

1 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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3 TAUM SAUK PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT

4 (FERC No. 2277-023)

5

6 Scoping Meeting

7

8 Jefferson City, Missouri

9 Thursday, June 23, 2011

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TAUM SAUK PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT

(FERC No. 2277-023)

Scoping Meeting

Jefferson City, Missouri

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Hydroelectric Scoping Meeting, held at the  
Lewis and Clark State Office Building, 1101 Riverside  
Drive, LaCharette Conference Room, in the City of  
Jefferson City, State of Missouri, on the 23rd day of  
June 2011, before Heather L. Shallow, Certified Court  
Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter.

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## PROCEEDINGS

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3 MS. HUTZEL: My name is Janet Hutzel. I'm  
4 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and  
5 welcome to the scoping meeting for the Taum Sauk Pump  
6 Storage Project. This is our agenda. A few ground  
7 rules: Like the court reporter said, if you're going  
8 to speak, please stand up and speak clearly. We have  
9 a court reporter who is going to record everything  
10 that's said today for the Commission's record for the  
11 project. Make sure that you speak loudly, speak  
12 clearly, state your name.

13 If you don't -- If you want to provide  
14 written comments, they are due July 23rd. The  
15 instructions are on Page 15 of the scoping document.  
16 If you don't want to provide oral comments today, you  
17 have that option.

18 If you have any written comments today,  
19 please leave them with the court reporter and they'll  
20 be put into the record. Again, my name is Janet  
21 Hutzel, I'm the project coordinator. With me is Allan  
22 Creamer, Scott Ediger, Pat Weslowski, John Hart,  
23 Bernward Hay, and Jot Splenda. These are all people  
24 that will be working on the Environmental Assessment  
25 for this project.

1                   This is the purpose for scoping. Today we  
2                   are going to assess the issues. We've identified some  
3                   issues in the scoping document. This is your  
4                   opportunity to let us know if these issues are  
5                   adequately addressed, if we've identified the  
6                   appropriate issues, or if there's additional issues  
7                   that we need to address or identify in the scope -- in  
8                   the Environmental Assessment.

9                   This is our EA agenda -- or, sorry, EA  
10                  Schedule. Scoping is this month and it will go until  
11                  July 23rd, 2011. We anticipate that we have all the  
12                  information we need to do our environmental analysis  
13                  by August of 2011. Hopefully the draft EA will be  
14                  issued around March 2012 and then our final EA around  
15                  June 2012.

16                  Also, as part of the scoping process not  
17                  only are we identifying the issues but we are  
18                  requesting that if there's any other studies that you  
19                  know of or any additional information or data out  
20                  there that would be helpful for us doing or  
21                  analyzation to please provide us this by July 23rd  
22                  also, or if there's any resource plans that we haven't  
23                  identified or any future plans that you know of, if  
24                  you could prevent -- if you could file those with the  
25                  Commission for this project that would be helpful

1 also.

2 And I'm going to hand it over to Mike and  
3 he's going to do the project features, operations and  
4 measures for Taum Sauk. And this is just a picture of  
5 Taum Sauk in the project boundary.

6 MR. LOBBIG: I have a quite a few extra  
7 copies if anybody would like to have extras of this  
8 presentation. I want to bring up the slides. My name  
9 is Mike Lobbig. I'm with Ameren. I've been with  
10 Ameren for 34 years and working on the license for  
11 Taum Sauk. We have a whole group of Ameren folks  
12 here. I'd like to kind of introduce everybody.

13 Kent Martin is fairly new with Ameren. He's  
14 in our Corporate Communications group.

15 Warren Witt is the manager of Hydro  
16 Operations. He's responsible for all the hydro plants  
17 in Ameren.

18 Not with Ameren but a consultant is Nancy  
19 Craig with HDR DTA. She is the lead for our licensing  
20 effort from our consulting firm.

21 Todd Meyer, who is in hydro licensing, works  
22 with me and an associate.

23 Joe Raybuck, who's our attorney. So we  
24 brought our attorney with us, be careful what you say.

25 Tom Hollenkamp, he's the chief dam safety

1 engineer. It's a relatively new position within our  
2 organization. He's responsible for safety of the  
3 facilities, the hydro facilities, so he makes sure  
4 that everything we do stays in compliance and also  
5 that we're gonna operate this facility safe.

6 Okay. I was asked to kind of talk about the  
7 facilities and I thought I would show you what the  
8 facilities look like in case you have not been to the  
9 site. Is there anybody that has never been to Taum  
10 Sauk? (Pause.) Okay. Well, if you've been in the  
11 past, it looks a little bit different today than it  
12 has, say, ten years ago.

13 This is a picture of the upper reservoir  
14 pretty much as it exists today but it was taken right  
15 after the refill in I think this was March of 2010.  
16 It's a concrete gravity dam. It's made out of RCC  
17 which is roller compacted concrete.

18 Thought I'd give a few facts about the  
19 plant. This shouldn't take too long. It was one of  
20 the original pumped storage plants constructed in  
21 North America and the United States. There are  
22 currently 40 plants that are operating. And I'll go  
23 into how they operate.

24 In 1960, the Missouri Public Service  
25 Commission agreed that we could build this plant and

1       they gave us a Certificate of Convenience and  
2       Necessity which got the ball rolling here. It was  
3       constructed from 1960 to 1963, a three-year period,  
4       and it's quite a feat to construct something like this  
5       in three years. And the Honorable John M. Dalton, the  
6       governor of the state of Missouri, came down for the  
7       dedication and we've got that on tape. It's kind of  
8       interesting to see him dedicating the facility  
9       originally. It's 408 megawatts, that's what it's  
10      licensed for, and that's enough power, depending on  
11      how you calculate it, for 20- to, say, even 30,000  
12      homes. It's got two reversible pump/turbines, and  
13      I'll show you those. And the process of pumping is  
14      seven to nine hours to pump up to the upper reservoir  
15      from empty to full and about four to six hours to  
16      generate.

17                This facility got off to an interesting  
18      start in the licensing history. Union Electric at  
19      that time actually challenged FERC's responsibility to  
20      license a project like this and it went to the U.S.  
21      Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court found in  
22      FERC's favor and the basis of their finding was that  
23      the energy from this plant was used to supply power to  
24      the interstate grid, so under the constitution the  
25      federal government has the right to regulate

1 interstate commerce so they found that yes, we did  
2 need to license it so we were granted a 50-year  
3 license in August of 1965, after the project was  
4 constructed and actually operating, but the license  
5 was retroactive to July of 1960 when the project  
6 actually started.

7 We had to -- Two years before the license  
8 expired we had to submit a license application, which  
9 we did in June of 2008. Last year, on June 30th, the  
10 license expired, and on July 2nd FERC issued us an  
11 annual license and we're in our second year of that.

12 Well, you can't really talk about Taum Sauk  
13 without talking about the breach, unfortunately, so  
14 I'll just talk about that real briefly. Probably  
15 everybody knows about that but the breach happened  
16 December 14th of 2005 in the morning hours. It pretty  
17 much destroyed Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. And we  
18 had a court settlement agreement to fund the  
19 rebuilding of the park and the camping area at Goggins  
20 Mountain and Ameren rebuilt the upper reservoir under  
21 the existing FERC license.

22 I don't know how many have seen this before  
23 but it's a good illustration of what happened. The  
24 upper reservoir breached and went down through the  
25 valley, ended up at the East Fork of the Black River

1 to the lower left, right around Highway N. The water  
2 swirled around there and knocked the superintendent's  
3 house off the foundation and destroyed the house, and  
4 his family were in the field down in the lower left.  
5 The water went down through Johnson's Shut-Ins State  
6 Park and all the debris ended up in the lower  
7 reservoir to the upper right.

8           There's a better picture of the upper  
9 reservoir after the breach. It was made of a concrete  
10 face, interface, and large boulders, and in this  
11 particular area there was a lot of soft material so it  
12 washed out very easily. Made all the news.

13           Just so everybody understands how this plant  
14 operates, it's a pumped storage unit and it uses the  
15 water in the lower reservoir that's fed from the East  
16 Fork of the Black River, pumps it through a turbine,  
17 goes through a enclosed penstock in the mountain, up a  
18 vertical shaft to the upper reservoir. The generator  
19 actually motors the turbine, in this case it's a pump,  
20 and fills the upper reservoir. Then when we need  
21 power, it goes the opposite direction. Water comes  
22 from the upper reservoir, goes down through the  
23 turbine, through the turbine here it turns this  
24 generator and the water returns to the lower  
25 reservoir. In this pictorial there's a dam here too

1 which is on the East Fork of the Black River which  
2 creates the lower reservoir. Okay? Everybody clear?

3 This is a great way to store a lot of  
4 energy. There's battery technology and flywheels and  
5 a lot of other things that are trying to be developed  
6 but this is the best way to store a whole lot of  
7 energy. And the whole process is about 70 percent  
8 efficient. It takes 30 percent more electrical power  
9 to pump up and you get from generating but the  
10 economics actually work from the difference between  
11 the marginal cost from peak power to more of a base  
12 load to excess power. So you take low cost power at  
13 night from, say, a nuclear unit and you pump up the  
14 upper reservoir and then later in the day when you  
15 need a lot of power, prices might be higher, you  
16 actually generate at that point and that's how the  
17 plant is economically viable.

18 I've asked to go through all the various  
19 features of the plant so we'll start with the upper  
20 reservoir. And here's some statistics on it. There's  
21 an error right here too which I was -- found today.  
22 Or actually I didn't find it. Nancy pointed it out to  
23 me. It was constructed from October 2007. It says  
24 November 2010. That's 2009. Okay? So scratch that  
25 out if you have a handout.

1           The upper reservoir is 6800 feet all the way  
2 around the rim. It's 125 feet tall. Normal operating  
3 elevations are 1597 to 1505, so that's 92 feet of  
4 water. Now we typically don't operate at 1505. We  
5 can. We typically go down to 1525 as the normal  
6 operating range but we can operate lower. And the  
7 water volume is listed there and that 1.4 billion  
8 gallons is what went down the valley. It's -- The new  
9 reservoir is constructed to approximately the same  
10 volume as the old one.

11           And for comparison, there's 3.2 million  
12 cubic yards of concrete in this upper reservoir. And  
13 a lot of people know what Hoover Dam looks like and  
14 that's 3.25 million, so it was a major construction  
15 project for the state and we did it in a pretty short  
16 period of time.

17           The original dam did not have an overflow of  
18 any type. It was not conceived that it would overflow  
19 and it did, of course, and kind of destroyed itself so  
20 now we've constructed an emergency overflow relief  
21 structure and I'll show you that. The crest elevation  
22 there is 1599. And Warren and others, Tom, Board of  
23 Consultants, they insisted upon a redundant system of  
24 level controls, trips, gauges, cameras. We have got  
25 lots of devices to make sure this does not ever

1 overflow and go over that relief structure.

2 Here's a cross section of the dam. It's a  
3 stepped pyramid on the outside and that's what's shown  
4 on the left. It's got conventional concrete on the  
5 outside and the inside, and the inner part of the dam  
6 is roller compacted concrete which is placed very  
7 similar to asphalt; 16-inch lifts of concrete, roller  
8 compacted to around 12 inches.

9 Also shown here is a gallery. It's a tunnel  
10 and it's built into the dam and all the drains, all  
11 the construction joints and everything drain into this  
12 tunnel and we collected it in this gallery. And it's  
13 also an inspection point for the dam safety people in  
14 the plant.

15 Another picture of the upper reservoir right  
16 after it was refilled. This is looking southeast.  
17 This is the lower reservoir out in the distance. This  
18 is the construction lay-down area. You can see  
19 there's still vehicles, construction equipment there  
20 so it was really right after the refill.

21 Kind of a washed out picture but that's the  
22 ramp going up to the upper reservoir. Another picture  
23 in the kidney shaped area. Color's not quite right on  
24 this; the sky's not usually green like that. This is  
25 a picture of kind of the reforested area that last

1 fall we brought a lot of soil up and planted warm  
2 season grasses and winter wheat and we also planted  
3 trees and those are trees that were grown from a  
4 native stock at the top of the mountain and we will  
5 continue to monitor their growth and report that.

6 This is a panoramic view at the upper  
7 reservoir. In the center is the gauge house, that  
8 little square, and then the overflow relief structure  
9 is to the right of that. And this is what it looks  
10 like if you were to go up there. This is the gauge  
11 house, houses the gauges, and the staff gauge is next  
12 to it. The staff gauge can be seen from a bunch of  
13 cameras around the facility. At 1597 it's full; at  
14 1599 it's going over the crest. So we're right at  
15 full at that point.

16 This is a picture of the outside, kind of  
17 hanging out over the dam. It actually shows -- This  
18 area is what the exterior normally looks like but this  
19 is the overflow relief structure. It is designed to  
20 dissipate the energy of the water coming down the  
21 outside. There's a trough at the very bottom to catch  
22 the water and it overboards and goes down not through  
23 Johnson's Shut-Ins, not that side of the mountain, but  
24 into Taum Sauk Creek, the other side of the mountain,  
25 and that keeps the -- if this were to happen it would

1 keep it on our property but it would go down the other  
2 side as opposed to down through the state park.

3 Okay. I'll try to move a little quicker.  
4 The penstock. That's the tunnel, the conduit going  
5 from the upper reservoir down to the plant. It's  
6 Morning Glory shaped and I'll show you what that looks  
7 like. Those are some dimensions of it. It's 450 foot  
8 vertical, 27 foot diameter, and it goes to a sloping  
9 section which is 4,700 foot long and then there's a  
10 steel lined tunnel section right as it exits the plant  
11 -- I'm sorry, the mountain. It's about 1800 foot of  
12 steel lined section.

13 When it comes out of the mountain it splits  
14 into two sections and goes into some large ball valves  
15 which feed the turbine generators. This shape is  
16 Morning Glory. It's after the flower. It comes up  
17 and kind of comes open. That's a picture of the  
18 opening at the upper reservoir. It goes down 450 feet  
19 from that point.

20 Picture of the penstock as it exits the  
21 mountain. This is -- The way it's showing here is  
22 pretty dark but there's -- originally when they built  
23 this, they built this, they drove trucks in, they  
24 blasted and brought the material out. This is kind of  
25 a concrete plug-in here and then this is the steel

1 penstock coming down and it goes below grade down  
2 through the units. If you went to the power plant  
3 you'd see all this. We had a tour yesterday. I think  
4 everybody saw these things.

5 Okay. It's got a switchyard and I'll show  
6 you that. There's 18 full-time employees at the  
7 plant. They actually are there covering 24-hour/7-day  
8 coverage but they still normally operate from Osage  
9 plant but they can operate at a little control room  
10 within the plant and they do operate there  
11 occasionally.

12 There's two 138 kV power lines going out  
13 from the plant. And the plant was actually built into  
14 an excavated canyon back into the mountain and I'll  
15 show you that.

16 This is a picture -- it's an older picture  
17 but it's a good picture. It shows some of the  
18 features of the plant. Plant's down here -- Plant's  
19 down here, there's excavated tailrace, switchyard  
20 here, transmission corridor going out through over the  
21 hills, it continues up, I think that's a 33 mile line.

22 This is a picture of the older upper  
23 reservoir. It's how it used to look. It was a rock  
24 dike basically with native stone, so it looks a little  
25 different now. And the other lines there are various

1 roads through the property.

2 This is a picture at the plant. The two  
3 units in blue there, that's the top of the generators.  
4 There is a crane on the left. For some reason it's  
5 going on its own. And the switchyard structure kind  
6 of behind it and the switchyard up on top of the  
7 ledge. Tailrace at the bottom with a trash rise. If  
8 you've been there you probably have seen this.

9 We recently built a new building. The old  
10 building was in kind of sad shape so we put a new  
11 maintenance and operations building in. That's a  
12 picture of it.

13 Another picture looking up towards the  
14 switchyard up on the hill.

15 Here's a picture of the switchyard. Fine  
16 looking switchyard if you like that type of thing.

17 Looking down from the switchyard down into  
18 the plant and the tailrace.

19 Transmission lines looking down on a foggy  
20 day to the lower reservoir. I like that picture.

21 Okay. The tailrace and bin wall. I talked  
22 about it being excavated from rock. They actually  
23 excavated all the way out into the East Fork of the  
24 Black River. The excavation was 2,000 feet long and  
25 it's about 65 feet wide. Kind of after the fact they

1 decided that they needed a bin wall which is used to  
2 catch gravel that's coming down the East Fork of the  
3 Black River. That was constructed in 1964. It's  
4 400 feet long.

5 This is a picture of a tailrace. You see a  
6 set of buoys out there to try to keep fishermen out of  
7 the tailrace where they could potentially get pulled  
8 into the units. That's a safety.

9 This is the bin wall. It is a metal  
10 sheet-piled wall, it's filled with rock. The East  
11 Fork of the Black River is to the right. That's  
12 upstream. The lower reservoir's to the left. This  
13 picture was taken when the lower reservoir was at a  
14 low elevation. And the tailrace actually comes in off  
15 the picture down to the lower left.

16 There's a lower reservoir dam. It's  
17 located, of course, on the East Fork of the Black  
18 River. It's a concrete gravity dam. It's 390 feet  
19 long, 60 feet tall. It's meant to overflow and I'll  
20 show you a picture of that.

21 And there's two gates to release water and  
22 our current license requires us to release water  
23 approximately equal to the inflow. And probably  
24 everybody here knows that we've been working with the  
25 state agencies in a very cooperative effort for quite

1 a while. Spent a lot of time looking at how to manage  
2 the water from this property. That's one of the big  
3 issues for this relicensing.

4 Here's an aerial view of the lower reservoir  
5 and the lower reservoir dam. The lower reservoir  
6 dam's in the center. East Fork of the Black River  
7 going down to Lesterville is coming down, downward in  
8 the picture. East Fork comes in in the upper left.  
9 Taum Sauk Creek comes in in the upper right.

10 Here's another picture of the dam. This  
11 shows one of the gates, one of the discharges here.  
12 This is the small gate discharging water. The big  
13 gate, which is 8-foot by 10-foot, is right here. And  
14 that design of the dam is to overflow and here's a  
15 picture of it actually overflowing.

16 Here's a picture from the left upstream  
17 abutment.

18 I mentioned the water management. We have  
19 been working with the state and we've asked USGS and  
20 we're funding this gauge. This is a downstream gauge  
21 that measures water flow below the dam, and the dam is  
22 actually in the background behind it.

23 The lower reservoir operates 736 to  
24 749-and-a-half and that can fluctuate as much as twice  
25 a day. We have public access for fishing. There's a

1 very primitive camping area there. It's mainly an  
2 area to camp. The camping is free to the public.  
3 There's a public boat launch. And due to the nature  
4 of the lower reservoir, there's no swimming or water  
5 sports there. Fishing is really the recreational  
6 opportunity.

7 This is a picture of the lower reservoir  
8 looking from the boat launch up the East Fork arm of  
9 the lake. And this is at low level. You can see the  
10 bank. The -- That's a picture of the lower reservoir  
11 dam from across the lake at the boat launch.

12 That's a picture of fish. Everybody  
13 recognize that? We have been stocking fish. We  
14 restocked it after the breach and on a pretty much  
15 yearly basis we have been putting fish in in  
16 cooperation with information given to us from the  
17 Missouri Department of Conservation.

18 That's a picture of catfish that we put in  
19 this spring. Another picture of putting catfish in.

20 This is a picture of the sign down there.  
21 The Missouri Department of Conservation controls the  
22 fishing there, and this sign, we noticed yesterday,  
23 has a big, huge hole in it. Somebody has blown a hole  
24 in it.

25 Picture of the boat launch at low level.

1 You can see it's got some gravel over it.

2 Here's a picture of the lower reservoir  
3 looking up the Taum Sauk Creek arm at low level and  
4 that picture, I put it in there because we're seeing  
5 some natural vegetation growing back in here. Not a  
6 lot but some. Plant's been in operation about a year  
7 and three months or so and I would assume this would  
8 continue to develop.

9 And that's it. Are there any questions  
10 about the project features? (Pause.) Thank you.

11 MS. HUTZEL: As part of Taum Sauk's license  
12 application and response to our additional information  
13 request, Ameren has proposed several environmental  
14 measures and here's a brief overview of these.  
15 They're also found in Section 3 of the scoping  
16 document. These are measures that they've proposed  
17 for any new license if we issue one.

18 For geology and soils, they propose to  
19 prepare and implement a gravel and sedimentation  
20 control plan.

21 For aquatic resources, they propose several  
22 measures. They propose to develop a water management  
23 plan for the operation of the upper and lower  
24 reservoirs; maintain the existing U.S. Geological  
25 Survey gauge at the East Fork of the Black River

1 downstream in the lower reservoir; develop a  
2 put-and-take fishery in the lower reservoir; and  
3 relocate and rescue fish from the upper reservoir to  
4 the lower reservoir whenever there is a dewatered  
5 instance.

6 For threatened and endangered species, they  
7 propose to develop and implement a bat habitat  
8 management plan.

9 And for recreation and land use, they're  
10 proposing to continue to provide public access to the  
11 boat -- existing boat ramp, parking area, campground,  
12 informal overlook at the lower reservoir. They're  
13 also proposing to prohibit all-terrain vehicles on all  
14 Ameren-owned lands and maintain signs to prohibit  
15 those all-terrain vehicles and allow the state  
16 agencies to place gates and signs on project lands to  
17 discourage the use of ATVs on state lands.

18 And they also propose to evaluate the  
19 current rec activities and access on the East Fork of  
20 the Black River.

21 For cultural resources, they're proposing to  
22 execute a Programmatic Agreement that requires the  
23 preparation of a Historic Properties Management Plan  
24 on a case by case basis.

25 And we've identified several issues that we

1 think will be cumulatively affected by the proposed  
2 relicensing of the project. These are water quality,  
3 water quantity, fisheries resources, and recreation  
4 resources.

5 And then following are the issues that we  
6 have identified. These are in your scoping document.  
7 They are preliminary. If they are not accurate or you  
8 think they need to be expanded, please let us know but  
9 this is our preliminary list.

10 For geologies and soils, we intend to assess  
11 the seismic effects on dam stability; the effects of  
12 sediment transportation on the East Fork of the Black  
13 River, and the sediment buildup in the lower  
14 reservoir; project effects on soil and erosion in the  
15 lower reservoir and along the East Fork of the Black  
16 River; and the effects of possible releases from the  
17 upper reservoir new overflow structure on erosion and  
18 slope stability.

19 For aquatic resources we have several issues  
20 we are intending to address in the EA. These include  
21 effects of the implementation of the water management  
22 plan; effects of possible releases from the upper  
23 reservoir's new overflow structure on the Taum Sauk  
24 Creek; effects of the lower reservoir fluctuations on  
25 the groundwater and wells surrounding the lower

1 reservoir and aquatic habitat and fish populations;  
2 the effects of project operations on water quality in  
3 the lower reservoir/lower East Fork of the Black  
4 River; effects of the lower reservoir fluctuation on  
5 aquatic habitat and fish population; effects of  
6 resident fish entrainment and mortality in the lower  
7 reservoir associated with the operations of the  
8 project; effects of the flow releases from the lower  
9 reservoir dam on aquatic habitat and fish population  
10 in the East Fork of the Black River.

11 For terrestrial resources, these are the  
12 issues we identified: Effects of project operation  
13 and maintenance on the lower river -- in the lower  
14 reservoir and the lower East Fork Black River on  
15 wetlands and riparian habitat; wildlife, especially  
16 water birds, reptiles, invasive species and some rare  
17 species including the collared lizard.

18 For threatened and endangered species,  
19 effects of project operation and maintenance on Mead's  
20 milkweed, Indiana bat, gray bat, Hine's emerald  
21 dragonfly, Ozark hellbender.

22 For recreation and land use, we've  
23 identified the effects of closing the rec facilities  
24 at the upper reservoir, including the museum; effects  
25 of the project operation on public safety, and effects

1 of the project operations on recreation resources  
2 downstream from the lower reservoir to the confluence  
3 of the West Fork of the Black River.

4 And for culture and aesthetic resources, the  
5 effects of the proposed action and alternatives on  
6 properties included in the National Register of  
7 Historic Places and effects of the project operations  
8 on the aesthetic resources of the area.

9 And I know that we -- Now is the time for  
10 some oral comments. Why don't we take those first. I  
11 know someone did sign up. Why don't we have you do  
12 your oral comments and then I'll take questions from  
13 the audience. Is that okay with everyone? (Pause.)  
14 Okay. You want to stand up and speak your name?

15 MR. SMITH: Good morning. Mike Smith,  
16 Missouri Department of Conservation. I've been with  
17 this project since the beginning with the relicensing  
18 all the way through the rebuild process. Hoped this  
19 would be done in time for my retirement and that  
20 date's come and gone and I'm still here. I'm not sure  
21 that's a prerequisite.

22 Anyway, I do appreciate folks from FERC  
23 coming to town. You've picked a wonderful day. It's  
24 a shame we're inside for a meeting, but anyway, I  
25 welcome this opportunity to provide some preliminary

1        comments.  As the nature of our agency, we will follow  
2        up with written comments in some detail.

3                Probably the best way for me to do this is  
4        perhaps look at the scoping document on Page 8 and I  
5        just will make some general comments as we go through.  
6        For our agency, the aquatic resources is a primary  
7        focus.  We do appreciate all the efforts to date to  
8        develop the water management plan.  We have made good,  
9        significant progress.  We're not done but I think we  
10       have a team committed to making it work.  We've done  
11       our best to understand the issues for the corporation  
12       and we appreciate what the consultants and Ameren has  
13       done in respect to our concerns.  The U.S. Geological  
14       Survey Gauge is an integral part of that so we'll  
15       appreciate seeing that.

16               Do have some general comments about the  
17        put-and-take fishery and the stocking recommendations.  
18        This is waters of the state so the Department of  
19        Conservation does have oversight of that.  We do want  
20        to continue to consult with you on this topic.  I can  
21        tell you, though, stocking of channel catfish is a  
22        routine process to establish and maintain a  
23        put-and-take fishery but we do question the stocking  
24        of bluegill, the bait fish and so forth and so I'll  
25        talk a little bit more about that later.

1           Also I will note that there has been a lot  
2 of changes in our department since we first became  
3 involved with this process. We are down a little over  
4 10 percent in our workforce and this is gonna take our  
5 toll and we're very cautious about commitments to the  
6 future and so, again, we're willing to consult but I'm  
7 not sure how much day-to-day we'll be able to provide  
8 for you folks. Nonetheless, we recognize that our  
9 agency is responsible for fish force and wildlife  
10 resources and that folks in DC appreciate and expect  
11 our participation and we will do so.

12           Moving on to Page 9. We do have an active  
13 lease with Ameren for some of the lands associated  
14 with recreational use. We did step aside for a period  
15 of time during the rebuild and my understanding is  
16 that we've not actually assumed responsibilities for  
17 that area yet. If I'm mistaken on that, please  
18 correct me.

19           Quite a bit of impact was made to that area.  
20 It was used and expected so you had to have somewhere  
21 for your folks to stage and do their construction but  
22 it's a little bit different appearance now than what  
23 we had before all this started so we've got barriers,  
24 we've got gravel in a lot of places that we didn't  
25 before.

1           I did make note of the need of the sign  
2 maintenance, we'll take care of that, but our approach  
3 to land management is to have land that invites public  
4 use and it's a little bit different flavor than that  
5 in my opinion in its current condition than what I  
6 think you'll all be able to do in the future.

7           Also, it notes here on the bullet point,  
8 "Evaluate current recreational activities and access  
9 on the East Fork Black River, downstream from the  
10 lower reservoir dam." There is kind of a de facto  
11 access location downstream of the lower dam. Folks  
12 are using that now. There's kind of a collection of  
13 roads, some of those now that are used to get to the  
14 USGS gauge. There probably is opportunity to look at  
15 that as an area to develop a little bit further to,  
16 again, invite public use.

17           Continuing on. Page 11, 4.1.1 We agree  
18 that water quality, quantity, fisheries and recreation  
19 are important resources that are impacted and I think  
20 maybe it's implied there but there are some habitat  
21 issues that are still left unaddressed. We recognize  
22 some of the challenges with that, particularly with  
23 the lower reservoir. We see a need to do more there.

24           Continuing on. Page No. 13.

25           MR. WITT: Can you read that last one?

1 MR. SMITH: I've already moved on, Warren.

2 MR. WITT: I'm sorry. I didn't get the  
3 formality there.

4 MR. SMITH: That was on 4.1.1?

5 MR. MEYER: Page 11, wasn't it?

6 MR. SMITH: Thank you. The concept that I'm  
7 talking about here is aquatic resources. We talked  
8 about water quality, water quantity, fisheries and  
9 recreation, and one might suppose that habitat is  
10 inclusive in that discussion. For the record, I want  
11 to make sure that it is pulled apart because during  
12 the rebuild, habitat in that lower reservoir was  
13 significantly impacted. Simply put, we had lost many  
14 timber and I understand the reasons why, why some of  
15 that needed to be removed. Partly, that was the  
16 desire up front to deal with some management for power  
17 operations but also was necessary for it to be removed  
18 to provide access to recover the sediment but as a  
19 result, now we have a large reservoir with no habitat  
20 in much of its basin. So habitat is the key point  
21 there.

22 MR. WITT: All right. Thank you.

23 MR. SMITH: You were just trying to get me  
24 off track, weren't you?

25 MR. WITT: No. I'm sorry.

1                   MR. SMITH: Okay. Page 13, Aquatic  
2 Resources. We list a number of things to evaluate  
3 there. I do support each and every one of those. I  
4 think that's a good list. Some other topics that I  
5 would suggest, we do need to, again, talk about  
6 general maintenance flows. We now have a stream  
7 system that's altered with the lower reservoir dam.  
8 We have limitations because of the size of the gates  
9 of what we can allow to go downstream and so there are  
10 ways the project should be operated. And we  
11 understand it's not a flood control project but  
12 nonetheless, where the water is when we do get  
13 rainfall and then potential natural flows can be  
14 somewhat controlled and so continued discussion of the  
15 topic that I know that's on our parking lot and the  
16 water management team bases its general maintenance  
17 flows.

18                   Another somewhat related topic to that, and  
19 I think Mr. Lobbig referred to that briefly with the  
20 bin wall, but because of the structures that are in  
21 place, we have interrupted the movement of sediment  
22 through the system and so we have a gravel trap and I  
23 don't have any clear solutions at this point but I  
24 think some discussion needs to be continued on how do  
25 we deal with movement of sediment through the project

1 because we now have two capture points with the bin  
2 wall as well as the lower dam because of construction  
3 of this project and that does have habitat impacts  
4 downstream.

5 In further discussion of the effects of the  
6 lower reservoir -- well, let me just read it. Effects  
7 of lower reservoir --

8 (Discussions were had off the record.)

9 Referring specifically to the fifth bullet,  
10 you talked about looking at the effects of lower  
11 reservoir fluctuations on aquatic habitat and fish  
12 population of the reservoir. Along with that, and  
13 I've already mentioned the habitat component, I still  
14 believe that there are some things that can be done to  
15 identify some reasonable habitat enhancements for the  
16 whole reservoir basin.

17 I do understand some of the issues. We  
18 have, as an agency, a lot of experience on how to  
19 develop projects. We have some that are actually  
20 nationally recognized on Table Rock Lake. We don't  
21 see the water fluctuations there that we see here and  
22 I know that's one of the impediments but I do believe  
23 we do need to have habitat enhancements and I link  
24 this back to the fish stocking component. I've seen  
25 in recent correspondence that this is a -- I'm not

1       gonna quote it correctly but the idea is instead of  
2       dealing with habitat enhancements at lower reservoir,  
3       we will stock instead. The problem that we have with  
4       that scenario is that habitat is a part that makes  
5       those fish available to the anglers. Right now we  
6       have an open bathtub; there's nothing for those fish  
7       to key upon and, therefore, stocking a few fish may be  
8       a check mark when we've met that but we disagree. So  
9       there is a connection between habitat, fish and the  
10      anglers.

11                 Continuing on. Page 15. And this may be  
12      more of a question to Janet and others. It talks  
13      about submitting information. We've been engaged all  
14      through this process and we've submitted a tremendous  
15      amount of information through the passing of time. My  
16      question for FERC is does the submissions provided  
17      during the rebuild process, are those documents  
18      available for evaluation during the relicensing?

19                 MS. HUTZEL: No. If you've submitted  
20      documents during the rebuild, that was a different  
21      docket, a sub docket number. We are work -- That was  
22      a separate case for the rebuild. For the relicense,  
23      if there's documents that you want us to use in our  
24      analysis or to have available for us, you should  
25      resubmit them under this current sub docket which is

1 227-023. The Commission made the rebuild a separate  
2 case altogether so to say. Allan?

3 MR. CREAMER: Allan Creamer with FERC. It's  
4 nice to finally meet you. I hope we get a chance to  
5 talk a little bit after the meeting. When you can, if  
6 -- you know, I followed the rebuild and I know there's  
7 a lot of information that was submitted. What you  
8 could do rather than resubmitting a tremendous volume  
9 of information is, you know, basically kind of bring  
10 it into the proceeding by reference.

11 MS. HUTZEL: Citings.

12 MR. CREAMER: It's in our e-library system,  
13 we have it, we can go to it but, you know, rather than  
14 submitting the volumes of stuff again you can just do  
15 it by reference and we can just go pick it up and it  
16 becomes part of the relicensing proceeding.

17 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you. And I  
18 appreciate that solution. I actually, Janet,  
19 remembered this from our conversation earlier but I  
20 wanted to make sure that I had it clear because it is  
21 gonna be a challenge because we've been very engaged  
22 and there's a lot of material that I think would be  
23 helpful but by reference, Allan, should be a good  
24 help. Thank you very much.

25 We will then also review other documents

1 that we may have available now that weren't during  
2 some of the other proceedings and we'll take a look  
3 and do our best to provide those to you. We look  
4 forward to working with Ameren in a collaborative  
5 process on the water management. We probably have  
6 some other issues that we may have to put some more  
7 teams together to address. We are committed to doing  
8 our part to look out for the fish, forest and wildlife  
9 resources for this project, and I'm certain that there  
10 are some things I've forgotten but that's why we have  
11 written comments to follow. Thank you for your time.

12 MS. HUTZEL: Thank you. Do we have any  
13 questions in general? Yes?

14 MS. BEETEM: Jane Beetem, Department of  
15 Natural Resources. Just to clarify, Mike brought up a  
16 point about the previous comments, and I know it's  
17 somewhat confusing when we had the rebuild going on  
18 and all the studies that I thought were a part of the  
19 relicensing studies. So those studies that were done  
20 by Ameren will be incorporated into the EA?

21 MS. HUTZEL: Well, not incorporated into the  
22 EA per se but we will use those to do our  
23 Environmental Analysis.

24 MS. BEETEM: Okay.

25 MS. HUTZEL: I think most of the studies

1       were revolved around relicensing of the project.  
2       Allan may know a little bit more about what was done  
3       in the rebuild.

4               MR. CREAMER:  There was some stuff that was  
5       done directly after the rebuild that Ameren did, MDC  
6       did and others that was done as a, you know, what  
7       happened and how was things progressing that wasn't  
8       really done as part of the relicensing.  It provided  
9       information, it provided a lot of good information  
10      about the resource.  That's information that's not  
11      directly in the relicensing proceeding unless it's  
12      been filed already in the relicensing proceeding.  The  
13      studies that were done last year that were result of  
14      our AIR that we issued, that is all relicensing  
15      studies.

16              MS. BEETEM:  So what, the recreational  
17      studies, the aesthetics, the aquatic resources, all  
18      those studies will be basis for the EA?

19              MS. HUTZEL:  Correct.  All those studies  
20      were additional information that we requested based on  
21      what happened after the breach.  Those were a part of  
22      the environmental -- those were part of the  
23      relicensing sub docket.  Yes?

24              MS. SCHNACK:  My name's Deb Schnack.  I'm  
25      representing the Missouri Parks Association today and

1 I just had a question about the Church Mountain area.  
2 Is it -- In past that has been identified as an area  
3 of a potential additional reservoir and we're  
4 obviously concerned about the recreation and the  
5 aesthetic impacts that that would have on the area.  
6 Does -- Will this relicensing allow that development  
7 to proceed as, you know, as in past plans?

8 MS. HUTZEL: No. Nothing about Church  
9 Mountain is being proposed to the Commission for  
10 relicensing of Taum Sauk. So if they ever do develop  
11 something at Church Mountain they would have to come  
12 in and file a application for that but as of now  
13 there's nothing before the Commission about developing  
14 hydropower at Church Mountain.

15 MS. SCHNACK: So that process would be --  
16 How would that process work?

17 MS. HUTZEL: That would be a completely  
18 different process. Ameren would have to come to the  
19 Commission and file a -- what we call a Notice of  
20 Intent. They would basically state that they were  
21 looking into developing hydropower at Church Mountain.  
22 They'd have to conduct prefilings -- Before they file  
23 their application they'd have to conduct multiple  
24 meetings with the public and agencies. They'd file --  
25 Depending on the process they use, they used to get

1 three different processes to license a hydroelectric  
2 project. They'd have to go through a different  
3 scoping other than this, they'd have to have agency  
4 and public comment periods, they'd have to file either  
5 a draft application or preliminary licensing proposal,  
6 and then that would come to the Commission and then we  
7 would do an entire processing of the application. As  
8 of now I know of no Notice of Intent for Church  
9 Mountain.

10 MS. SCHNACK: Okay.

11 MS. HUTZEL: So I don't think that's on --  
12 it's not on our radar.

13 MS. BEETEM: I had just a couple of  
14 questions for Mike on the project. You mentioned  
15 lay-down area. Has that been reseeded and all that  
16 now?

17 MR. LOBBIG: Yes, it has.

18 MS. BEETEM: And you also mentioned that  
19 there are 18 full-time employees on the site. Are  
20 they mostly security since it's operated remotely or  
21 what is their function?

22 MR. LOBBIG: I'm gonna defer that to Warren.

23 MR. WITT: There are -- Three of them are  
24 management personnel and the other 15 are union  
25 craftsmen that are operations and maintenance. One's

1 a clerk and the other 14 are operations and  
2 maintenance. They are equivalent operators to what we  
3 have at our Osage plant. They can fully operate the  
4 plant from Taum Sauk, and they do. They have a  
5 control room and all the controls there to operate it  
6 and they do all the maintenance on the facility.

7 MS. BEETEM: All right. Thank you.

8 MR. WITT: I'm Warren Witt. Sorry.

9 COURT REPORTER: That's okay.

10 MS. HUTZEL: Any other comments, concerns  
11 about anything, resources? (Pause.) Okay. If there  
12 is something that you think about after this meeting,  
13 please provide us written comments by July 23rd, 2011.  
14 To file comments you need to have the project name,  
15 Taum Sauk Pump Storage Project; the project number,  
16 P-2277-023, and all this information is in Section 5  
17 of your scoping document.

18 If you do -- If you want to keep abreast of  
19 everything that is filed and submitted to the  
20 Commission we highly encourage that you sign up for  
21 e-subscription. It's basically a e-mail notification  
22 every time something is submitted or issued --  
23 submitted to the Commission or issued by the  
24 Commission on this project, and if you go to  
25 [www.FERC.gov](http://www.FERC.gov), that has all the information under Docs

1       and Filing on how to e-subscribe. And if -- Are you  
2       sure there's no more comments? If not, that was the  
3       end of the meeting. (Pause.) Well, thank you very  
4       much. Appreciate you coming out.

5                       (End of proceedings.)

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