UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Georgia Power Company : Project No. 485-063

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BARTLETTS FERRY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Request for Comments on the PAD

Public Scoping Meeting

Valley Community Center

130 Sportsplex Drive

Valley, Alabama 36854

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

The public hearing, pursuant to notice, convened at 1:09 p.m. before a Staff Panel:

BRANDI SANGUNETT, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

GEORGE A. MARTIN, Project Manager, Georgia Power

COURTENAY R. O'MARA, P.E., Southern Company

P R O C E E D I N G S

MS. SANGUNETT: Hello, everyone. my name is Brandi Sangunett, I'm with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and I'm an ecologist in the Division of Hydropower Licensing. So what we're here today for is a scoping meeting. This is my first scoping meeting, and my colleagues abandoned me at the airport; and I've never seen this presentation except for about five minutes ago, so bear with me. I will do the best I can, and I'll have to use my cheat sheet here a little bit.

First I want everyone to introduce themselves, and we'll go over the meeting protocols. We'll discuss the process of the ILP, the integrated licensing process; and then we'll have some discussion from Georgia Power, describing the project and how it currently operates; then we'll discuss the issues and then we'll discuss the study proposals.

On the back table we have a registration form; we would love it if everyone could please sign their name, give us their contact information so we have a record of who attended. And maybe if you want to pass that around, that would be great.

Also, we have some things on the back table for reference; I believe the scoping document is back there, the organizational chart here for the integrated licensing

process, has all the steps printed. There's also a map of the project, and some briefing cards.

All that is available in the back. Also we have a court reporter, so everybody needs to speak loud and clear and they need to introduce themselves and state what organization they're from and spell your name so that he can understand you clearly.

So the purpose of our scoping meeting is basically to get information about what the issues are, and those issues are described in the scoping document, which all of you should have gotten in the mail; and it's available on eLibrary as well, if you don't have a copy of that; and it's discussed in Section 2 of that scoping document. So we'd like to give the stakeholders and the resource agencies an opportunity to discuss whatever issues they think are relevant regarding the relicense for this project.

Now I'll describe the integrated licensing process. So first we have a pre-application document; you might want to refer to this. I'm sure a lot of you are familiar with this nice flow chart. The first step is we have the pre-application document or PAD -- you're going to hear me say "PAD" a lot -- and the key is to have FERC involved in the very beginning and to get all the issues addressed and dealt with, and any disputes over those

issues, and how they should be addressed in the beginning of the acquisition process, so that when the actual application is filed, all of that is worked out.

This procedure was developed in 2003 in the hopes that the relicensing process would become a more streamlined process, and have strict guidelines for the schedule. So that's another key component, scheduling and getting FERC involved in the beginning, and getting all this addressed from the getgo.

(Slide.)

Here's that chart again. It's divided into two portions; the prefiling activity. And you'll notice that there are numbers on this that describe where this box is discussed in the regs, the regulations for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

So you have also a timeline, so between each process how much time can elapse. For example, after the PAD is filed and how that procedure should go -- the numbers are listed there -- you have 30 days to initiate a tribal consultation meeting, for example. Sixty days for the Commission to issue a notice that we've received the PAD.

Then you have the post-filing, and that's once all the scoping documents and the scoping meetings have taken place and all the study plans have been determined and carried out, and the results of that have been reviewed,

that's when the actual application gets filed.

So the prefiling, preliminary license proposal due 150 days prior to the license expiration, for those of you who were not aware of that; and comments on the proposal are due within 90 days. So those are some dates that are important to know; and specifically for this project, comments are due September 4th, I believe; I think there's a slide that goes over the specific schedule for this project.

And then there are lots of places where you can get information on the PAD or like our court-reported meeting here today will be available on line from the FERC website; and I believe there's a card in the back where Georgia Power has a website designated for this project as well. And the information is on the back table.

I guess that's it; I can turn it over to the Georgia Power folks now.

MR. LINDSAY: It may be useful to let everybody know where we are in the timeline, the overall timeline.

MR. MARTIN: We sure can.

My name is George Martin, and I'm a biologist with Georgia Power, and I'm the Project Manager for the Bartletts Ferry Relicensing, and I want to join Brandi in welcoming you all to scoping.

And to answer Arnold's question, within the integrated licensing process, we have already completed our

pre-application activities in this bar over here before the blue boxes began; and we have filed our pre-application document and our notice of intent to relicense. We have also requested non-federal designation as the entity that will negotiate Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act as well as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

We have, through the Commission, made contact with a number of tribes that were listed in the pre-application document, and we have heard back that several of those tribes are interested in a conference, a web conference perhaps, and we're still working those details out with FERC. Of course the Commission did notice the PAD, and they also filed and presented their Scoping Document 1, which leads us to this Box No. 4, where we are today, where the Commission is hosting NEPA scoping, and tomorrow we will have our site visit and project tour down at the reservoir and at the dam. And then on Thursdays, much like this is the scoping meeting for the State of Alabama, we'll have a scoping in Fortson, Georgia for the Georgia stakeholders.

So there's where we are within the ILP. What I wanted to talk a little bit more about was what we've done prior to filing the PAD and the Notice of Intent. We wanted to get out in front of this process and work with our stakeholders and identify issues and identify areas of interest and concern. So what we did early on was we

developed a relicensing website, and this is the web address for that relicensing website, and everything that we filed, everything that we discussed with the Commission is going to be on this relicensing website as well as on the eLibrary, which is FERC's website; and this is: www.GeorgiaPower.com/lakes/hydro/Bartletts.aspect. And that is our internal website that we initiated early on.

We also have an e-mail box for communications with our stakeholders, and that is: bfrelice@southernco.com. And you can send us e-mails; and Courtenay O'Mara, who is with Southern Company Generation, Hydro Services, is helping me to project manage issues, our coordinator; and between Courtenay and I, we will get back with you on any e-mails that you might send in to us.

The third thing that we did is we put together an operations primer, which Courtenay is going to go over in detail; we provided that with the PAD, and we also presented that at our town hall meetings which we held early in January.

You heard me mention earlier that we had the briefing cards. This is a good example of one of the briefing cards. This is a stakeholder involvement briefing card. They are one-pagers; we have ten or eleven of them, and they briefly discuss what the focus of the briefing card is about. For example, we have others on the value of

hydropower, recreation, water resources, fisheries, a number of different topics that you can just take a one-page look at.

These are also housed on the website, as well as we've got some hard copies in the back that we can talk with you around the room about, the larger blown-up briefing cards as posters.

In addition to that, we've had face-to-face resource agency consultation meetings, we've met with ADCNR, we've met with Fish & Wildlife, we've met with WRD and EPD and some of the other NGO groups we've talked with on the phone. And I mentioned earlier, we've had town hall meetings; in January of this year we held one here in this location, and then we also held one in Fortson where we'll be having our Georgia scoping meeting. And I mentioned the poster session, and we have subject matter experts. There are a number of subject matter experts here today within Georgia Power, and we have biologists, we have a fisheries biologist, we have a wildlife biologist, we have lake and reservoir managers, we have engineers, we have folks that operate the plant and land managers, otherwise, and folks that work with dispatching the units, and we've got some environmental consultants with us.

So any questions that you may have, I think we've got the subject matter expert in the room to discuss it and

fully understand it.

One of the last things that we had during our town hall meetings was we had a full ILP training class that took about an hour and a half for that class to take place; and then lastly, what we did during pre-application activities was we did meet with the Harding Homeowners Association at their spring meeting, and we had much similar to this setting, where we had a poster session with them.

So those are the prefiling activities. Courtenay is going to get into this a lot more; but I think everybody knows where in the world we are. We're on the Chattahoochee River between the States of Georgia and Alabama, just north of Columbus in Phenix City, at the Bartletts Ferry project, which is right here below Langdale and Riverview, upstream of Oliver, North Highlands and Goat Rock, which are Georgia Power facilities. Georgia Power has six facilities on the Middle Chattahoochee, and this is the third project on the Middle Chattahoochee reach of the river. And here's a good aerial photograph; and Courtenay is going to go over some of the project works when she opens up her operations primer.

So that's all that I wanted to cover, and to make sure everybody signs in. And Brandi, did you want folks to introduce themselves around? I think you mentioned that.

MS. SANGUNETT: Yes, that would be great.

MS. O'MARA: I'm Courtenay O'Mara, I'm an

engineer with Southern Company, Hydro, and I'm going to be doing the next part of the presentation, which is an overview of what is contained in the operations primer.

MR. WEST: My name is Ben West, I'm a biologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MR. STEARNS: I'm Ricky Stearns, Georgia Power, I'm a management specialist.

MR. HILL: I'm Keith Hill, I'm a lake resources manager at the Bartletts Ferry Land Management Office.

MR. LINDSAY: I'm Arnold Lindsay, Georgia Power Company. I'm the plant manager at Bartletts Ferry.

MR. BARNETT: I'm Mike Barnett, Georgia Power Company, I'm a land management specialist at the Bartletts Ferry office.

MR. DODD: My name is Tony Dodd, I'm an aquatic biologist with Georgia Power Company.

MR. NICHOLS: Nick Nichols, a fish biologist with Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

MR. GREENE: I'm Chris Greene, fish biologist also with Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

MR. SAMMONS: Steve Sammons, I'm in the Department of Fisheries at Auburn University.

MR. LAYMAN: Steve Layman, I'm a fisheries biologist with CH2M Hill.

MR. VEIRA: Fitzgerald Veira, Troutman Sanders, legal counsel to Georgia Power.

MS. MEUSHAW: Hallie Meushaw, Troutman Sanders as well, legal counsel to Georgia Power.

MR. BROADWELL: Tom Broadwell, a biologist with Georgia Power.

MR. CHARLES: Joey Charles, I'm a hydro license coordinator, Georgia Power land management and cultural resources management.

MR. KNUDSEN: Chad Knudsen, land management, Georgia Power.

MR. GLISSON: Bill Glisson, with Bartletts Ferry, I'm a land management specialist.

MR. HARDIE: Wayne Hardie, Hydro Superintendent, Georgia Power and Chattahoochee Hydro Group.

MR. SMITH: Greg Smith, Georgia Power, Hydro Coordinator for Hydro Resources.

MR. SLAUGHTER: Joey Slaughter, fish biologist for Georgia Power.

MR. CANDLER: Jim Candler, wildlife biologist, Georgia Power.

MS. DYKE: Heather Dyke, CH2M Hill. I'm an environmental planner, recreation, and socioeconomics specifically.

While your eyes are on me, has anybody not signed

in?

(No response.)

Thanks.

MS. O'MARA: I've introduced myself before, I'm Courtenay O'Mara, and I'm an engineer, again with Southern Company. My group provides technical support to the Georgia Power hydro plants, and one of our functions is relicensing.

So I'm going to jump right in, and refer you back, I think probably you all have the PAD document. In the appendix of the PAD is an operations primer. I'm not sure which appendix it is, I think B. A lot of my graphs that I'm going to go through come from this document. So if you've got questions, you can always go back here or talk to me.

Let's start with the project works. We have two powerhouses at this plant; the West, you'll sometimes hear us refer to as the 'old powerhouse.' It's got four units, three were built in the '20s, one was added in the 1950s, and then we have our East powerhouse which houses our Units 5 and 6, which are larger units.

This entire section in here was added in the '80s. You have your principal spillway. On top of the spillway, you've got gates pretty much all the way across. The water goes through penstocks down to the powerhouse from Lake Harding, it gets discharged from the tailrace. The

discharge is directly into Goat Rock Reservoir, which is our plant, Goat Rock plant downstream.

Over here, if you come tomorrow for the site visit, if you come up the Alabama side, you'll drive past the flood control spillway; it's a labyrinth-shaped spillway; that's designed to pass the PMF, which is the probable maximum flood which is a flood which has never happened in this area. In 2003 there was some major flooding in Columbus; that was never activated or used.

What happens during a high flow event is we run all the water through the turbines, as much as we can get, and then if the incoming inflow exceeds the turbine capacity, we start opening gates in order to match the inflow. So what we're trying to do during a flood event is not make flooding worse downstream but to, as much as we can exactly match the inflow. And we are pure run-of-river during a flood event, high enough flood event.

The project statistics; like I said, 1920s, we first went on line. Reservoir area is 5850 acres. Our normal full pool is 521. We typically operate in the range between 519 and 521, so we keep our fluctuations within 2 feet, typically. And I'm going to go through a number of graphs later that take you through different high flow, medium flow, and low flow events to show you how our reservoir operates during those different situations.

We've got 57,680 acre-feet of conservation storage; that is from elevation 510 to 521. Below 510 we cannot operate our turbines. So that's the range in which we are allowed to fluctuate the lake; however, like I said, we typically only keep it within a 2 feet range, typically.

The average annual inflow into the project is 6150 cfs, and that is a number that's based on over 100 years of record; that is the West Point Gage, which is just downstream of West Point Dam; and then added to that the local inflow from Osanippa Creek, Halawakee Creek, all the local tributaries that come in below that West Point Gage.

If you run the average, about 82 percent of the river flow coming down is from West Point Dam with 18 percent being from those tributaries.

We term our operation, modified run-of-river. That means we store water for hours or days at that time; and I'll get more into relative size of project and what that means in relation to run-of-river versus a storage project. But we are modified run-of-river on a weekly basis. What comes into the project goes downstream.

We found that it's helpful to kind of give folks some perspective on relative lake sizes. I know when I first started, a lake was a lake; but that's not entirely true. We have selected small, medium and large reservoirs to categorize different lakes across the state, and I'll

take you through what are the features of each of those types of lakes.

A small reservoir has no storage; it's what termed pure run-of-river, so that means the inflow is always equal to the outflow. Most of those are old mill sites. Georgia Power actually has Langdale and Riverview, which are just that stream in Bartletts Ferry, those are run-of-river. And these were put in a long time ago because of the need for a steady power; so at a mill, you need steady power throughout the day. Or a lot of them today don't even have any power. So that's a small reservoir.

The next size is a medium reservoir, and this is what Bartletts Ferry is. We do have some storage; we store water for hours or days with that storage, and release it. But over the week, we don't have enough storage to hold any more water. So at the end of the week we can't hold onto any more and we have to let it go. So we modify flows with our storage on an hourly or daily basis, but on a weekly basis, it's coming right through our plant.

Georgia Power built Bartletts Ferry for the purpose of power generation.

All right, third you have large reservoirs. These are reservoirs that have significant storage. They're stored for months or years, they store the water for months or years; typical of that in the State of Georgia are the

large Corps reservoirs: West Point, Buford. They collect the water during high and flow periods and then time that release over the year. So they are capable, with their significant storage, to hold water for months and years as opposed to days and hours like a medium reservoir.

Because they are so large and so expensive to build, those projects typically have multiple purposes. Whereas Georgia Power's Bartletts Ferry is a medium reservoir with power generation. The Corps is operating their projects for power generation, flood control, navigation in this stretch of the river, recreation -- they have multiple uses, and that is used to justify the high cost.

I've refer to all of the individual dams, or some individual dams. On the Chattahoochee River we've got a number of dams Georgia Power and Corps-owned. We've left out Langdale
and Riverview, some of the really small run-of-river, because they don't have storage.

So this is a comparison of dams on the Chattahoochee River, and what percentage of the storage volume is available. Buford is 63.3 percent, so it's the big dam on the Chattahoochee River. West Point, 17.8 percent with Walter F. George at 14.2. You can see Bartletts Ferry has 3.4 percent of the storage on the

Chattahoochee River. And that 3.4 percent is the full 510 to 521, the 11-foot operating range; that's where that percentage comes from. So in order to access 3.4 percent you'd have to drop the lake significantly.

In summary, the Corps has got almost 96 percent of the storage in Georgia, whereas Georgia Power's got a little over 4 percent.

MR. WEST: Quick question. Are there any water supply intakes on Lake Harding?

MS. SANGUNETT: Can you identify yourself?

MR. WEST: My name is Ben West, I'm with EPA. I'm wondering if there are any water supply intakes on Lake Harding.

You mentioned the use of the river, is it used for water supply?

MS. O'MARA: There are two intakes; I believe it's Harris County and Opelika.

Is that right? Okay. And I'm not sure what their limits are. That is in the PAD. We can look it up after and talk about it to me, too.

(Slide.)

So now I want to go through a little bit about the influence of what these large storage projects have on flows in the river.

We've got a bar chart. On the left we've got

flow and CFS -- that's cubic feet per second. This is a BYMA bar chart; and this is compiled from data from January of '76 to July of '08. We chose 1976 because that was when West Point first became operable.

So what we did was compared what the water flows on the river would be with and without Buford and West Point, which are the two large storage dams upstream of this area of the river. Without the effect of those large storage projects, that's the blue color; and with the storage effect, that is the purple color.

So let's look at March, a high flow month, a spring month. Here you go, without the reservoirs in place you would see much higher flows on the river, say 9,000. With the reservoirs in place, you're seeing a lower flow downstream of the dam. So you're seeing 7,000 CFS. That difference is the amount of water that's being stored by those large storage projects; that's what they're designed to do.

So that is in a wet month, in March. Let's go down to a summer month where we've got low flow. Here it's just the opposite; the effect by the dams in place results in a higher flow. So with the dams in place you're sending 4,000 to 4,500 CFS, and the incoming flow is roughly 3,000 CFS. So that's the supplemental flow that's being sent downstream by these storage projects. Again, it's what

they're designed to do.

This graph is on Bartletts Ferry, it's a line graph, it's presenting the same kind of information that we saw in the previous slide; that was a bar graph -- this is a line graph. This is the seven-day average inflow and outflow from Bartletts Ferry project. I said earlier we modify flows on an hourly to daily basis, on a weekly basis we pass everybody through.

You may not be able to tell, but there are two lines on here, the inflow is a blue line and outflow is the pink line. They're right on top of each other, and this is the rolling seven day average. So on a weekly basis, the inflow matches the outflow.

(Slide.)

So let's look at just Bartletts Ferry and West Point; and remember, West Point is just upstream of us with two run-of-river projects in between. They're both peaking power plants, they have relatively similar hydraulic capacity; that's the size of -- that's how much the turbines can pass. So Bartletts Ferry is at 24,000 CFS and West Point is 19,000 CFS. So their powerhouses are relatively the same size.

Bartletts Ferry discharges directly into a reservoir, whereas West Point discharges into a riverine stretch of the Chattahoochee; I think it's 12 miles of river

between West Point before it starts entering Bartletts Ferry project.

Our daily discharges at Bartletts are greater than 500 CFS, 99.8 percent of the time. West Point has a minimum flow because they are discharging right in the river. They typically run 600 to 800 CFS all the time, with peaking; and they prefer not to peak on the weekends.

(Slide.)

Now that we know kind of about the entire system, I want to focus in on just Bartletts Ferry and I want to take you through -- I categorize flows as medium flows, high flows -- like a flood event, and low flows like the drought that we're in. And I'm going to take you through what West Point is doing, what Bartletts Ferry is doing in a typical week.

So on this graph we've got flow; this is one week. So if you've got -- Saturday, we're starting with Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. This is a medium flow week. For this particular week, this is in 1998; we kind of randomly selected the week to closely match what flows we were trying to target.

So this particular seven day weekly average was 4742 CFS. Recall that the average is 6150 CFS. So this gets us in the range of the average. The purple is the West Point release; the yellow is the Bartletts Ferry release,

and that corresponds to the flow over here. On this axis, you've got the reservoir elevations. We're tracking reservoir elevation with this light blue line, so you have to look to the right when you're looking at that line.

Here you see, on Saturday and Sunday, you see West Point at their minimum flow; they're running about 500 or 600 all weekend long. Georgia Power is doing a little bit of peaking on Saturday and Sunday. During the week, Monday through Friday, you see West Point start to peak. This is happening, this line right here is 12 noon, and it's running until about, really until about midnight, from low spot to low spot on the graph. And I think that will make sense to you; we come home from work, we fire up our dishwasher and our stove and our air conditioning, and these peaking areas correspond to that need for power from all of us.

So both West Point and Bartletts Ferry peak at the same time. You can see that as Bartletts Ferry is peaking at this yellow line, the reservoir elevation starts to pull down. So we're pulling from our storage to make these peaking releases. As the water from West Point arrives at Bartletts Ferry, at Lake Harding, we're refilling that storage; so here you see the elevation climb back up. So you're replenishing your storage with water from West Point. Takes about four to six hours for water to get from

West Point down to Bartletts Ferry.

So that's a typical average flow week. Let's take it to another scenario. Flood conditions. I want to go ahead and focus in at, this is West Point on the purple line. This is the same type graph, however I want to note that the flow -- check out the change in scale here. We're talking 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, 40,000 CFS and so forth. So we're on a much different scale.

To jump right in, West Point is here, 19,000 CFS is their plant capacity. So they're discharging all they can from the plant. Then what they're doing is opening gates. So as inflow is coming in, their flow is picking up. This is going through their plant plus over their spillway through the gates.

Bartletts Ferry, you see it takes a while for that water to get there. Bartletts Ferry does the same thing. We get to about 24,000 CFS, our plant capacity, and then we start opening gates. And if you watch, as we're opening gates, the reservoir elevation is still starting to climb; so that means there's more inflow coming into the project than leaving.

So we're opening a gate one at a time until we start to see the reservoir elevation level off. And at that point in time is when we stop opening gates and the reverse is true of the down slope.

I'd like to show you the incoming flow at Bartletts, the 140,000 CFS in this particular graph. This is 2003, for reference; that was the flooding event in Columbus that I think a lot of people from this area are familiar with. The inflow to the plant at Bartletts was 140,000. If you'll look at the discharge from West Point, it's roughly 70,000. That difference is what's coming in in those local tributaries; they're just getting pelted with water coming down.

And in the case of a flood condition, 82 percent I mentioned was the amount of inflow into the project on average from West Point, with 18 percent being from tributary flow. In a flood condition, your percentage from local tributary flow is actually greater; and the reverse is true during a drought: Because of no rain you have very little local inflow and a greater percentage of our flow is coming from West Point.

So let's move on to a low inflow condition. This weekly flow is from 2007. The average flow is 1350 CFS just two years ago. The peaking patterns remain the same; you can see that the peaks for both Bartletts and for West Point are skinnier and shorter, because there's less water naturally coming down the river for both plants to operate by.

So we see that West Point has their minimum flow,

they're peaking a little, and that Bartletts is doing the same thing. The pattern of peaking does not change, the elevation of Bartletts Ferry reservoir over the week, we're drawing a little bit more down out of our storage. This is 520 and this is 519. I told you before we typically keep it between 519 and 521, and even during the drought of 2007 -- that was the first year of our current drought -- we stayed within that two foot range. And that is because of the amount of flow that's made from West Point. West Point was still sending flow downstream during 2007.

So let me make sure I've hit everything.

MR. WEST: Can I ask a quick question?

MS. O'MARA: Absolutely.

MR. WEST: When you're not peaking, and with no minimum flow requirement, is it just leakage out of the dam?

MS. O'MARA: There is a little bit of leakage. We did a measurement, it's not -- I think it's a couple hundred CFS. Very insignificant. But you're also discharging directly into a reservoir as opposed to a riverine range.

MR. WEST: The leakage is 200 CFS, is that what you said?

MS. O'MARA: I'd have to go back and check. We have that actual measurement. Two or three hundred, from everything.

The next part of the presentation, I'm just going to take you through the same flow scenarios, and we're just going to look at reservoir elevations.

This was 2003, and periodically we do fall maintenance drawdowns, this is for the benefit of our homeowners to do dock maintenance, shoreline structure repair. Throughout most of the year. 2003 is considered a normal flow year. You can see 519, 521 in the fall maintenance drawdown.

The next slide is, typically it's the same thing, it's 2003 except this is 2004, so it's a year without a fall drawdown; and throughout the year we maintain our typical operating range.

Now I'm going to move into 2007. We did a few calculations using flows from the West Point Gage. That gage is one of the USGS's centennial gages, which means it's been around for more than 100 years collecting data, so we have a really good dataset. Actually have 112 years of data, and in 2007 that was the second worst drought for this stretch of the river. And here you see we're operating the same way as we would during a normal year.

The next year, 2008, as we move further into the drought -- that was actually the worst drought in 112 years from this area. Again, we're typically operating in that two foot range for most of the year. During the

particularly dry months you have a little bit further drop in your reservoir, and that's about three feet. So still, in the worst drought of record, we're in good shape at the reservoir.

(Slide.)

George wants me to mention, we ran a calculation the other day to see how much more we were drawing it down below the 519 level, that lower level; and in 2008 we dropped below 519 about 10 percent more than we did in the previous ten years. So we are dropping it down more, but not significantly.

We just added this slide. This is 3 July, so through last week. You're seeing the same trend; we are still maintaining the 519 to 521, not seeing too much of an effect. I ran some stats. In 2009, you may be interested to know that the February flows at the West Point Gage was the lowest in 113 years, and July flows were also -- they were the second lowest in 113 years. So we don't know how the whole year is going to shape out to be, but we have a few months that are showing us some trends of low flow. And we are below 519 2.1 percent of the time thus far this year.

I think I have a summary slide. I took you through a lot of information, and we can post this presentation if it help you upon our website; I think I'm planning on doing that anyway. The summary I'd like for you

to -- the take-home points are that we were the medium-sized reservoir, we were built specifically for power generation, we modify flow
on an hourly and daily basis, but not on a weekly basis; we're passing it all through. That's what we term "modified run-of-river."

We don't have a minimum flow, and that's because we discharge directly into the Goat Rock Reservoir. Typically, we spend a lot of time on reservoir elevations, 99 percent of the time we're between 519 and 521 -- if you exclude those fall maintenance drawdowns. And in 2008 we were below 519 about 10 percent more than we were in a previous long term range, and during 2008 we were still within about three feet. Because of the 82 percent average inflow from West Point, obviously we are strongly influenced by our inflow into the project.

So that's all I have. Any questions?

MR. WEST: Does the existing license have any operating bans?

MS. O'MARA: There are no fluctuation limits on the existing license. That's just how we typically operate.

MR. WEST: That's just how you operate.

MS. O'MARA: It's a matter of practice; we try to keep it within that range.

MR. WEST: Are you proposing to put in an

operating protocol like that in the new license? Or to maintain --

MS. O'MARA: We're proposing to continue our operations; that would include no minimum flow, no fluctuation limits, and we feel that we've been very effective managers of the lake level and inflows in this area. So we don't really feel that it's necessary and aren't proposing any right now.

MR. HARDIE: Wayne Hardie with Georgia Power.

The leakage is not through the dam.

MS. O'MARA: No.

MR. HARDIE: I just want to make sure everybody knows that it's for the units.

MS. O'MARA: That's a good point, it's through the wicket gates of the turbine units.

MR. HARDIE: Because I don't want anybody to think the we've got 200 CFS leaking through the dam.

(Laughter)

MS. O'MARA: The dam structure is fine.

Any other questions, even from our own crew? Did I miss something?

MR. LINDSAY: I would like to mention a couple things. One is, we do have the intake from Harris County and Opelika, and that does limit also how far we can draw the lake down, not just operational issues; I don't know

what those limits are right now.

MR. WEST: I was going to ask you that, the 510, is that driven by the turbine or is it driven by the water supply intake --

MS. O'MARA: Well, the 510 is actually driven by the turbine. I believe that Opelika might be the furthest down, they need a minimum submergence on their intake for their pump. I believe 510 satisfies that as well.

MR. WEST: So they're below 510.

MR. LINDSAY: It's just something we have to be aware of, but not only at low flow -- I mean, they make it still pump, but they start having issues, you know, cavitation.

MS. O'MARA: Cavitation issues. Good point.

Anything else on this? It's a lot of information.

MR. LINDSAY: One other thing you might want to mention, too, about, while there's not a minimum flow at Bartletts Ferry, there is minimum flow at North Highlands, because all these dams are connected. You can point out North Highlands.

MS. O'MARA: Yes. Bartletts Ferry is licensed by the FERC. It's got its own individual license. Goat Rock, Oliver and North Highlands, they're part of our Middle Chattahoochee project. It was recently relicensed, and

there are minimum flow requirements. Downstream, North Highlands, the furthestmost, discharges directly into the river.

So we have minimum flow requirements down there. Bartletts Ferry sends pulses of water to ensure that we have enough water at this lower project to meet our minimum flow requirements.

MR. LINDSAY: I just wanted to make sure everybody understood, because you talked earlier about a week -- we can't hold water for a week and then generate; the water --

MS. O'MARA: We are constantly sending it. The flow requirements at Middle Chattahoochee are -- at North Highlands specifically, is 800 continuous CFS all the time, 1350 CFS daily, and 1850 weekly.

MR. WEST: Is that year round, or is there seasonality?

MS. O'MARA: No, it's year round, and all of those are prefaced, we call it our Or Inflow. Because so much of the water coming into our entire system is driven by other operations. We have 800 CFS instantaneously or inflow, whichever is less. 1350 daily or inflow, whichever is less. 1850 CFS weekly or inflow, whichever is less. And that's because we don't control the operations upstream of us, so if we've got lower flows down through the system,

we've got to pass it. And if we've got lower flows coming in through our system, we're going to pass the lower flows, below those targets.

So if you've got a weekly average of 1350 CFS, if that was my low inflow example, that week, if we can meet the 1350 daily, we would have met that, but on a weekly basis that was less than 1850. So we would have passed the 1350, whatever was coming to us.

All clear? Who wants to operate the dam tomorrow?

Just kidding. I'm here if you have questions later.

MS. SANGUNETT: How about we take a ten minute break, until we get into our discussion of the resources.

(Recess.)

MS. SANGUNETT: All right, so what we're going to do now is open it up for discussion on different resource issues, and we have a list here. It's a demo list, it's not exhaustive, of course; it's just a list based on the PAD that we got from the licensee, from Georgia Power. It's broken up into these categories: geology and soils, aquatic resources, terrestrial resources, RTE, rec and land use, cultural resources and developmental resources.

Pretty typical list of resources that are covered in an environmental assessment, which again is the purpose

of the scoping meeting, is to address or discover issues that need to be addressed in the environmental assessment for NEPA.

So let's start with geology and soils. One of the issues or concerns are the effects of continued project operation on shoreline erosion and sedimentation in the reservoir and tailrace of the project.

Anybody have any comments, concerns or questions?

MR. WEST: The PAD doesn't talk about effects of project operations on reservoir shoreline and sedimentation. Your slide says reservoir and tailrace in the project. You're going to include the tailrace as well for that analysis?

MS. SANGUNETT: Evidently. Let me just take a look here at the notes.

MR. WEST: I'll take you at your word.

MS. SANGUNETT: I believe so, yes.

MR. WEST: Okay, thank you.

MS. SANGUNETT: Because once again, I didn't write this. So I'm going to make assumptions.

Any other comments, questions, concerns?

All right, we'll move on to the next resource issue.

Aquatic resources. The first one is the effects of continued project operation on water quality in the

reservoir.

All right, I'll move on. The next one is the effects of continued project operation on water quality, particularly dissolved oxygen levels and temperatures in the project tailrace and downstream project-affected waters of the Chattahoochee River.

Okay, no comments, questions or concerns.

Some of the other aquatic issues: Effects of continued project operation and water use on water supply withdrawals and wastewater assimilation in project-affected waters upstream and downstream of the project.

MR. MARTIN: Brandi, I just have a question.

MS. SANGUNETT: Okay.

MR. MARTIN: I was referring to the scoping document, and these bullets, as written in the presentation, were presented in the scoping document as the resource issues identified by the FERC, not as areas of --

MS. SANGUNETT: That's good to point out, because that answers this question. Thank you for clarifying that.

So in case you didn't hear that, these are issues identified by FERC and they may not coincide with what is in the PAD from Georgia Power.

Effects of continued project operations on shoreline permitting, on fish habitat, and aquatic resources in the reservoir including potential effects of rates and

duration of reservoir drawdowns on aquatic resources.

The next one is: Effects of continued project operation on aquatic habit for shoal bass in the Chattahoochee River at the upstream end of the project boundary and in the lower, free-flowing reaches of tributaries entering project-affected waters.

Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on state-protected aquatic species such as the blue stripe shiner, et cetera, and other state-listed species.

The next one is the effects of continued project operation on invasive aquatic species including invasive and nuisance aquatic vegetation.

The next one is the effects of continued project operation on aquatic habitat in the project tailrace area.

And a couple more in the aquatic resource area: Effects of continued project operation on fish passage. Effects of continued project operation on potential fish entrainment and turbine-induced mortality at the powerhouse.

If anyone has any issues that are not listed here that you would like to bring up, feel free to do so at any time, that it preferably stick to the grouping of the resource area.

Terrestrial resources. Does anybody have anything else for aquatic resources before we move on to

terrestrial resources?

Okay, terrestrial resources. Effects of continued project operation on state-protected terrestrial species such as the bald eagle and other state-listed species potentially occurring in the project area.

Effects of continued operation on shoreline development and project-related recreation on native and nonnative plants and wildlife, including wetlands and littoral habitats and associated wildlife in the project area, as well as upland invasive plant species within the project area.

Effects of continued project operation on federally listed species potentially occurring in the project area. This is both aquatic and terrestrial species.

Next area, recreation and land use. Effects of continued operation on recreational opportunities including the Bartletts Ferry reservoir and project tailrace area.

Ability of existing public access and recreational facilities to meet current and future recreational demand.

Adequacy of existing shoreline management plan and shoreline buffer zone to address land use practices within the project boundary.

The next area is cultural resources. Effects of proposed actions and alternatives on properties that are

included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

And the final grouping is the developmental resources; proposed operation on project economics. And the operation of the projects during the recent droughts, low flow operations, drought operations, and evaluating the need for a drought management plan.

All right. Before I move on to the proposed study plans, I wanted to point out a date that you all should be aware of. September 4th is the date that I was referring to earlier, and that is when your comments are due in regard to the scoping document and study request, which is what we're going to need.

So the issues that we listed earlier in each of the resource areas; do you have any issues or concerns, you can file comments by this date, September 4, 2009?

Now when we start talking about study requests, there are criteria that the study requests have to meet. It needs to describe the goals and objectives of the study proposal; and by the way, we have a handout on the back table that has all this criteria. Explain the relevant resource management goals, describe any existing information and explain relevant public interest if the requestor is not a resource agency.

Also, it's important to demonstrate that the

proposed study and its methodology is consistent with accepted scientific practice.

Okay. This is just a summary of the study criteria. I think the actual listing is more extensive than that.

Show the nexus to the project operations and the effects, and how the study results will inform the development of license requirements. And it should be accepted practice for the methodology. Also, there should be an evaluation of the level of effort and cost behind the study request; how much will it cost for the study to be carried out.

So again we're going to look at these in the different resource groupings; one -- and these are proposed by Georgia Power, correct?

MR. MARTIN: Yes.

MS. SANGUNETT: Okay. Soils. Under that, we have Georgia Power proposed to characterize the distribution and sources of erosion and sedimentation within the project reservoir based on a shoreline field reconnaissance survey, and review and analyze existing information and aerial photography.

This will be conducted within the project boundary, and a literature review will also be conducted for the tributary watersheds upstream of the project.

Any comments, issues, concerns?

MR. WEST: What is the project boundary? Is there anything funky in the -- is it basically the dam and the powerhouse facilities? Or is there any positional lands either above or below.

MS. O'MARA: Generally within the project reservoir, it follows the 525 contour. There are some areas that are park areas that are adjacent to the reservoir where it might be slightly different. The project boundary downstream, the project is a couple hundred feet, I would say. There is a figure in the PAD -- back there on the board there is an actual outline of the project boundary; so you probably want to go take a look at that. The 525, that map is going to follow.

MR. MARTIN: To respond to your earlier observation about the erosion and the tailrace, the project boundary does extend into the tailrace. So we will be evaluating erosion within the project boundary, within the tailrace.

MS. O'MARA: It's at least after the confluence of the two streams come together.

MR. WEST: So it's downstream.

MS. O'MARA: It's downstream of that.

MS. SANGUNETT: Okay, next one.

Under water resources, they will characterize

water use, availability and water quality in the project area, and characterize the effects of project operations on water quality and the project reservoir and in the tailrace area immediately downstream from the dam.

Comments?

Under fish and aquatic resources, one study proposal is to conduct field surveys, characterizing representative aquatic habits and the species composition, relative abundance and habitat use of fish communities in the free-flowing habitats.

The next one is to evaluate the occurrence and habitat use of shoal bass within the project boundary.

Another one is to evaluate the effects of continued project operation on shoal bass habitat and reservoir fisheries habitat.

And the next one is to evaluate the potential for fish entrainment and turbine-induced mortality.

Any other comments or anything before I move on to the terrestrial? Okay.

Terrestrial resources. One study proposed is to describe terrestrial, wildlife and botanical resources occurring in the project area, including lists of plant and animal species that use representative habitats, and to identify invasive species.

Next they propose to describe the flood plain,

wetlands, riparian habitats and littoral habitats occurring in the project including lists of representative plants and animal species, identify invasive species, and prepare a map delineating wetland, riparian and littoral habitat.

Under rare, threatened and endangered species, they propose to develop a list of species known to occur near the project, identify suitable habitats within the study area, and describe species distribution and habit use based on habitat requirements in the field survey.

The next one. Moving on to recreation and land use, they propose to describe recreation, land use, and visual aesthetic qualities in the project area, characterize current types and levels of recreational use, and evaluate the need for additional recreational access or facilities at the project.

Next area is cultural resources. They propose to identify the area of potential effect, identify known historic resources, identify unknown archaeological resources and evaluate the potential for effects upon historic properties.

And that's the end of the list for the proposed studies, proposed by Georgia Power.

And again, the deadline for your comments or additional study requests is September 4th, and it is very important if you file something, to use the proper project

name and number so that it doesn't get lost in our system. Basically it's just this big electronic depository, and we have to search using text searches. So if the project number or name is incorrect or missing, it could get lost, so we don't want that to happen.

So you want to include not only the project number, which is P-485, but also the sub-docket number, which is 063. And the name. So if use both the name and the project number then the chances of it getting lost are a lot less. And you can follow in sections, in the scoping document under Section 6, and I don't know what she means by section c.

I know we have handouts on how to e-file, but I don't have them and I believe they were going to bring them.

MR. MARTIN: Appendix A is the seven criteria for a study request.

MS. SANGUNETT: Oh, I see. Okay.

So follow the instructions for the study criteria.

So again, know the docket number, know the sub-docket number, and this is where you go to file anything. You go to this website and then click on Dockets and Filings, then you go to eFilings, then you want to select to electronically file a document. You can also eSubscribe, so if you want to track any other filings that come in

regarding this project, you can set up a subscription to get an e-mail sent to you that tells you something's been filed on this, and it gives you a link to the filing in eLibrary.

Then you can also search eLibrary to find any other relevant documents, and view them as well.

I think that concludes the scoping meeting, unless anybody has any other questions.

(No response.)

All right, I guess we're finished. Thank you all for coming and thanks for bearing with me. This is my first time, as I said before. Georgia Power brought lots of information, so check that out.

(Whereupon, at 2:37 p.m., the scoping meeting concluded.)