

1 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
2 FERC SCOPING MEETING  
3 EASTMAN FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT:  
4 PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF : Project No. 2457-038  
5 NEW HAMPSHIRE :

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September 19, 2012

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Franklin City Hall Opera House

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316 Central Avenue

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Franklin, New Hampshire

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1:00 p.m.

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The above-entitled meeting was held

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pursuant to notice at 1:04 p.m.

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. DAVIDSON: My name is Samantha Davidson.  
3 I'm with FERC. I'm the project coordinator as well as  
4 handling the recreation and cultural aspects for the  
5 project. We have a couple other FERC staff members  
6 here with us. If you guys want to introduce yourself.

7 MR. PETERS: My name is Phil Peters. I'm with  
8 the Office of General Counsel.

9 MR. KARTALIA: I'm Steve Kartalia. I'm a  
10 fisheries biologist.

11 MS. CHANG: I'm Amy Chang, and I'm doing the  
12 terrestrial biology for this project.

13 MS. DAVIDSON: All right. Well, here's your  
14 agenda. I'm just going to go through the process  
15 overview, discuss the purpose of scoping, requests for  
16 studies, what constitutes for studies, and the study  
17 criteria that all of those studies need to hit.

18 PSNH provided a fact sheet, I think, in back.

19 I'll talk about important dates coming up and  
20 then address any questions that anyone might have.

21 Registration. There are sign-in sheets in the  
22 back. If you haven't already done so, please sign in.  
23 We have a court reporter here. If you are going to  
24 make a comment, please state your name and affiliation  
25 before speaking. Any comments due on the PAD or the

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1       scoping document, those need to be filed by October 30  
2       as well as on the transcript. They can be sent in  
3       electronically or via snail mail. The mailing list is  
4       at the back of the scoping document. If you would  
5       like to be added or removed, please let us know or you  
6       can also file a formal request. To keep up with the  
7       project, any notification on filings and issuances,  
8       make sure you're E-subscribed on the ferc.gov. All of  
9       those filings and issuances will be made available on  
10      eLibrary.

11                So here's an overview of the process. The NOI  
12      and PAD was filed in July. We're currently in the  
13      middle of scoping.

14                Up next is the Study Plan Development. PSNH  
15      will file a proposed study plan. We'll have a meeting  
16      after that as well as a comment period, and then a  
17      revised study plan will come in. And after that, the  
18      Commission will issue a study plan determination.  
19      Right now, we're going to assume two years for a study  
20      season, but that might be chopped down to one  
21      depending on the scope of the study. And after that,  
22      the application will come in, and we'll go from there  
23      to an order. And the entire process plan is outlined  
24      in the back of the scoping document.

25                The purpose of scoping, of course, is to solicit  
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1 any input and comments and identify any issues as well  
2 as discuss the existing conditions and remaining  
3 information needs.

4 As far as requesting information and studies,  
5 it's going to be any information that may help define  
6 the scope of the project and any environmental issues  
7 that can be significant, any data that could help  
8 describe the existing environment, and any effects  
9 that the project might have. Identification of state,  
10 local, federal resource plans and any future project  
11 proposals as well as documentation showing why any  
12 resources or identified issues should be excluded from  
13 further study or consideration.

14 Study requests should provide a framework for  
15 collecting pertinent information on the resources  
16 potentially affected by the project itself.

17 Any study requests that come in should meet  
18 these seven criteria: describe the goals and  
19 objectives and outline methodology, explain the nexus  
20 between project operations and how study results would  
21 inform license requirements, and of course, address  
22 any level of effort and costs for the study.

23 Again, any requests for information and study  
24 requests should be filed with the Commission by  
25 October 30 of this year. All of these filings should  
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1 clearly identify that they're related to Eastman Falls  
2 with the project number so that it doesn't get filed  
3 out of target. Again, these can be filed  
4 electronically, which is encouraged, through ferc.gov  
5 efilings system, or they can be mailed to this address.

6 The resource issues that have been identified  
7 for the project and the scoping document are geology  
8 and soil, aquatic resources, terrestrial, threatened  
9 and endangered species, recreation and land use,  
10 cultural resources, and developmental resources.

11 Important dates coming up that everyone should  
12 be aware of. Once again, comments on the PAD, these  
13 transcripts, and the scoping document are due October  
14 30. PSNH will file a proposed study plan middle of  
15 December. Study plan meetings will take place by the  
16 middle of January, and then a revised study plan will  
17 be filed by PSNH by April 13. And then the Commission  
18 will issue a study plan determination by May 13.

19 Before I open this up to any questions or  
20 comments or discussions, I would like to point out one  
21 topic for discussion. PSNH has tentatively proposed  
22 in their PAD for the project boundary to extend up 9  
23 miles up from the Eastman Falls Project. That's the  
24 current project boundary under the current license,  
25 and the proposal on the books as-is. In the spirit of  
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1       scoping, we would like to solicit any information to  
2       support why the project boundary should extend that  
3       far for any new license, and perhaps it would make  
4       more sense for the project boundary to -- the northern  
5       end of it to terminate at the foot of the Franklin  
6       Falls Dam, which is about a mile and a half upstream  
7       from Eastman Falls. We want to discuss this now  
8       because it would affect the scope of any study  
9       proposals and requests moving forward.

10               Do we have any comments on that? Or any other  
11       comments?

12               MR. PETERS: I'll just interject some research I  
13       had done. When the application for the -- for this  
14       last license was filed in the late fall of '84, the  
15       license application basically stated that the project  
16       boundary was the powerhouse and the surrounding  
17       buildings and that was pretty much it. A lot of these  
18       filings are on microfilm and I ordered up as many as I  
19       could, but then on May the 30th, 1985, the Exhibit G  
20       drawings came in which showed the project boundary  
21       being the 9 miles extending north of Franklin Falls  
22       dam. I could not find any pleadings that explained  
23       why there was a difference in opinion from the  
24       application itself and then the Exhibit G drawings  
25       that came in May '85.

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1           MS. DAVIDSON: All right. Any questions on the  
2 process plan? Any comments on anything, project  
3 boundary or otherwise? I'm getting a resounding no.  
4 So if we do not, then we can conclude this meeting.

5           (Meeting concluded at 1:12 p.m.)

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