

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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In the Matter of: : Project Number
Taum Sauk Pumped : No. P-2277-023
Storage Project :

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TRANSCRIPT OF AGENCY SCOPING MEETING, taken on behalf
of the Federal Energy Regulation Commission, at the
Lesterville High School Cafeteria, 33415 Highway 21 in
the City of Lesterville, County of Reynolds, State of
Missouri, between the hours of 6:03 P.M. and 6:50 P.M.
on Wednesday, the 22nd day of June 2011, before
J. Bryan Jordan, Certified Court Reporter No. 00532,
State of Missouri.

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19 Patricia L. Weslowski

20 Director, Hydropower Services

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23 Ms. Nancy Craig

24 Project Manager, Hydropower Services

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Lloyd Pinkley 23, 28

Gary Chastain 29

EXHIBITS

(NO EXHIBITS WERE MARKED)

1 MS. HUTZEL: I guess it's a little after
2 6:00. We're going to start the meeting. If you are
3 going to talk or have questions, we ask you to come
4 forward so we all can hear what you are saying.

5 No one intends to speak or have formal
6 comments; is that correct? Just ask questions later,
7 after the meeting?

8 (No response.)

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Ameren will outnumber
10 us, I think.

11 (Laughter)

12 MS. HUTZEL: Welcome. My name is Janet
13 Hutzel with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
14 and this is the meeting for the Taum Sauk Pumped
15 Storage Project. Before we get started, I'd like you
16 to know that the names collected tonight are not going
17 to be put on the mailing list for the official--for
18 the project. If you want your name on the mailing
19 list, there is, on page 20 of the scoping document,
20 instructions on how to get on the official mailing
21 list so that you receive all information about the
22 project that we issue at FERC.

23 You can check on the back. The back is the
24 official mailing list. If your name is there, you
25 need not sign up again.

1 We have a court reporter with us tonight who
2 will be taking the entire transcript, and this will
3 become part of the Commission record for the project.
4 If you are making comments this evening, please speak
5 clearly and loud enough so the court reporter can
6 understand you, and please spell out your name.

7 If you don't want to make an oral statement
8 tonight, you have until July 23rd to make written
9 comments, and those instructions are on page 15 of the
10 scoping document.

11 Like I said, I'm Janet Hutzler with FERC.
12 I'm the coordinator for the project. We have with us
13 Allan Creamer, Scott Ediger, Pat Weslowski, John Hart,
14 Bernward Hay, and Jot Splenda. These are all people
15 that will be working on the project from the
16 Commission, and tonight, we're here to gather
17 information to help us identify or refine the issues
18 that we have identified in the scoping document, so
19 we're looking for any resource issues that you think
20 we either have correctly identified or need to be
21 further identified, and this just says about the
22 scoping process, and we issued the scoping document on
23 May 23rd.

24 This is our schedule. We will do a scoping
25 tonight and a scoping meeting tomorrow. We anticipate

1 that we'll have all the information we need necessary
2 to complete our environmental analysis by August of
3 2011. We hope to have the draft EA out for comment
4 around March 2012 and then the final EA June 2012.

5 This scoping meeting also is for us to, if
6 there's some environmental issues that we have missed,
7 for you to identify it for us, and if there's any
8 studies that are related to the project that you know
9 about, we ask you to submit them to the Commission so
10 we can use them for our analysis by July 23rd, and if
11 you know of any resource plans that are--that is
12 relevant to the project, you can submit them to the
13 commission by July 23rd.

14 And then this is the project along with the
15 project boundary, and I'll let Ameren talk about the
16 project features and operations for the Taum Sauk
17 project.

18 MR. LOBBIG: My name is Mike Lobbig. I'm
19 with Ameren; red shirt. All these guys with red
20 shirts on are with Ameren, and I'd like to welcome you
21 guys to this meeting. I'm in the Dam Safety Group
22 that's downtown St. Louis. It was established after
23 the breach at Taum Sauk.

24 I'd like to take a minute just to introduce
25 the Ameren people that are here.

1 Steve Williams is the Plant Superintendent.
2 He is the person in charge at the plant on a daily
3 basis.

4 Warren Witt, he's the Manager of Operations,
5 Hydro Operations.

6 Todd Mayer, engineer in the licensing area
7 with me.

8 Joe Raybuck, an attorney with Ameren, and
9 Tom Hollenkamp, who is Ameren's chief dam safety
10 engineer. He is responsible for safety at this
11 facility and all of our facilities, or
12 hydro facilities, now.

13 This is a change from the way we were
14 organized early on, and we're going to repeat this
15 presentation tomorrow up in Jeff City. We have a
16 meeting up there, and primarily, it will be with
17 agencies from the State.

18 I thought I'd go through some information
19 about the plant, have some pictures, and I can run
20 through this as fast as you want, or if you want to
21 ask some questions, I can slow it down a little bit,
22 too.

23 These are some facts about the plant. It
24 was one of the very first plants of its kind. It was
25 the original pumped storage plant built in the United

1 States. There is 40 now in the United States, or
2 actually, in North America. There's a couple in
3 Canada.

4 In 1960, as the second item there shows, it
5 was granted a certificate of convenience and necessity
6 by the Missouri Public Service Commission. That means
7 that they agreed that it should be built. It was
8 constructed from 1960 to 1963. It was dedicated by
9 John Dalton, the Governor of the State of Missouri.
10 There was a ceremony there, and that was October 9th
11 of 1963. The generating capacity is 408 megawatts,
12 two units, and I said on the slide, there's enough
13 power for two--or 20,000 homes. Depends on how you
14 calculate it; it actually could be more than that.

15 If you have been to the plant, there's two
16 reversible pump/turbines, and we'll explain how that
17 operates, and it takes seven hours, seven to nine
18 hours to pump up from the lower reservoir to the upper
19 reservoir and four to six hours to generate.

20 We're here to talk about the license. We've
21 applied for a license with the Federal Government to
22 continue operation of this plant. The original
23 license, we applied for, and then it was held up.
24 There was a Supreme Court decision on whether FERC had
25 jurisdiction to actually regulate this unit, and it

1 went all the way to the Supreme Court. They ruled
2 against Union Electric; okay? And they based that on
3 this plant provides power to the interstate grid, and
4 the Federal Government has the obligation under the
5 Constitution to regulate interstate commerce, so they
6 ruled against it, and it was licensed retroactive all
7 the way back to July 1960, so it had a 50-year
8 license, so the license expired July--I'm sorry, June
9 30th of 2010.

10 We got a license application in in June of
11 2008. That's the process that we must follow for a
12 license, and the day after the license actually
13 expired, FERC issued an annual license to us, and that
14 was July 2nd of 2010, and those annual licenses
15 continue until FERC rules on this license application.

16 Okay, nobody can really talk about Taum Sauk
17 unless they talk about the history, and the history
18 wouldn't be complete without talking about the breach
19 and the rebuild, and I won't dwell on this. People in
20 this room probably know as much about it as I do.

21 It happened December 14th of 2005, early in
22 the morning, before 6:00 o'clock, and it damaged
23 Johnson Shut-Ins State Park extensively, and there was
24 a lawsuit, and Ameren agreed to rebuild the upper
25 reservoir under our current FERC license, and there

1 was a settlement agreement with the State and Federal
2 Government to rebuild the park and camping area.

3 I don't know if you've seen this picture
4 before. It's annotated. Here's the upper reservoir.
5 Here's the big hole in it.

6 Here's the breach path came down through the
7 hills, carried all the trees, and rock, and topsoil
8 and everything down.

9 Here's the East Fork of the Black River
10 going down, here's Route N, and, here is the
11 residence. Water came down, swirled in this area and
12 took everything down through the park. Water and
13 everything ended up down in the lower reservoir, which
14 actually is off the screen. Park superintendent's
15 house was washed away. The family was up in the
16 field, and nobody was killed, luckily. There were
17 some injuries.

18 Here's another picture of it. This picture
19 is important because it shows how it was constructed.
20 When it was constructed, it had a concrete face on the
21 inside. This is the floor. This is the washed-out
22 area.

23 Originally, they took all the rock from the
24 top of the mountain and placed the rock all the way
25 around, and evidently, this was the area that was

1 closed in last, and it contained a lot of fine
2 material which ended up washing out.

3 I could probably go through this slide, but
4 because Steve is here, I think I'm going to ask him to
5 do it. Just kind of talk about how the plant actually
6 does operate. Would you like this?

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

8 MR. LOBBIG: It's got a little pointer on
9 it. Don't put your eye out.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: This is a graphic that we use
11 in some of the training that we have at the plant. It
12 basically just gives you the relative orientation of
13 how, how the plant is constructed and how it operates.

14 Up here, we have the upper reservoir on top
15 of Proffitt Mountain, and the power house, of course,
16 down, down by the lower lake.

17 We have a 50-some-odd foot vertical shaft,
18 single shaft, 27 foot in diameter, that then runs
19 through the mountain at about a 5.7-degree slope, and
20 that's about 25 foot in diameter just drilled into the
21 rock there. Prior to it exiting the mountain, we
22 transition to an area that's steel lined, and about
23 1,800 feet of it is steel lined before it splits, and
24 it serves the two pump turbines down there in the
25 plant, then the water is--goes through the turbines,

1 runs the generator, comes out through the bottom and
2 then fills the lower lake, so that relative, that's
3 how we have it.

4 The specifications, if you want to get the
5 technical about it on the plant, for the two turbines,
6 we have 790 feet of head, that's the total elevation
7 between the, the turbine and the, and the top of the
8 reservoir when it's filled, 6,572 feet of length here,
9 and it is still remotely operated by Osage Plant.

10 When we're done generating, we'll run the
11 volume down. We run about 70 percent of the water out
12 of the reservoir if we run a full day. We'll pump it
13 back up at night. We simply do that by starting these
14 pump turbines in reverse, we turn the generators into
15 motors, and we start spinning the shaft the other way,
16 pump the water up the same direction that it came
17 from. Same, similar operation to most plants of this
18 type.

19 Any questions on this slide?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. LOBBIG: Thank you. A lot of people
22 have been talking about green power, solar, wind.
23 They work ery well with pumped storage because pumped
24 storage can act as a really efficient way to store a
25 lot of energy. You are basically taking electrical

1 power, you are converting it to potential with the
2 differential in, in elevation, and with water.

3 The whole process of pumping to generate is
4 70 percent efficient, so there's roughly 30 percent
5 more power used to pump than there is to generate.
6 That doesn't sound like that would make money, but it
7 does because there's a difference between peak and
8 off-peak power prices, so this plant, as well as every
9 plant, has to be economical, and that's how it makes
10 its money.

11 The upper reservoir--I'll go through these,
12 I'll pick up the base a little bit but just kind of go
13 through the various features of the project. We have
14 an upper reservoir which is now roller-compacted
15 concrete. As you know, it was constructed from
16 October of 2007 and was finished in November of 2010.
17 Around the whole upper reservoir is 6,800 feet,
18 approximately. It's 125 feet tall, and it operates
19 between 1597 and 1505. That's what it can operate.
20 It actually operates between 1597 and 1525 is the
21 normal range that we operate, but we can operate
22 lower.

23 This is the amount of water that went down
24 through Johnson Shut-Ins, this in acre-feet, which is
25 that many acres a foot deep of water, which turns out

1 to be 1,4 billion gallons. That's a lot of water.

2 This was a very big project. There's 3.2
3 million cubic yards of concrete in the upper
4 reservoir, and a lot of people know or have seen
5 Hoover Dam. For comparison, it has 3.25 million, so
6 this, this is a major project, and it was constructed
7 right in three years. It now has an overflow release
8 structure which would only be used in emergency
9 situations that is never expected to be used, but it's
10 there and it has been designed. It has many redundant
11 level control, level trips built into the plant now.
12 It also has cameras on a fixed staff gauge. Here's a
13 cross-section of the upper reservoir as it looks
14 today.

15 This was actually a picture as it was being
16 built. This is the outside. It's a stepped, kind of
17 looks like a stepped pyramid. I personally like it.
18 Some people don't particularly like that, but here's
19 the interface. It's conventional concrete. This is
20 conventional concrete. In the middle is roller-
21 compacted concrete.

22 This square, here, is a gallery. There's a
23 drains collection gathering that collects water that
24 seeps through the construction joints. That's a new
25 feature of the upper reservoir. Here's a picture of

1 it. This picture was taken right after it
2 was--question? Sorry. Oh, yeah, I think this slide
3 is cut off for some reason. This was taken right
4 after the first fill. You can see up in this area,
5 this is actually looking kind of southeast.

6 This is the construction equipment that was
7 still there at the time. This is the lower reservoir
8 over here.

9 This is the ramp going to the top. Another
10 picture of--in the kidney area.

11 We recently, last Fall, spent quite a bit of
12 money in an effort to bring topsoil up and plant trees
13 and warm season grasses. This is a picture from about
14 a month ago of the trees, and also this is winter
15 wheat that was planted to hold everything in place,
16 but it's starting to green up up there.

17 This is just another picture, from what it
18 looks like, at the very top when it's full.

19 The gauge house, I mentioned there's a lot
20 of instruments to protect, make sure that we never
21 overtop this dam, and they're housed in this gauge
22 house, and next to the gauge house, there's a fixed
23 staff gauge that measures the water elevation, and
24 this is full or pretty close to full. 1597 is our
25 normal full elevation. This probably happened from

1 some wave action. 1599 is the overflow and the energy
2 overflow relief.

3 This picture is a picture looking out on the
4 side of the upper reservoir. It actually is a picture
5 of the overflow release, this area here, and it's
6 designed to dissipate energy as the water comes down.
7 There's a trough here, and it over boards. If it
8 overboards and does come down, it will go down Taum
9 Sauk Creek and not over to the Johnson Shut-Ins side
10 of the mountain.

11 Penstock: Penstock is the excavated tunnel
12 that goes from the power house up to the upper
13 reservoir, and it has a morning glory shape, and I'll
14 point that out in a minute. It's 50 feet vertical, 27
15 feet--Steve went through all this stuff. There's
16 handouts, too, if you'd like to take this home or
17 refer to it later.

18 It's about 1,600 feet long, total, and it,
19 at the power house, splits into two sections with some
20 big ball valves. It gets its name, "morning glory,"
21 because it's shaped like a morning glory flower. This
22 is actually a picture looking down when the upper
23 reservoir was empty, and the shape is that it comes
24 out in a kind of a bell or a flower.

25 This is the penstock down at the power

1 house; looks like it was snowing at the time. This is
2 how they--this is the area that they went in with
3 trucks initially. It's got a concrete plug, and this
4 is--they transitioned to steel, and it goes down below
5 grade to the ball valves in the plant. If you ever
6 take a tour--and we did take a tour today--you can see
7 all these things.

8 Okay, power plant and the electrical
9 switchyard, it's got two units, 408 megawatts; I
10 mentioned that before. There's 18 full-time employees
11 now. It now has 24-hour, seven-day coverage. They
12 normally operate it from Osage Plant at Lake of the
13 Ozarks, but they can operate at the plant, too, and do
14 operate at the plant once in a while.

15 There's two transmission lines that leave
16 the plant, and the plant was built into an excavated
17 canyon back into the mountain.

18 This is an older picture which shows the
19 original upper reservoir, and it was constructed out
20 of rock, and it has kind of a top-of-the-mountain
21 look, but I put this picture in here because here is
22 the power plant, the tailrace. Above it is a switch
23 yard, and it shows the transmission lines going off
24 into the distance.

25 Here's a picture of the power plant, two

1 units. The top of the generators are in blue, there.
2 Here's a gantry crane on the left.

3 This thing has got a mind of its own now.
4 It's telling me to hurry up.

5 We built a new power plant building, here,
6 recently. That's a picture of it; a picture of the
7 switch yard up on the hill above the plant. Another
8 picture of the switch yard from up higher.

9 Looking down from up there, down to the
10 plant and the tailrace, which is the channel that goes
11 out to the lower reservoir.

12 Transmission line going down to the plant,
13 and a foggy morning on the lower reservoir.

14 The tailrace and bin wall; the tailrace is
15 approximately 2,000 feet long, 65 feet wide, and it
16 goes out into the lower reservoir. They excavated all
17 the way out into the channel of the East Fork of the
18 Black River. That was original.

19 There's a bin wall, and it creates a gravel
20 trap for the gravel coming downstream, and the bin
21 wall was not original. That was something that was
22 found to be needed, and it was constructed in 1964.
23 It's about 400 feet long.

24 This is the tailrace. In the middle, there,
25 in orange, is a boom to keep fishermen from coming up

1 into the tailrace, and certainly, that could be a
2 safety problem.

3 This is the bin wall. This is at a low
4 elevation for the lower reservoir. At a high
5 elevation for the lower reservoir, there's a couple of
6 feet of water over the top of this. The lower
7 reservoir is on the left. East Fork of the Black
8 River coming into the property is on the right.

9 The lower reservoir dam, it's located, once
10 again, on the East Fork of the Black River. It's a
11 concrete gravity dam. It is built out of concrete,
12 and it stays in place due to the sheer mass and
13 gravity holding it there. Those are the dimensions,
14 390 by 60 feet tall.

15 It's designed to overflow. It's got two
16 gates to release water, of various sizes, and one of
17 the important things is that we must release water
18 approximately equal to the amount of water coming into
19 the property.

20 This is an aerial picture of the lower
21 reservoir dam. It's right here in the center. This
22 is the lower reservoir. There's a boat launch. East
23 Fork of the Black River. Taum Sauk Creek that
24 direction. Water comes down, leaves the property, and
25 comes down to Lesterville.

1 This is a picture of the lower reservoir
2 dam. It's designed, like I said before, to overflow.
3 This is one of the gates right here. It's discharging
4 water. The other gate is back in the weeds, here.

5 This is a picture of it going--water going
6 over the top, from the left embankment upstream is
7 what it looks like.

8 And one of the new things that had been put
9 in recently is a USGS gauge downstream. The dam is in
10 the background, and that is the picture of the USGS
11 gauge.

12 Now, that dam creates the lower reservoir,
13 and it operates on 14 and a half feet difference
14 between 736 and 749.5. It has 5,781 acre-feet.

15 There is public access for fishing. It has
16 a very primitive camping area. Not too many people
17 use it, but you can camp there. It's free. There's a
18 boat launch which I mentioned before. There's no
19 development along the shoreline, and there's no
20 swimming because that would be pretty dangerous
21 because of the operation.

22 This is what it looks like kind of at low
23 tide, or the lower elevation. That's a picture taken
24 looking up the East Fork branch from the boat launch.

25 There is the dam from across the lake.

1 same as before. We did some maintenance work in there
2 while we were down, but it's still the same structure.

3 MS. HUTZEL: What we're going to go over now
4 are some of the measures that Ameren proposed in their
5 license application for the--and these are identified
6 in section 3 of your scoping document and I'll just
7 going to go over it briefly.

8 They proposed to prepare a gravel and
9 sedimentation control plan. For aquatic resources
10 they propose to develop a water management plan, to
11 maintain the USGS gauge in the East Fork of the Black
12 River downstream from the lower reservoir.

13 They also propose to develop a
14 "put-and-take" fishery in the lower reservoir, and
15 relocate and rescue fish from the upper reservoir to
16 the lower reservoir whenever the upper reservoir is
17 dewatered.

18 For threatened and endangered species, they
19 propose to develop a bat habitat management plan.

20 For recreation and land use, they propose to
21 continue to provide access to the boat ramp, the
22 parking area, the campground, and the informal
23 overlook at the lower reservoir.

24 They also propose to prohibit all-terrain
25 vehicles, ATVs on all Ameren-owned lands and allow

1 state agencies to place gates and signs on lands to
2 discourage ATV use on adjacent state lands, and
3 they're going to--they propose to evaluate current
4 recreation activities and access on the East Fork
5 Black River.

6 For cultural resources, they propose to
7 execute a programmatic agreement that requires
8 preparation of a Historic Properties Management Plan,
9 and we at the Commission identified two issues that we
10 intend to scope on a cumulative basis, and these,
11 again, are found, based on what we reviewed in the
12 application and our analysis, we determined that water
13 quality, quantity, fisheries, and recreation resources
14 could be cumulatively affected by the proposed
15 relicensing of the project. Again, this is all
16 information in the scoping document.

17 And in this section, we are going to list
18 the preliminary items that we have identified that
19 need to be addressed in any environmental analysis
20 that we conduct for the relicensing of the project.
21 This list is not--it's not final. If we get comments
22 based on this scoping meeting, or tomorrow's in Jeff
23 City, or any oral or written comments, that we may
24 change these items that we have identified, and again,
25 these items are all in your scoping document.

1 For effects of on geology and soils, we
2 identified seismic effects on dam stability, the
3 effects of sediment transport on the East Fork Black
4 River and buildup in the lower reservoir, effects of
5 project operations on shoreline erosion in the lower
6 reservoir and along the East Fork Black River, and the
7 effects of possible releases from the upper
8 reservoir's new overflow structure on erosion and slip
9 stability.

10 For aquatic resources, we have identified
11 the effects of implementation of the water management
12 plan on water management and flows in the river, the
13 effects of possible releases from the upper reservoir
14 into Taum Sauk Creek, and the effects of lower
15 reservoir fluctuations on the groundwater and wells.

16 We've also identified effects of project
17 operations on water quality in the lower reservoir,
18 lower East Fork Black River, the effects of lower
19 reservoir fluctuation on aquatic habitat and fish
20 populations, the effects of resident fish
21 entrainment/mortality in the lower reservoir
22 associated with whenever they pump or generate, and
23 the effects of flow releases from the lower reservoir
24 dam to aquatic habitat and fish in the lower East Fork
25 Black River.

1 For terrestrial resources, we've identified
2 the effects of project operations and maintenance on
3 wetlands, and riparian habitat, and wildlife,
4 particularly waterfowl and water birds, and invasive
5 species and rare species, including the collared
6 lizard.

7 Threatened and endangered species issues
8 that we've identified are effects of project
9 operations, maintenance, and construction on the
10 Mead's milkweed, Indiana bat, gray bat, Hine's emerald
11 dragonfly, and the Ozark hellbender.

12 For recreation and land use, the issues that
13 we have identified that we're going to address in the
14 EA, effects of closing the recreation facilities at
15 the upper reservoir--that includes the museum--the
16 effects of project operations on public safety, the
17 effects of project operations on recreation resources
18 in the lower reservoir, and to the confluence of the
19 West Fork Black River.

20 And for cultural resources and aesthetic
21 resources, we've identified the effects that proposed
22 action and alternatives could have on properties
23 included in the National Register of Historic Places
24 and the effects of project operations on aesthetic
25 resources.

1 As I said, all of those issues, we've
2 identified in the scoping document. If you think that
3 there are additional issues which we should identify
4 or should be modified, now is the time to bring that
5 up, or you can write that to the Commission by July
6 23rd.

7 Right now, are there any comments from
8 anyone? Yes. Can you stand up and speak your name
9 for the court reporter?

10 MR. LLOYD PINKLEY: Well, I just wanted to
11 ask about the bats, the white nose disease.

12 I'm Lloyd Pinkley, and I read an article
13 about white nose disease, and bats are carriers, and
14 they're transmitted from bats to people, and they are
15 like along the Meramec River, and other places in
16 Missouri, they have put restrictions on entering the
17 caves, and so you have a big cave close on East Fork.

18 MS. HUTZEL: I know we did a bat study. Do
19 you want to talk about the results more?

20 MS. NANCY CRAIG: I can.

21 MS. HUTZEL: Okay. Do you want--do you want
22 me to?

23 What I--what the results were, what Ameren
24 found was that there was a large bat population on the
25 property. I think what they determined was that the

1 habitat was trees. I'm not so certain about caves,
2 though. Have you guys found any caves?

3 MS. NANCY CRAIG: My name is Nancy Craig,
4 and I work for HDR/DTA. We're contracted with Ameren
5 to support the relicensing effort, and the bat study
6 was conducted to identify the bats' use of the project
7 lands, and what we determined, as Janet said, is that
8 they use the lands for foraging and perhaps for
9 resting, but there are no known places where they
10 roost, and no caves were identified.

11 The cave that you mentioned, Rick's Cave, is
12 at least a mile or more downstream of the dam. It is
13 in the vicinity, but it's not in the Taum Sauk project
14 area.

15 Our study did not address or consider white
16 nose syndrome. The only aspect that was considered
17 was that the bats were handled in such a way so that
18 our study would not cause the disease to spread once
19 we've used other protocols that have been identified
20 by the bat experts who are studying that disease.

21 MS. HUTZEL: Any other comments? Now would
22 be the time, because after this portion, we're going
23 to wrap it up, so you guys--anything else that you
24 have questions about the project?

25 MR. GARY CHASTAIN: Yeah. My name is Gary

1 Chastain, C-h-a-s-t-a-i-n, and I'm with the Audubon
2 Society, and we had some questions about the bats
3 also, about the nighttime lights that are up on the
4 reservoir, whether they have an effect on the bats or
5 migrating birds that migrate at night. I don't know
6 if that's being considered as something that needs to
7 be looked at.

8 MS. HUTZEL: Right now, that is not a
9 consideration. If that's something you would like
10 looked at, that's going to be in the record. You
11 could also write in a comment having your concern be
12 addressed, that you would think that that issue should
13 be addressed. Right now, the only--we are not
14 addressing lights with the bats; it's mostly bat
15 habitat, but not how the bats are affected by lights.

16 The lighting is an issue that was brought up
17 before. Lighting in general is usually considered an
18 aesthetic resource, but right now, we do not have any
19 issues identified with how the bats are affected by
20 lights.

21 MR. GARY CHASTAIN: I guess what I'm asking
22 is, is that something that could be looked at, or --

23 MS. HUTZEL: Possible. That's why we're
24 here, to identify issues that that could be possibly
25 something that we may address. We will take

1 everyone's comments, and if we decide to address
2 lights and how they affect bats, we would issue a
3 second scoping document, and we would identify that
4 this is an issue that was brought up, and we are now
5 going to look at it. I can't tell you right now if we
6 are or not, because we're still in the scoping stage,
7 but after July 23rd, once we get everyone's comments,
8 if we decide that it is an issue that we should
9 address, we will issue a second scoping, and we will
10 have that in there as an issue to address.

11 MR. GARY CHASTAIN: Is that the same with
12 the nighttime migrating birds?

13 MS. HUTZEL: That would be the same with the
14 migrating birds, correct. If we think it's an issue
15 that we should address, we will issue a second scoping
16 document, and that will be a bullet in that scoping
17 document as issues we decide we need to look at for
18 our environmental analysis.

19 MR. GARY CHASTAIN: One more question. When
20 you say that lights is an aesthetic issue, does that
21 mean if it bothers people aesthetically? There are a
22 lot of people, hikers, campers, you know, people
23 that--

24 MS. HUTZEL: It can be. It can be that it
25 bothers people, or it can be just general the look of

1 it or how it differs from what it was.

2 MR. GARY CHASTAIN: I just know I know a lot
3 of people that there's a lot of backpackers, and
4 campers, and hikers that come down here to enjoy the,
5 the woods and the pristine area. When they get up on
6 the high mountains of Missouri, they like to see--they
7 like to look at the stars, and when they get on a high
8 spot like Bell Mountain or a neighboring mountain, now
9 they see an alien landing site instead of stars, so
10 it's something that I know a lot of people are
11 concerned about. They don't like coming down here
12 anymore because they used to like hiking in places,
13 and that kind of ruins the nighttime aesthetics, so I
14 don't know if there's another way of lighting it, or
15 safer or you know, something else they could do to
16 make it safe but not so glaring.

17 MS. HUTZEL: Okay. Any other comments?

18 (No response.)

19 MS. HUTZEL: All right, like I probably will
20 be over time and time again, all your oral comments
21 will be put in the record. If you have any additional
22 written comments, they must believe filed by July
23 23rd. There is instruction to the scoping
24 documents--I think it's section 5, I believe--that
25 provides for instructions on how to file any written

1 comments. If there's something that you think of
2 later on that you think you could look at--yeah, it is
3 section 5, page 15 and 16, and when you file something
4 with the Commission, we need to have the project name
5 on the first page. That's the Taum Sauk Pumped
6 Storage, the project number, 2277 -- P-2277-023, and
7 that's all in section 5, and if you want to--if you
8 want to continue to monitor this project, you can go
9 to our website. There is a way called
10 e-Subscriptions. You can subscribe, and everything
11 that is filed with the Commission where we issue will
12 show up on this e-Library. You could be notified of
13 everything that's submitted and filed, and you keep
14 up-to-date through our docs and filing section on the
15 Web, and that's it.

16 Any other questions?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. HUTZEL: Thank you, very much, for
19 coming; appreciate it.

20 (Whereupon, at 6:50 P.M.,
21 the proceedings were concluded.)

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