swamp system right in there
6 -- we've gone through a lot of changes in that system over
7 the years and I'm by no means an expert but we've had to
8 increase levels of water when they raised the lake system
9 levels years ago, we've had Hurricane Hugo prior and post,
10 which decimated our oak flats and stuff in the swamp system.
11 So part of this is we wanted to do a research project to
12 see, under this thing, if somehow as these things fell, the
13 attractive oaks, the food system went away and the open area
14 resulted in cut grass clogging up the systems and the
15 headwaters. So that is part of our wish list under this
16 relicensing that we might could do something to control
17 that, the cut grasses and do the restoration of the hardwood
18 bottom lands in that area.

19 Of course we have both the vegetation research,
20 which I referred to.

21 Another issue here, we get into -- and David
22 spoke to that, so I'm going to skip that -- the lake level
23 management, which is imperative to us for spawns, fishing
24 and stuff. And in 1998, like I said, with the aquatic
25 vegetation and some of the system we had, we had some of the

1 best years that we've ever had on the Santee Cooper lake
2 system. We had a fishery that was second to none in the
3 United States. I think we hosted right prior to that, the
4 summer of '96, our first Top 150 BASS event. We set records
5 on our lake system that got us basically the recognition as
6 the number two -- number one or number two bass fishery in
7 the nation. And since then, you know, it's gone downhill.
8 So part of that is the recurrence of that and working from
9 that standpoint.

10 I referred to the Santee National Wildlife
11 Refuge. We have some issues in here that we'd like to help
12 during this thing for refunding and stuff to have some
13 continual funding for that and help from Santee Cooper on
14 maintaining the refuge shorelines and some of that stuff,
15 and that is in this issue.

16 The Hickory Top bottomland was in this. That
17 project has been accomplished, as we talked about. And the
18 wood duck production.

19 So it's a list that you all have filed. I'll
20 leave this list with you and, like I said, I just want to
21 express that our group is working from an outdoors
22 recreational economic impact and working with, not against.
23 We want to work with FERC. We want to work with Santee
24 Cooper. We want to work with DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
25 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife people have sat in our meetings

1 many a time, DNR has helped us on a lot of stuff, and we're
2 here to help and we want to be a part of the relicensing
3 system and have some input along with it. We'd like not all
4 the dollars to be spent for issues of certain quality, we'd
5 like to have the economic issues of our stuff concerned. I
6 know there are issues of indigenous fish or fish passage
7 which I think Santee Cooper has pretty well addressed, so
8 don't spend it all and save a little bit for the economies
9 around the county, okay.

10 And I thank you all. Thank you all for coming
11 tonight. I appreciate you having us.

12 MR. FOOTE: Darryl Turbeville?

13 MR. TURBEVILLE: My name's Darryl Turbeville. I
14 work with Wellman, Incorporated. I'm a staff engineer at
15 Wellman.

16 One of the issues that we've talked about here is
17 economic impact. As you all well know, the manufacturing
18 base in South Carolina has continued to erode. Wellman is
19 in the textile industry. I think most folks have -- if you
20 read the paper and you've been following what's going along
21 in the state, the textile industry is very depressed in this
22 state. We're very dependent, as well as most people in the
23 state -- not only are the counties that surround the lake
24 are tied economically to Santee Cooper and to economics --
25 as well as economic impacts, the citizens of this state --

1 actually I believe all of the co-ops are supplied by Santee
2 Cooper, as well as many residents along the coastal region
3 are supplied. So not only does it have an impact in this
4 county and the counties surrounding the lakes, but it has an
5 impact across the whole state. As was mentioned before, the
6 areas that we live in -- and I live in Florence County --
7 are severely depressed economically, so we depend on a lot
8 of those manufacturing jobs and we depend on low cost power
9 to provide those jobs.

10 Part of the hydro -- if you're not aware of
11 energy, hydro is the cheapest electrical power available.
12 There's no cheaper power than hydro. It comes on-line very
13 quickly and can provide power very quickly and at a high
14 rate of power. That's very critical to the industry of this
15 state, of maintaining those low costs. Just to give you an
16 idea, a 10 percent increase in our electrical costs would be
17 about \$3 million of impact of earnings to our company.
18 Translate that into jobs, that equates to about 50 good
19 paying manufacturing jobs that would be impacted.

20 So along with the environmental issues, as well
21 as the cultural issues, certainly environmental issues are
22 very important to me. I grew up on the Little Peetie River,
23 so I have appreciation for the environmental issues. I
24 would also encourage us to not only look at the economic
25 impacts and the environmental impacts on the surrounding

1 areas, but from the state as a whole, from the manufacturing
2 base for the citizens of this state.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. FOOTE: Gerrit Jobsis?

5 MR. JOBSIS: Hello. My name is Gerrit Jobsis, I
6 work with the Coastal Conservation League and American
7 Rivers.

8 The Coastal Conservation League is a South
9 Caroline based group, we have about 4500 members that are
10 interested in the protection of the cultural and the
11 recreational and environmental aspects of the coastal plain
12 of South Carolina. I also work with American Rivers.
13 American Rivers is a national river conservation group that
14 has about 35,000 members and is interested in recreational
15 and environmental interests associated with rivers.

16 We are specifically involved, in this case, of
17 the relicensing of the FERC project, Santee Cooper. We've
18 been involved since about 2001 and have attended numerous
19 meetings and have provided a number of written and oral
20 comments in the relicensing process and have worked closely
21 with the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and
22 Wildlife Service, fisheries and the Department of Health and
23 Environmental Control.

24 We appreciate the FERC coming here and holding
25 this meeting. One thing that we know that FERC recognizes

1 but we just want to reiterate that this is FERC's
2 responsibility through this NEPA process to assure that
3 there is an adequate public record on which they can make a
4 decision for this relicensing. There have been a lot of
5 agency and NGO study requests. Some of those have been
6 fulfilled, some of those have not been fulfilled. In a lot
7 of cases, the studies that were done were not done as
8 recommended by the agencies or the other relicensing
9 participants.

10 One of the important studies, the Santee Cooper
11 instream flow study -- I'm sorry, the Santee River instream
12 flow study, has not been completed. As a matter of fact, in
13 October 2004 the FERC ordered Santee Cooper to coordinate
14 with the agencies and with the Coastal Conservation League
15 for the development of a final study plan for that study.
16 That has not been done, so that study is definitely not
17 complete and the coordination has not occurred.

18 So we ask FERC to examine the record carefully.
19 We think the one thing is the schedule that has been
20 presented where the ready for environmental analysis is
21 going to be issued in September 2005. We think that is
22 probably premature and ask FERC to go back and evaluate
23 that. There is a lot of information that still needs to be
24 gathered. We are concerned that if that deadline is stuck
25 with that there will not be an adequate record that will

1 lead to further delays in the relicensing process.

2 Some of the things that we do not understand, in
3 addition to the instream flow study, is we don't understand
4 how the Corps of Engineers' operations interacts with Santee
5 Cooper's operations. Santee Cooper, as John indicated, has
6 a contractual obligation to operate its project in
7 conjunction with the Corps of Engineers project. That
8 directly affects the FERC license and how this project
9 should be licensed by the FERC.

10 Another thing to be considered is that during
11 this next license term the Corps of Engineers facility will
12 be turned over to Santee Cooper for their operation. So we
13 do need to have a thorough understanding of how that
14 project, the Corps project and the future Santee Cooper
15 project, is going to operate the existing Santee Cooper
16 project.

17 We recognize the need for the NEPA assessment to
18 look at not only the current operations of Santee Cooper
19 with the Corps project, but also how the project would
20 operate without the Corps facility being there. I think
21 that's needed to give a thorough understanding of how the
22 FERC project is affecting the river and the reservoirs.

23 One thing that the public document that FERC has
24 put out for this NEPA scoping has is a few alternatives in
25 there. We understand that those are not very well developed

1 at this time because of the lack of information, but we do
2 ask FERC to do a thorough consideration of the alternatives
3 for project operation that go well beyond those that are in
4 that scoping document.

5 One of the first things we ask FERC to do is to
6 look at the water level management of the Santee lakes,
7 especially Lake Marion. We think there are ways to improve
8 the rule curve to keep it higher, especially during the
9 winter season when waterfowl are most abundant, and for the
10 management of the national wildlife refuge there, keeping
11 the water level higher will enhance that waterfowl
12 management objective.

13 We also think there are ways to enhance public
14 recreation during that time by keeping the water level
15 higher. Right now when the fish start spawning, the lake is
16 still drawn down below its full pool elevation during the
17 spawning period, and having a higher elevation in the spring
18 will also enhance fish spawning and also fishing at the same
19 time.

20 We also ask the FERC to look at alternatives for
21 improving stream flow in the Santee River. Right now the
22 Santee River gets a very low flow compared to the natural
23 flow, and we ask the FERC to look at how the ecological
24 resources as well as the recreational resources of the
25 Santee River can be enhanced through project operation.

1 We also ask the FERC to look at improved
2 protection of endangered species associated with this
3 project. As FERC knows, it is their responsibility to
4 assure that this project is going to operate in compliance
5 with the Endangered Species Act, and so there are
6 information needs we still have on short-nose sturgeon, how
7 the project affects short-nosed sturgeon. We have
8 populations of short-nosed sturgeon in the Santee River, we
9 have populations in the Cooper River, and we also have
10 populations in Lake Marion. So operation of the project has
11 a definite effect on that species. It has fragmented the
12 habitat available for that species, and we ask FERC to look
13 carefully at how it must fulfill its endangered species
14 obligations when issuing this license.

15 We also ask the FERC to look at alternatives for
16 enhancing water quality, especially water quality in the
17 Santee River. The data that has been collected so far shows
18 that temperatures that result from project operations limit
19 -- or are in excess of standards for the State of South
20 Carolina and the dissolved oxygen is below standards for the
21 State of South Carolina. That's especially important, not
22 just for meeting numerical requirements, but it's important
23 for meeting public recreation needs such as fishing and such
24 as enjoyable recreation, boating and other things like that.
25 So we ask the FERC again to look carefully at water quality

1 impacts of the FERC project.

2 We also ask FERC to look at the public recreation
3 for the reservoirs and for the river sections. We are very
4 interested -- the Coastal Conservation League and American
5 Rivers are very interested in protection of the Upper Santee
6 Swamp, also known as the Sparkleberry Swamp. We think there
7 can be improvements in water management that will enhance
8 that area and allow both better public access to that during
9 what is now a draw-down period, and also to invigorate that
10 community more to ensure that it's going to be there in
11 perpetuity.

12 We know the FERC is looking for additional
13 information on this project and the Conservation League and
14 American Rivers have worked with the National Heritage
15 Institute and with the Nature Conservancy and with the
16 Catawba Water Relicensing Coalition to develop a hydrologic
17 model of the Santee Cooper system and of upstream dams of
18 the Catawba Dam and of the Saluda Dam on Lake Murray. All
19 those projects are undergoing relicensing at this time. We
20 offer that model to the FERC to help you with your analysis.
21 It's a user-friendly model that looks at different rates of
22 inflow into the lakes and different rates of outflow to the
23 Cooper River and to the Santee River and how we can better
24 balance keeping the lakes full and getting the rivers
25 healthy again.

1 We appreciate the opportunity to make these
2 comments. We think there's a lot to be learned still about
3 the effects of Santee Cooper's operations and their impacts
4 to the Santee River and to the lakes and to the Cooper River
5 also. And we look forward to working with the Commission
6 through the remainder of this relicensing process.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. FOOTE: That was the last person who
9 indicated he'd like to make a statement. Is there anyone
10 else that would like to make a statement or comment?

11 MR. STEWART: Thank you. Good evening. Ron and
12 the FERC committee, we certainly appreciate you coming. I'm
13 Dwight Stewart and I'm the Chairman of the Clarendon County
14 Council. And John, we're glad to have you with us, too.
15 Santee Cooper is certainly a good neighbor. I'll be very
16 brief.

17 On behalf of Clarendon County, we are a very
18 rural county. Our population in the 2000 Census was I think
19 32,504. We've gone up just a little bit since then. But we
20 are one of the few rural counties that actually added
21 population from 1990 to 2000. And one of the reasons that
22 we've done that, in my opinion, is because we have Lake
23 Marion, and that attracts a lot of retirees and makes
24 Clarendon County a very good place in which to retire. We
25 also have I-95, which is a strength that we have, and we

1 have a very rural nature and a lot of open country, which is
2 another strength that we have.

3 It's important for rural counties -- we're not
4 like Charleston, where they have so much industry there and
5 they can afford to lose a business or two -- in fact they
6 might want to, if you've ever been on that parking lot
7 called I-26 going into town or out of town at about 4:30 to
8 5:00 in the afternoon, you know what I mean.

9 But it's key in Clarendon County that we maintain
10 all of the businesses and industries and if we lose
11 anything, even a fishing camp or whatever, it really hurts
12 and impacts our county. So I ask you, on behalf of our
13 citizens of Clarendon County, to give great consideration to
14 any economic impact it may have on Clarendon County -- and
15 several of the other counties mentioned are also rural
16 counties such as Clarendon.

17 And we're very glad to have Santee Cooper as a
18 neighbor and they've done a great job and we appreciate all
19 that they do. They participate in a number of things in our
20 county and make our county a better place in which to live.

21 And we do thank you for coming.

22 MR. FOOTE: Anyone else that would like to make a
23 statement?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. MC KITRICK: I appreciate you all very much

1 showing up tonight. It's some very good information, very
2 informative to us, and it will be helpful.

3 Joey, I do appreciate you don't hold things
4 against Alban graduates, because I'm afraid I'm one of
5 those.

6 But with that, we really do appreciate -- we have
7 a lot of work to do. We've had a very good site visit for
8 two days, thanks to Santee Cooper. Where we ate lunch, was
9 that in Clarendon County?

10 VOICE: That was in Orangeburg.

11 MR. MC KITRICK: Orangeburg. We had a tremendous
12 lunch over in Orangeburg County. I was going to say people
13 from Atlanta will start coming over here for all the food
14 and that price. I'm sure you all have something very
15 similar.

16 But with that, I'd like to kind of officially
17 close the meeting. We again appreciate your participation.
18 We will have another scoping meeting tomorrow starting at
19 10:00 on Moncks Corner at the Holiday Inn and in the
20 afternoon a technical session, if you'd like to show and
21 participate in that.

22 With that, again we appreciate it, and look
23 forward to working with you all.

24 (Whereupon, at 8:50 p.m., the meeting was
25 adjourned.)