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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -x
IN THE MATTER OF: : Project Number:
HELLS CANYON PROJECT : P-1971-079
- - - - -x

Lions Hall
Center Street
Halfway, OR

Monday, September 11, 2006

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping
meeting, pursuant to notice, at 7:09 p.m.

BEFORE:
ALAN MITCHNICK, FERC

P R O C E E D I N G S

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(7:08 p.m.)

MR. MITCHNICK: Good evening everybody. I'd just like to welcome you to the third public meeting for the Hells Canyon DEIS and in follow-up on a practice that the Chairman has been practicing and especially in memory of 9/11 I ask you to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, those who would like to join us.

(Recitation of the Pledge to the Flag.)

MR. MITCHNICK: Good evening again. My name is Alan Mitchnick, M-I-T-C-H-N-I-C-K, and I'm the project coordinator for the Hells Canyon relicensing. With me today are some FERC staff. To my right, Emily Carter and to my left Allan Creamer. That's spelled C-R-E-A-M-E-R. And behind me with Louis Berger is Ellen Hall.

Before I give people the opportunity to make comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement, I just wanted to talk a little bit about the remaining schedule for this project. The Commission issued the draft Environmental Impact Statement on July 25th. We have CD copies on the back table. If you would like a hard copy, give me your name and address afterwards and I'll make sure that a copy gets out tomorrow.

The EIS was noticed by the Commission in the

1 Federal Register on July 28th. It was noticed by the EPA in
2 the Federal Register on August 4th and there is a 60-day
3 comment period, which ends October 3rd. Even though the EPA
4 notice says October 2nd, the due date is October 3rd. As I
5 mentioned, this is the third of five public meetings that we
6 have scheduled at this point. There will be one in Weiser
7 tomorrow at 7 o'clock local time and one on Wednesday at 7
8 o'clock in Lewiston, Idaho also at 7 o'clock.

9 If you want to file comments there are two ways
10 to file comments and there are two handouts on the back
11 table. One provides instructions on how to file. If you
12 file hard copies, you need to file it with the Secretary and
13 the address is listed on that paper. Or you can file
14 electronically and there is also instructions on this piece
15 of paper on how to do that. There is also a separate
16 brochure that the Commission has that explains the e-Filing
17 process. It also talks about some of the other electronic
18 features that we have on our website, including e-
19 Subscription. So if you want to be notified of what's
20 happening, if you want to know what's been issued or what's
21 been filed you can subscribe to the particular docket, the
22 Hells Canyon relicensing, and you'll be sent an e-mail every
23 time something happens and you can click on the link and
24 have direct access to the document itself. These are very
25 useful features, and there are some other things described

1 in the brochure that might be of interest to you in keeping
2 abreast of what's going on for this project.

3 I'll just talk a little bit about interventions.
4 We requested interventions back a few years ago and received
5 a number of petitions. Some of them were filed late and the
6 Commission issued a notice basically accepting all the late-
7 filed interventions, but this is another opportunity to
8 intervene in the proceedings. Intervention is important if
9 you want to file a re-hearing in response to any licensing
10 decision or you ultimately want to take the project to the
11 Circuit Court of Appeals. The final EIS is scheduled to be
12 issued by February 27, 2007.

13 I just want to touch a little bit on what still
14 needs to be done before the Commission gets to the point of
15 making a decision on the relicensing. The Commission can't
16 issue an license until water quality certificates have been
17 issued by the states of Idaho and Oregon and currently the
18 one-year period that the states have to issue certification
19 or make a decision will expire December 27th of this year.
20 In terms of Section 106 of the National Historic
21 Preservation Act, the Commission issued a draft programmatic
22 agreement, which basically describes how cultural resources
23 would be handled for the life of the project. The
24 Commission issued a draft PA on July 25th for comments.
25 We've receive, I believe, about six or seven comments from

1 the concurrent parties and the signatories, which include
2 the Tribes and land management agencies and the advisory
3 councils and the state historic preservation offices.

4 We also have to go through the formal Section 7
5 Endangered Species Act process. We initiated a consultation
6 with the National Marine Fishery Service and U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife Service on August 3rd and we will be having
8 additional meetings with them in the future and the schedule
9 sort of evolved based on those meetings. There also will be
10 what we call 10j meetings. Under Section 10j of the Federal
11 Power Act, state and federal fish and wildlife agencies have
12 the opportunity to make recommendations and the Commission
13 must include them in a license unless they can find them
14 inconsistent with applicable law. We found numerous
15 recommendations inconsistent and the next step in the
16 process is to have a meeting to try to resolve those
17 inconsistencies and we're working on developing a schedule
18 for those meetings in mid-October.

19 Another aspect that needs to be completed is the
20 final land management conditions. Forest Service said that
21 they would issue their final conditions during this notice
22 period and BLM -- I'm not exactly sure what their schedule
23 for doing that is. The project also would effect wild and
24 scenic rivers, so under Section 7a of the Wild and Scenic
25 Rivers Act, we need to consult with the administering

1 agency, which is the Forest Service.

2 I guess at this time I'll entertain any
3 procedural questions on this schedule. If you're going to
4 be speaking anyway, you might need to wait until that point.
5 But if you were not planning to make a statement, this would
6 be a good time to ask any questions on the schedule.

7 If you're going to speak, you're going to have to
8 stand a little bit closer to the microphone and hopefully
9 not intimidating anybody, and please give your name, spell
10 it and your affiliation. Thanks.

11 MR. HOHANEK: My name Craig HohaneK and I'm with
12 the Oregon Water Resources Department and my question has to
13 do with the issuance of the final EIS and the 401
14 certifications. You said that they have to wait until the
15 401s in order to actually issue the license. I don't that
16 this is a question that you can entertain so much as maybe
17 Idaho Power. The one-year period expires December 31st of
18 this year. The likelihood that IPC will withdraw their 401
19 application and then reapply to start the clock again so
20 they will somewhat more coincide with the timeframe you're
21 looking at order to be able to issue the final license.

22 MR. MITCHNICK: Right. We expect that Idaho
23 Power will have to refile, withdraw and refile their request
24 for certification because the states won't be able to act
25 within that one-year period. So there will be another year.

1 The project is already operating under an annual license
2 since a year ago. Time flies. So that annual license,
3 which basically requires the licensee to continue complying
4 with the existing conditions of the license until a new
5 license is issued.

6 Are there any other questions? You will have
7 opportunities to ask questions later on also.

8 Let's go to the EIS. The draft EIS basically is
9 the Commission staff's first attempt to try to address all
10 the issues in a comprehensive fashion. It is a draft.
11 We're here to basically get a feeling on what things we got
12 right. What things we didn't get right. What things did we
13 miss. What issues were not address. So this is your
14 opportunity, basically, to take a look at the analysis and
15 where the Commission staff stands at this point and provide
16 any comments or information for the record that might
17 support a position different from what's recorded in the
18 draft Environmental Impact Statement.

19 So we will give great consideration to any
20 comments that are filed, any information that is file along
21 with any comments that are made at any of these five public
22 meetings, whether it's a written comment or comments
23 recorded tonight, they become part of the official
24 Commission record and it will be information that the
25 Commission will base its final decisions on.

1 I'll just remind you that you do want to speak
2 that you need to stand somewhere in the middle, give your
3 name. The first time please spell your name and give your
4 affiliation if you have one.

5 The first speaker tonight is Fred Warner.

6 MR. WARNER: I think I'll sit. My name is Fred
7 Warner, W-A-R-N-E-R. I'm the chairman of the Baker County
8 Board of Commissioners. Before I speak on the draft
9 environmental assessment, I would like to make a couple of
10 comments about Idaho Power Company.

11 We, in Baker County, have worked with Idaho Power
12 for the last four years working on mediation measures with
13 the three pools that actually sit in Baker County -- the
14 Oxbow, Hells Canyon and Brownlee pools. These three
15 reservoirs are extremely important to the economies of the
16 panhandle area, which encompasses Huntington, Richland and
17 Halfway and then the Oxbow area. Idaho Power is one of the
18 largest taxpayers in Baker County as in a number of other
19 counties around here. They have representatives that come
20 to all our mayor's council meetings. They've been a really
21 good corporate partner with the small cities in the
22 panhandle area and we do enjoy a good relationship with the.

23 As for the EIS, Baker County is happy with the
24 verbiage that protects the warm water fisheries, especially
25 that it will not be drafted down or hopefully that it will

1 not be drafted down lower than 1069, which is very important
2 to the spawning of the cropping bass and this is an
3 agreement that we entered into with Idaho Power and we
4 believe that that's the single most important thing to keep
5 the warm water fishery viable. And if people don't know,
6 the Brownlee Reservoir is one of the top five warm water
7 fisheries in the nation and it survives with a spawn and
8 water levels.

9 I am concerned about the summer/fall release for
10 chinook downstream. If that release can be limited later in
11 the year, it will have positive impacts on recreation. We
12 have minimal recreation opportunities when the dam is pulled
13 down prematurely in the months of July and August. Much
14 later in the year has a lot less impact on recreation for
15 Baker County and we do serve people from four to five states
16 on a regular basis. Thank you.

17 MR. MITCHNICK: I want to ask you one question.
18 Is there a particular reservoir level at Brownlee that you
19 would like to see maintained during the recreational season?

20 MR. WARNER: I think anything above 1058 is a
21 real -- I mean it's accessible by all types of recreation on
22 Brownlee.

23 MR. MITCHNICK: Is the big issue boat access?

24 MR. WARNER: It's boat access and then water
25 quality as it draws down it's tougher.

1 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay, thanks.

2 The next speaker is Lee Daniels.

3 MR. DANIELS: My name is Lee Daniels of Weiser,
4 Idaho. The last name's spelling is D-A-N-I-E-L-S. Our
5 little group is a coalition of heavily impacted rural
6 neighbors of Brownlee-Oxbow and that includes significant
7 numbers of landowners as well as sportsmen and other
8 citizens.

9 Contrary to Mr. Warner, we don't feel like that
10 there is very much communication with the Idaho side
11 commissioners of Adams County and Washington County and the
12 Riggins corner or the southwest corner of Idaho County in
13 addressing the much needed rural partnership that has
14 deteriorated and should be in place long before now. Local
15 grassroots citizens see this process, even though it's at
16 the 8th inning or thereabouts, as a point in time to
17 solidify and develop some kind of memorandums of
18 understanding and the funding to go with it, whether it's
19 rural fire, ironic of the fires that we have, it's
20 critically important to get on these fires when they're
21 timing and one of the best ways to do that is with
22 helicopter. And to my limited knowledge I know on the Idaho
23 side we don't have any access to helicopters much until
24 fires get out of control and I wouldn't be surprised if
25 Baker County has any either. And in this day of speed and

1 transportation that's very much needed and Idaho Power needs
2 to share the revenue stream, which some people talk in terms
3 during each of the drought years of over \$3 million in
4 revenue stream and with a year like this year where we've
5 had significant more snow and water it's over \$5 million.
6 So it's not going to cost very much to get in and deal in a
7 business, good business-like format with initial attack
8 rural fire with helicopter, maybe from both the Oxbow
9 airstrip as well as either Farewell Bend or the Weiser
10 Airport so we can get on and do a serious partnership with
11 the BLM and the Forest Service.

12 The funding should be in the neighborhood of 45
13 to 48 percent Idaho Power profit-sharing. That's just as i
14 important as fish hatcheries or purchasing property for game
15 habitat mitigation. Emergency medical -- the closest
16 hospital between the reservoir areas where I think Mr.
17 Warner said something about recreation folks coming from
18 four or five states. I'm sure that's true and some of those
19 folks find themselves in trouble and we can't continue with
20 just sort of volunteer this and volunteer that when it comes
21 to emergency medical, EMT, if you will, search and rescue.
22 The hospital needs at Weiser -- I think that's one of the
23 closest, if not the closest rural hospital, emergency
24 critical rural hospital -- and initial attack fire. It's a
25 nominal cost. It should be budgeted for the same as fish

1 hatcheries or any other thing in the way of the Fish and
2 Wildlife restoration, but it seems to be very low on the
3 list of on-the-ground needs and we can't afford to go 30 or
4 40 or 50 years with a relicense and just sort of doing it by
5 volunteer. The population has grown. The recreation
6 population has grown and we just can't do it anymore and
7 less and less of us are willing to volunteer, and with free
8 use of public water, public-owned water resource coming down
9 the Snake River that should be a serious and a priority cost
10 of doing business now that these dams are amortized out and
11 basically are bought and paid for with not that many
12 improvements that appear to be necessary or new generators
13 or whatever.

14 The payments in lieu of decreasing property tax -
15 - if Baker County, Mr. Warner is not receiving less and less
16 and less property tax, feel lucky because we are on our
17 side. I'm not saying there's anything illegal, but the
18 political operations of Boise and the latest being the one-
19 day slam dunk legislative session that Idaho Power helped to
20 orchestrate with Idaho Commerce and Industry, IACE, has hurt
21 us bad, \$200,000 less in Idaho Power property taxes to the
22 Washington County treasury, \$100,000 less for the Adam's
23 county treasury. These increasingly expensive recreation
24 parks, and I can't speak for the Oregon side, but Hells
25 Canyon, McCormack and Woodhead do not seem to be on any

1 property tax collection. How we can have those kinds of
2 parks, nicely done and certainly an access at least to that
3 portion below the 45 or 50 miles of the Brownlee Reservoir
4 where Idaho Power seems to have no presence in the extreme
5 south end, we just can't continue with this property tax
6 problem that's getting worse and worse.

7 Unlike Baker County, which signed some kind of an
8 agreement where some people seven, some call it eight, in a
9 mitigation settlement, that doesn't exist on the Idaho side
10 as I think you're probably aware. So the gates are wide
11 open, as far as we're concerned, to keep trying and see if
12 we can't get some rural economic mitigation to deal with
13 these financial liabilities that are hurting our counties
14 and the far western edge of Idaho County out of
15 Grangesville, including the Riggins Corner, to my limited
16 knowledge, aren't getting any property taxes, per say, to
17 speak of. So that's in play right now.

18 With the rural economic impacts, we really feel
19 that if there's this much work that's going into an EIS
20 draft, something needs to be done to accompany with a draft
21 rural economic analysis, a legitimate one and we ask your
22 serious investigation to see if there isn't some way that
23 that can be done to lighten the load on the rest of the
24 taxpayers on the Idaho side, not just the reservoir and
25 bordering landowners, but everybody.

1 Idaho Power should be helping and they've sort of
2 drug their feet and don't seem to be much involved in other
3 energy forms like some co-gen opportunities that Adams
4 County wants to look at and is trying to look at and are
5 hiring some consultant engineering. Where is Idaho Power as
6 a partner? They benefit too in more and more electricity
7 that they don't have to provide locally at reasonable
8 prices, but the situation of just kind of sitting back and
9 stay out of the way and maybe somebody will solve this
10 thing.

11 Riggins' schools are dramatically in need of some
12 biomass energy. With the kinds of money that Idaho Power is
13 making, even in drought years, with these three big dams and
14 the facilities, there's just no question that there should
15 be some be some serious grant money for helping the Riggins'
16 schools, the New Meadow schools, the Council schools, which
17 are trying to do things on their own -- Cambridge, Midville
18 and Weiser. Some serious, serious help is needed for the
19 City of Weiser, who for about 75 years, have been a pretty
20 legitimate partner in a fairly interesting marriage until
21 the last -- since January 1, '03 and Idaho Power wants to
22 divorce the Town of Weiser and it's non-profit REA-type
23 distribution system involving 2002 customers. And the
24 Washington County commissioners and the City of Weiser are
25 highly upset and I'd surmise you're going to hear something

1 about that tomorrow night. They want to see these things
2 taken care of and not Idaho Power sitting over at Boise in a
3 fancy corporate palace castle and what only 10 years ago
4 they closed the rural customer service office, disappeared,
5 put up a piece of paper on the door with an 800 number. Now
6 I contest anybody what kind of a rural partnership that is.
7 Well, it's a bummer. People don't forget these kinds of
8 very selfish, greedy actions by executive leadership of
9 Idaho Power.

10 We have a little bit of hope right now with
11 Lamont King taking over July 1st, at least I think in both
12 halves of CEO and President, in that he will reopen the door
13 and see if there isn't more reasonable than "Goodbye, we're
14 done working with you," and that's just not the way to
15 develop a license or a relicense in this case. And we'd ask
16 you folks to intervene, as I think some of these entities
17 are going to do; and I certainly, involving the group I work
18 with we, am going to intervene.

19 And we do ask that you folks hopefully maybe you
20 heard some things at Boise and maybe tonight before this is
21 over, but you're seriously consider a supplemental DEIS.
22 There's nothing wrong with that. Yes, there's some expense
23 with it, but we can go a long ways in getting some things
24 more correctly done in answering these problems on the
25 ground that are crying out for solutions and not just a

1 paper shuffling thing between Boise and Washington, D.C. We
2 need things done on the ground and some of these I've
3 mentioned.

4 Grants -- were are some grant money that can and
5 should, even one-time grant money. When you look at Idaho
6 Power's so-called "grant program" it's a joke. It's a sad
7 joke. What little bit of money there is and the
8 announcements in the paper when there's a couple hundred
9 dollars here or \$500 there, doesn't amount to a hill of
10 beans when you look at the costs that are in place with the
11 other rural taxpayers of these counties on the Idaho side.
12 I'm also asking Fred Warner and his colleagues to revisit
13 this agreement and work with the Idaho commissioners like
14 the old proverbial football team and try to get on the same
15 page. And if it's true that they have a written settlement,
16 I don't think that really involves the schools at
17 Huntington, at Halfway/Richland. They're separate entities
18 and I don't think that this Mayor's Council or whatever it's
19 called involving Idaho Power people that he's talking about
20 is answering those questions and what needs to be addressed
21 on the Oregon side and I know darn well it's not happening
22 on the Idaho side, the same way with the elected board
23 members of the surrounding water districts of which there's
24 the Burnt River one, I think, at Huntington for the Burnt
25 River watershed. When you kill out the salmon runs up the

1 Burnt River or the Powder River that should induce some
2 money to do some serious cost share that Idaho Power can get
3 credit for mitigation-wise and get some things done on the
4 ground in watershed improvement, watershed enhancement. And
5 as you're probably aware, almost 20 years ago Oregon
6 pioneered an Oregon watershed enhancement piece of
7 legislation and it received and enjoyed a very significant
8 Republican majority vote on that. I hope you will look at
9 that and I hope that the Idaho Power people here tonight
10 will relay this information with the Powers to Be at Boise
11 and share with them that there are some partnerships and
12 some things that can and should be done and not just
13 "we/they" or hope that somebody doesn't bring us these
14 issues. Everybody has a stake in an improved Pine Creek and
15 watershed, an improved Powder River, an improved Burnt River
16 watershed and that includes Idaho Power and their water
17 quality stuff that's involved here.

18 On the Idaho side, we're not blessed much with a
19 Watershed Enhancement Act done by our legislature yet.
20 Hopefully, that will come with the Oregon model that's
21 existed for almost 20 years, but there's the same kind of
22 partnership. What is wrong with partnerships involving the
23 Town of Weiser and existing U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
24 projects that Idaho Power lobbied no, no, no on putting
25 generations in like the Mann Creek Dam in the Weiser River

1 watershed, like Bullet Creek up above Vale, Oregon? I can't
2 remember the ones in Baker County, but maybe Phillips or
3 Horse Thief or something might be some candidates. What's
4 wrong with Idaho Power becoming a junior partner, say 49
5 percent? Nothing's wrong. The way we get things done in a
6 rural area, more often than not, is partnership. It's not
7 happening with Idaho Power's situation, especially over the
8 last 15 years or so, especially the last 10 as they closed
9 the rural customer public service offices.

10 Today I was up at a place called the Imnaha weir
11 for fisheries. Here comes an export transmission line right
12 over the top of those buildings and the raceways and so
13 forth. The man there said that they were tied with Looking
14 Glass Hatchery or something over Elgin or some place that
15 I'm not familiar with. Well, here we have these export
16 transmission lines that are making money hand over fist
17 towards Seattle or wherever these export customers are and
18 Idaho Power won't even allow them to hook up, even with a
19 substation type of situation, and they've got to bring in
20 small generators. Is that a partnership? I think not. And
21 I wish that you folks could have been up there today.

22 So therefore I think Idaho Power should be paying
23 for that weir 100 percent after 40 years or more of doing
24 nothing. I don't know when that export transmission line
25 came out of Hells Canyon, but I'm guessing about 1968 or '69

1 or '70, and solve that problem. What about Idaho Power
2 paying for 49 percent or 48 percent of the Looking Glass
3 Hatchery. This business of just being on the cheap, just
4 being, you know, so what? Those fish people or those rural
5 neighbors can just go it alone. We're not going to involve
6 money from Idaho Power profits and that's bunk, nothing but
7 bunk and it's the worst example in greed that many of us can
8 think about. And this project that you're working on here
9 is of extreme concern and interest to many of us and we ask
10 you folks to come back and seriously do this again, but go
11 to the areas that are most heavily impacted like Farewell
12 Bend and Huntington, Richland and go to Council and go to
13 Riggins so you can hear more of the problems in front of
14 these towns that are much further away and I think it's only
15 fair and it's only right and it's time to do that. So I
16 know you've done a lot of work and we thank you for coming
17 out here, but sometimes, you know, you're breaking a horse
18 you need to keep after it and ask for more input.

19 I've got a newspaper back there that I want to
20 give you and I forgot to bring it up -- Hells Canyon Journal
21 -- and I think it's August 9th. If I can go get that, I'll
22 give it to you. Page 6, August 9, Hells Canyon Journal and
23 here's the public legal notice right here, and unless I'm
24 blind, I only noticed a couple of meetings at Boise last
25 Thursday and Friday and I don't see anything mentioned about

1 Halfway or anything. I think it just bothers us more with
2 has Washington, D.C. forgotten about rural citizens in these
3 kinds of areas when what you're doing are centerpieces, not
4 only for fisheries and hunters and trappers and it's time
5 that somehow we recognize right on it too many mistakes in
6 this draft impact statement, too many things that were
7 missing. So let's start over to do a supplementary. Other
8 agencies do supplement, so I don't think it's out of
9 character. And I don't know what kind of a timeline
10 deadline that you're on, but this is extremely important to
11 us and we just need it to happen, just need it done
12 properly. Thanks for this opportunity.

13 MR. MITCHNICK: Thanks, Lee.

14 Just to follow-up on the notice that's in this
15 paper, this is to advertise the issuance of the draft
16 Environmental Impact Statement and talks about meetings in
17 Boise and we added that line because we had settled on the
18 date, but we did not have a location yet. Subsequent to
19 that notice, we did issue two other notices that appeared in
20 the same newspaper. The first notice advertised the
21 meetings in Halfway and Weiser, and the third notice
22 advertised the meeting in Lewiston.

23 MR. DANIELS: That's good to hear because I just
24 went to the newspaper office before 5 o'clock and I asked,
25 "Do you have papers with this" and that's the one they

1 brought me. So they probably forgot to show me the more
2 recent one.

3 MR. MITCHNICK: Right. The Lewiston meeting
4 probably was not noticed in this paper, but the other two
5 would have been. We can confirm to make sure that these
6 things do get where they're suppose to get.

7 Nobody else has indicated that they wished to
8 speak. This is your opportunity to speak or ask questions.

9 MS. HALL: Can I ask one question? I'd like to
10 ask one question. Mr. Daniels, when you started out, you're
11 talking about firefighting needs and suggesting helicopters
12 and such. Now are you thinking about fires that are in the
13 project area or start there or just assistance from Idaho
14 Power in fighting fires generically in the area?

15 MR. DANIELS: Thank you for that question. I'm
16 talking initial attacks and that's where we're the weakest
17 these days are on initial attack and a good initial area in
18 this day and age involves more than just the project area.
19 But if you recall, I talk in terms of 40 to 48 percent and I
20 probably didn't say, but anyway, the other major partner of
21 52 to 55 percent would be the BLM and the Forest Service.
22 So it does not include local lacking rural fire districts
23 like here at Halfway or Richland or Huntington that are
24 volunteer. And yes, where there's roads but much of this
25 country doesn't have much in the way of roads and so we're

1 dependent upon something other than just ground vehicles.

2 I hope that answers your question, but that same
3 helicopter and some of the training -- if we have 12
4 helicopter-trained people at say the Oxbow airstrip and
5 maybe a smaller one at Weiser or vice versa and during the
6 peak fire season it would be possible to go elsewhere in the
7 counties if they have a lightning storm or a fire bust,
8 recognizing that they were not to be involved in project
9 fires like we have right now. Only -- and this is important
10 -- initial attack. And as the fires get away sometimes,
11 then outside crews come in and immediately take it over. So
12 we're talking about emergency services. Search and rescue I
13 think I've already mentioned an emergency medical and county
14 law enforcement.

15 You know, there's too much political stuff on top
16 of our county sheriff's offices and I don't think their
17 budgets are getting much better. Mr. Warner would know far
18 better than I, but from the Idaho side there's no fat
19 budgets with Adams County and Idaho County and Washington
20 County. They're spread so thin. For Idaho Power to only be
21 willing to help with the boat and maybe part-time of a
22 whatever they call anyway -- a boat deputy sheriff -- and
23 especially since 9/11. You know, are we in national
24 security? Are we trying to protect these facilities or are
25 we on the cheap as far as Idaho Power is concerned? So I

1 want to leave you with that. It's time to write some
2 checks. They do it every year.

3 What if Idaho Power, which could easily happen
4 once the relicense is packaged up, whoa here's a billion and
5 a half possibility of quick cash. So they sell it to Enron
6 or Saudi Arabia Energy or God only knows how. Idaho Power
7 as we know it disappears and that could happen very easily.
8 Ask Montana Power Company what they did with their hydrodams
9 and facilities. So anybody that thinks that Idaho Power is
10 here to be, you know, our neighbors for a good long time I
11 don't think water runs uphill and just a way of corporate
12 consolidations and takeovers and so forth, Idaho Power could
13 be like many very short-lived with takeovers or quick cash
14 settlements.

15 MR. MITCHNICK: Thanks. Are there any other
16 questions, comments? Anything?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. MITCHNICK: I'd just like to remind you that
19 there will be a meeting at 7 o'clock local time tomorrow in
20 Weiser at --

21 MS. HALL: At the Weiser Senior Center at 7
22 o'clock.

23 MR. MITCHNICK: The Weiser Senior Center at 7
24 o'clock.

25 MR. DANIEL: Are you folks available, at least by

1 phone, for our local newspaper, our weekly newspaper to call
2 you and interview once you get back and kind of get settled
3 or is that in limbo?

4 MR. MITCHNICK: You would have to go through our
5 Press Office. All requests to talk with the press has to go
6 through that and I can get you that number. And if my
7 supervisors agree to that, then it's something that has been
8 arranged in the past.

9 MR. DANIELS: Just off the record, when you had
10 the snowstorm trip here, I believe, 20 February '03 bad
11 roads and all. It would seem like something this major
12 exist, why not have a newspaper --

13 MR. MITCHNICK: Could you come up?

14 MR. DANIELS: When you have at least a scoping
15 into this and if there is a potential for a supplemental,
16 why not back up and do something I guess sort of eighth-
17 grade simple and take out a half of a newspaper page and
18 summarize what this thing is all about in layman terms, not
19 Washington, D.C. language that some of us don't savvy very
20 well? And then have a bunch of lines and a clip out and a
21 P.O. box or e-mail or whatever that people could write at
22 their kitchen table, clip out of the paper and say these are
23 some things that we would like to see addressed rather than
24 spend the kind of time that you folks have in traveling
25 clear out here, which I certainly appreciate, but see if

1 there isn't some other ways to reach members of the public.

2 I wish Fred Warner would speak to that -- some
3 better ways to reach grassroots voters and citizens.

4 Fred, would you share your thoughts?

5 MR. WARNER: I would say that, you know, it was
6 noticed in the local paper. People had an opportunity to
7 comment on this. I know we've had copies of the DEIS on CD
8 and I guess that would be -- I mean in a perfect world it
9 would be great if there was a recap. I don't know who would
10 do that recap for the citizens of Baker County, I guess, who
11 want to know. I mean you have done -- I mean the words been
12 out.

13 MR. MITCHNICK: Thanks, Fred.

14 Just two things before we close, we have plenty
15 of hard copies of the document, two volumes. We had shipped
16 13 boxes out here, but I have no idea where they are.

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. MITCHNICK: It's been over three weeks, so I
19 don't expect to see them any time soon. But we still have
20 plenty of copies, so if you'll leave me your name I'll get
21 the secretary to mail them out tomorrow if you prefer hard
22 copies.

23 The last thing is just to remind you comments are
24 due October 3rd, and thank you for coming out tonight.

25 (Whereupon, at XX, the above-referenced matter

1 was concluded.)

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