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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -x
IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number
WILLIAMS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT : P-2335-035
- - - - -x

Solon Town Office
121 South Main Street
Solon, ME 04949

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting,
pursuant to notice, at 6:03 p.m., Amy Chang, FERC Moderator.

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. CHANG: Thank you, everybody, for coming
3 out tonight. This is the public scoping meeting for the
4 Williams Hydroelectric Project.

5 My name is Amy Chang. I'm a wildlife biologist
6 at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. And I'm also
7 the environmental project coordinator for this project.

8 There are three other Commission staff here
9 with me this evening. And I was going to go ahead and let
10 them introduce themselves and let you know what resource
11 areas they'll be handling.

12 MR. CONNELLY: I'm Bill Connelly and I'm the
13 fish biologist.

14 MR. PALSO: I'm Nick Palso. I'll be dealing
15 with the recreation, historic and cultural and aesthetic
16 matters.

17 MS. MC CORMICK: I'm Liz McCormick. I'm with
18 the office of General Counsel.

19 MS. CHANG: And we also have Frank Dunlap here
20 with FPL Energy, and Andy Qua from Kleinschmidt, who is the
21 environmental consultant for this project.

22 So hopefully you guys can see my screen over
23 here.

24 So tonight I was going to give a brief
25 presentation to explain the Commission's licensing process
26

1 and schedule. And then I was going to ask Mr. Dunlap to
2 provide a brief description of the project facilities and
3 operation to make sure everyone understands what the
4 proposed project is.

5 Then we'll go over a list of resource issues
6 that the Commission has identified based on the contents of
7 FPL Energy's pre-application document. We'll discuss the
8 criteria for requesting studies and mention some key dates
9 and milestones.

10 And then after that information is presented I
11 will open it up to public comment. And we can also take
12 questions as well at that time.

13 So hopefully everybody had a chance to sign in
14 on the sheet in the back.

15 Also in the back there are copies of the
16 scoping document, if you don't have one, as well as a flow
17 chart for the integrated licensing process, which is the
18 re-licensing process that will be used for this project.

19 We do have a court reporter here tonight to
20 transcribe the meeting because it will be part of the
21 Commission's record. So we ask that you do state your name
22 and affiliation so that your comments can be attributed to
23 you.

24 If you wish to file written comments, please
25 note that the deadline to do so for this part of the process
26

1 is December 8th. And information about how to submit
2 written or electronic comments can be found on page 16 of
3 the scoping document.

4 And finally, I did want to say a quick note
5 about the mailing list. FERC does have an official mailing
6 list. When we sent out copies of our scoping document we
7 did send out to our official mailing list as well as FPL
8 Energy's distribution list. However, from this point onward
9 we only send out things on our official -- from our official
10 mailing list.

11 So if you're not on our official mailing list
12 and would like to be on it, if you could refer to page 21 of
13 the scoping document and that will give you information
14 about how to get on our list so that you can be informed as
15 things develop on this project.

16 So this is kind of a short slide of the
17 integrated licensing process. It is a multi-year process.
18 The Notice of Intent and Preliminary Application document
19 was filed by FPL Energy on August 17th. And we are now in
20 the scoping phase. We issued our scoping document on
21 October 9th. And so now we're conducting our scoping
22 meetings to solicit public and agency input.

23 And Appendix B in the scoping document outlines
24 our target dates for the pre-filing process. And that would
25 cover all the time up until the point where it says
26

1 'Application filed.'

2 The final license application is due to be
3 filed with the Commission by December 31st, 2015. At that
4 time Commission staff will be reviewing the application, and
5 if it's complete will issue a Ready for Environmental
6 Analysis, request terms and conditions and interventions.
7 We'll then conduct our environmental analysis. And a
8 licensing decision would be expected around February 2017.

9 So a little bit about the scoping process.

10 Under the Federal Power Act FERC is responsible
11 for issuing licenses for non-federal hydroelectric projects.
12 And the National Environmental Policy Act requires the
13 disclosure of environmental effects of FERC's licensing
14 actions. So we do use the scoping process to begin our
15 evaluation of those effects.

16 The scoping document in October includes a
17 brief description of existing project facilities, a
18 preliminary list of resource issues, and describes the
19 studies proposed by FPL Energy. The scoping document also
20 describes the types of information we're seeking as part of
21 scoping, the pre-filing process schedule, and a proposed
22 outline and timeline for the EA.

23 So the main purpose of our meeting with you
24 this evening is to solicit your comments and inputs about
25 issues that need to be considered, and to talk about what
26

1 information will be needed to address those issues.

2 And so at this time, Frank, would you like to
3 give a brief overview of your project?

4 MR. DUNLAP: Good evening. My name is Frank
5 Dunlap. I'm with NextEra Energy Resources. I also have a
6 number of people here from NextEra. Bill Hansen's here, a
7 wildlife biologist, Ernest DeLuca, a recreation specialist.

8 As part of the team we have licensing this
9 project, we have Kleinschmidt Associates, which is a
10 consultant out of Pittsfield. We have Andy Qua here this
11 evening. Also working on this project will be Sarah
12 Verville of TRC out of Augusta, Maine.

13 The licensee for this project, to clear up any
14 misconceptions, the licensee for the project is FPL Energy
15 Maine Hydro LLC. FPL is an indirect subsidiary of NextEra
16 Energy Resources.

17 FPL has 22 licensed hydro projects in Maine
18 either as an owner or an operator: nine on the Kennebec,
19 including Williams, of course; six on the Androscoggin, one
20 on Presumpscot, and six on the Saco.

21 NextEra Energy -- and this is where the
22 confusion sometimes comes in -- is actually -- consists of
23 two separate companies: FPL, or Florida Power & Light,
24 which is the electric utility in Florida, and NextEra Energy
25 Resources, who is who we are. We're an independent power
26

1 producer nationwide with some facilities actually overseas
2 also; a leading renewable energy company with wind, solar
3 and hydro. And this set of hydro is our only set of hydro
4 for NextEra.

5 Project location. We've got larger displays
6 along the wall here if you want to see those during a break
7 or afterwards.

8 The way this project is located about halfway
9 down -- and these are in your transcript, by the way.

10 The Williams Project is located about halfway
11 down through the Kennebec Basin. It's basically at the
12 transition between the upper basin and the lower basin, both
13 in geography and in operations.

14 Next slide.

15 The Williams Project consists of basically a
16 concrete dam with gates in it, stanchion spillways. It
17 discharges in the tailrace in the tail water pool -- this
18 shows up on the photos that we have in the next slide -- but
19 in the 6000 foot long discharge channel. It shows up on the
20 lower portion of the slide there.

21 The dam and powerhouse was constructed in 1939;
22 the second unit added in 1950. The project boundary for the
23 Williams Project runs clear up to the lower end of the Wyman
24 Project. And down to the Route 16 bridge below the
25 discharge channel.

26

1 The impoundment is actually only about
2 three-quarter miles from the upper end, with free-flowing
3 stream into the upper portion.

4 The project has gone through re-licensing
5 previously; in the 1980s there was a proposed expansion for
6 the project. They were considering raising the pond; that
7 ultimately did not happen. But a new license was issued in
8 1988, which establishes the current conditions for
9 operations.

10 As Amy said, this license expires in 2017, with
11 the application for license due two years before that, in
12 2015. We will spend the intervening time doing studies and
13 preparing paperwork.

14 Again, a view of the project boundary. It
15 stays fairly close to the river banks. There's not a whole
16 lot of additional land within the project boundary, --
17 particularly downstream of the dam.

18 This is a view of the powerhouse portion of the
19 tail water pool. And you can see the powerhouse, the
20 stanchion sections in the middle of the photo and in the
21 gate section is partially hidden by the railroad bridge
22 there. The railroad bridge forms part of the recreation
23 trail that goes through the project. And it was part of the
24 origin, part of the towns -- .

25 I mentioned the operation earlier. The current
26

1 FERC license and state water quality certification requires
2 a minimum flow of 1360 cfs or in-flow, whichever is less.
3 That is based on a 1982 U.S. Fish & Wildlife aquatic base
4 load policy, which recommended -- lacking specific studies,
5 recommended a flow of half a cubic foot per second per
6 square mile at 0.5 csfs.

7 At Williams the daily pond fluctuation is up to
8 six feet. This project re-regulates the peaking flows out
9 of Wyman to produce a more uniform out-flow downstream.

10 Operation is also guided by Kennebec Water
11 Power Company's set flows for the Kennebec. The set flow is
12 a targeted flow of 3600 cfs at Madison during most of the
13 time, most of the year when flows are regulated.

14 Those regulated flows benefit both, this
15 project and the project downstream, as well as flood
16 control, and various other and official uses.

17 Again, Williams basically generates based on
18 incoming flows out of Wyman and produces a relatively
19 constant out-flow, and do that by varying the pond level at
20 Williams to capture the in-flow and then meter it out more
21 uniformly downstream. It also can operate and does operate
22 as a peaking project when necessary.

23 The PAD, the pre-application document that was
24 circulated in August describes the data that we have
25 currently on the various resources. This will just be a
26

1 quick summary of that. You can refer to the PAD for more
2 information as you go into comments.

3 One of the interests for the re-licensing and
4 for the state's water quality certification is, of course,
5 water quality. Kennebec in this area is Class A water.
6 There is one classification above that for the state, Class
7 AA. But this is a Class A water.

8 Certification -- water quality certification
9 was issued by LURC at the time in 1988. Water quality
10 certification is basically the state's statement to the FERC
11 that the project at its proposed operations and its proposed
12 conditions meet water quality standards. They often put
13 conditions on that. But that's the essence of the water
14 quality certification.

15 At the time it was a Class B water; it is now
16 classified as Class A water. DUP has sampled in the
17 vicinity and documented that indeed the river is meeting
18 Class A standards.

19 Another part of the water quality standards is
20 aquatic life. Macro vertebrates in the river bottom, being
21 the bugs in the river bottom, as an indicator of the quality
22 of the water. That being certain species are more or less
23 tolerant to pollution or stresses. And so DEP uses that as
24 an indicator of water quality again currently meeting.

25 Kennebec River fisheries -- and, Bill, jump in
26

1 on this as needed -- there's a fair amount of data already
2 available on the Kennebec River fisheries. There's some
3 2001 studies for FPL Energy. We radio-tagged some species
4 and radio-tracked them. There's additional data collected
5 by electro-fishing clear down the river, the NBI
6 electro-fishing data from 2002 where they sampled the river.
7 So there's a set of data there characterizing the species
8 and the habitat.

9 IF&W's surveys in 2009, 2011, along with their
10 standard creel census.

11 Of potential interest in this proceeding is
12 Atlantic salmon. However the listed -- ESA listed Atlantic
13 salmon currently have access to the river up to the Sandy
14 River just below Madison, Maine, which is about 14 and a
15 half miles, river miles downstream of the Williams Project.
16 So they're not currently in the Williams Project area.

17 Also a fair amount of data on the habitat, the
18 impoundment upstream or the impoundment and upstream area is
19 characterized by fairly narrow riverine habitat in the first
20 three and a quarter, three and three-quarters miles.

21 The lower portion of the river that's within
22 the project boundary is impounded. It gradually widens out
23 and becomes more lentic in character. And the easterly side
24 of that is formed by the old railroad bed so that that reach
25 is fairly heavily armored with riprap.

26

1 Downstream habitat, Caratunk Falls is a fairly
2 high rocky falls. It is the location for the project. That
3 transitions fairly quickly to the tail water pool, again as
4 you can see in the photo that we have enlarged, and then
5 transitions to the main discharge channel, which runs about
6 6000 feet downstream to the Route 16 bridge.

7 A photo of the lower portion below the dam.
8 There's enlargement on the wall.

9 As I mentioned earlier, FPL has conducted
10 fairly extensive tributary monitoring and radio-telemetry
11 studies in 2001, actually in association with the Wyman
12 Project. So we have that data. And the habitat that is
13 characterized by the -- in the MBI study is listed here.

14 A good to excellent habitat of substrates
15 through most of the reach below Wyman down to below
16 Williams. The incremental flow requirement, 1360 cfs or
17 less -- or in-flow, whichever is less.

18 There's a moderate amount of information on the
19 wildlife, botanical and wetland resources.

20 Prior licensing activities and current state
21 databases don't show a whole lot of significant or
22 specialized wildlife habitats to the region. There are some
23 -- or in the project. There are some wetlands associated
24 with the project that we will inventory through the project
25 studies.

26

1 Same for rare, threatened and endangered: The
2 project area contains habitat that could be suitable for
3 several of the species of interest -- particularly the State
4 special concern: Tomah Mayfly, leopard frogs, spring
5 salamander and so on, wood turtle -- but nothing's been
6 documented in the area except for the long-leaf bluet
7 downstream of the project. So we'll be seeing if we can
8 document the current condition of that community.

9 Recreation. Pretty typical of central Maine
10 rivers: fishing, hiking and biking, snowmobiling along the
11 rail trail. It's a very active trail. The project hosts a
12 hard surface boat launch on the easterly side upstream of
13 the dam, and a canoe take-out and put-in that goes around
14 the end of the easterly end of the dam.

15 Proposed studies. We can get into this in more
16 detail. These are laid out in the PAD, and Amy may mention
17 them some more later. But basically we have a suite of
18 reconnaissance studies to confirm the status of -- the
19 current status of the resources we are in effect doing some
20 more quality sampling.

21 I'd be looking at anticipating that Maine DNR
22 will be interested in eels. So we'll probably be looking at
23 some potential eel passage there. And reconnaissance level
24 surveys of wildlife, botanical level resources, and
25 recreational resources, capped by the standard archeological
26

1 surveys for re-licensing projects.

2 The next steps I will leave for FERC to get
3 into; I'll just summarize it. The sequence of opportunity
4 for involvement with the item to highlight -- the first item
5 being that worthy of highlight: comments are due on the
6 scoping document, the PAD, by December 8th. And that
7 includes potential study requests. So you'll need to mark
8 that on your calendar. That will lead into study plan
9 development.

10 If you have questions, contact either Andy or
11 I, as well as FERC, of course.

12 MS. CHANG: Thank you.

13 I did want to just mention that tomorrow
14 morning we will be having another scoping meeting in
15 Augusta. That meeting is primarily intended for federal and
16 state agency personnel, but the public is welcome to attend
17 as well.

18 And following that we will be conducting a site
19 visit. We're hoping the weather holds enough that we can
20 make it out there and really get to see everything we've
21 come up to see.

22 Let's skip those since Frank already showed you
23 those slides.

24 So we briefly wanted to talk about the various
25 issues associated with this project.

26

1 Section 4.2 of the scoping document, which is
2 pages 11, 12 and 13, we did list environmental issues and
3 concerns that FERC intends to analyze in the environmental
4 assessment. That list is not exhaustive or final; but it is
5 an initial listing of issues that we've identified of areas
6 that could be affected by re-licensing of this project.

7 The general categories that we looked at were
8 geologic and soil resources, aquatic resources, terrestrial
9 resources, threatened and endangered species, recreation
10 resources, cultural resources, and developmental resources.

11 As Frank mentioned, there are several studies
12 that FPL Energy has indicated that they intend to conduct in
13 association with the licensing of this project. Over the
14 next couple of months the study plans will be finalized. So
15 at this point we're looking for input from interested
16 stakeholders about what additional studies may be necessary.

17 There are seven study request criteria that are
18 required and must be addressed by anyone who requests a
19 study. And those can be found in Section 5.9 of the
20 Commission's regulations. They are summarized here, and
21 they are laid out in a little more detail in Appendix A of
22 the scoping document.

23 But basically it says you need to explain very
24 clearly what you're hoping to get out of the survey; what
25 the goals of it are, what the methodology is, and how the
26

1 survey is going to help further our understanding of the
2 project.

3 As Frank mentioned, there are several important
4 dates that are kind of coming up. In Appendix B of the
5 scoping document basically all of the dates from now until
6 the filing of the application for the project comes in are
7 listed out. These are a few of the ones that are occurring
8 in the near term.

9 The first up is the comments on the scoping
10 document, which are due December 8th. That's also the date
11 by which we need people, if they have additional study
12 requests, to file those as well.

13 The company would then submit their proposed
14 study plan by about January 22nd, followed by a study plan
15 meeting for interested parties where we discuss the study
16 plan and see what additional changes or alternations need to
17 be made. The comment period for the study plan is then
18 until April 22nd, at which time FPL Energy would then revise
19 their study plan based on those comments and submit a
20 revised study plan to the Commission.

21 At that point the Director of the Office of
22 Energy Projects at the Commission would review the revised
23 study plan and any additional comments that are received,
24 and issue a study plan determination by July 6th.

25 And so that's the end of my presentation. So I
26

1 would like to open up the meeting to people who would like
2 to speak on the record tonight.

3 We do have a microphone. It's to help capture
4 your voice for the court reporter; it's not really to make
5 your voice louder in the room. So if you could use the
6 microphone if you're going to speak tonight.

7 Is there anybody that wants to provide
8 comments?

9 Okay.

10 And if you could make sure you state your name
11 and affiliation for the record as well.

12 MR. RIORDAN: I'd like to stay sitting,
13 actually.

14 MS. CHANG: Oh, absolutely. However you'd like
15 to do it.

16 MR. RIORDAN: It's kind of a small group.

17 Can you hear me okay? No interference? I do
18 have a blackberry, but it doesn't seem to be hurting us.

19 My name is Jeff Riordan. I work for Trout
20 Unlimited. And there's a number of our members here who you
21 may hear from tonight as well. I have been involved with
22 hydro re-licensings on the Kennebec, oh, God, since 1994, I
23 think. So this is just -- in terms of context, this is one
24 of the last of the projects on the river that's going to be
25 re-licensed. And it fits into the context of recent

26

1 licenses that were issued both upstream and downstream of
2 here. And that's where some of my comments are going to be
3 directed.

4 MS. CHANG: Okay.

5 MR. RIORDAN: I think the two big things that
6 when I looked at the scoping document I thought were missing
7 and need to be fleshed out more significantly, one was some
8 more information on how the project is operated. In Frank's
9 presentation he touched on this a little bit. But it really
10 goes to -- I think our significant question is whether the
11 project will be operated in the future the way it has been
12 in the past.

13 And the key question is that the Williams
14 Project has traditionally been used to re-regulate peaking
15 flows. Both of the projects upstream of here peak. That
16 has significant impacts on habitat and significant impacts
17 on anglers.

18 One of the nice things about the Solon project
19 is that traditionally it hasn't peaked. It's been
20 re-regulated. Flows in the river reaches below the Solon
21 dam and also below the remaining dams downstream to
22 tidewater have not had those fluctuations.

23 In Frank's -- Frank sort of glossed over -- and
24 it's not a criticism because there wasn't time for it
25 tonight -- but how decisions are made as to allocations of
26

1 flows from the Williams Project, and that sometimes I think
2 it can peak. I've heard occasionally from people in the
3 area that it does peak on rare occasions. And I think going
4 forward we'd probably like to see more specificity in the
5 license than just a minimum flow, but some more guidance as
6 to what, you know, appropriate management is like.

7 That's not saying we're looking for significant
8 changes. We kind of -- it's operated fairly well in the
9 past and we'd kind of like to know that it's not going to
10 change going out into the future.

11 The other significant issue that I thought was
12 not covered well in the scoping document -- I think it's
13 addressed somewhat better in the PAD -- is the project
14 boundary, and with respect to two issues. One is what lands
15 within the project boundary are owned by NextEra or FPLE
16 with respect to potential enhancements for recreational
17 access.

18 There is at least one section of the river that
19 I've heard from our members who are local was traditionally
20 accessed by anglers. I think it's owned by FPL. We'd like
21 to see access at that site again, at least for walk-in
22 access and some parking reasonably close by. And when we
23 look at what else is owned by NextEra there may be other
24 opportunities to enhance recreational access.

25 But more significantly is the impacts on the
26

1 reach of the river above the Route 201A bridge, where that
2 excavated tailrace channel was dug. That doesn't even show
3 in the scoping document, you know, that portion of the
4 project boundary. And we were talking about this this
5 evening before the meeting started.

6 But essentially that excavated channel is
7 serving the -- it's a little bit different. And I think a
8 hydro-engineer wouldn't agree with me, probably, but it's
9 serving the purpose of a tailrace. It lowered -- it added
10 seven feet of head to the dam by lowering the river channel
11 seven feet. And in doing that it dewatered channels around
12 the other sides of the islands that originally existed up in
13 there.

14 And we would definitely be interested in
15 looking at opportunities to enhance habitat in those now
16 almost dewatered backwater channels, which are really the
17 river's original channel.

18 In particular --

19 MR. DUNLAP: Like the one on the right over
20 there? (speaker?)

21 MR. RIORDAN: Yeah -- it's the one on the left.
22 And actually, I brought a figure, which I'll --

23 MR. DUNLAP: Okay.

24 MR. RIORDAN: I'll include it with my written
25 comments and I'll have a copy that we can talk about later
26

1 to be a part -- with the whole group here. But, yeah, I can
2 just show you here.

3 I believe -- I had actually originally looked,
4 looking at the aerial photo, that this was the original
5 river channel and this was excavated. From some of the
6 discussions earlier, it sounds as though this section of the
7 river, very much like the down-river sections, downstream
8 sections, had a bunch of mid-channel islands.

9 So what we may have had was a channel here,
10 some kind of an original channel through here. And this may
11 be an old channel, too; there may have been two or three
12 islands in that reach.

13 Regardless, there's obviously been a lot of
14 change to that reach and we'd like to look at what the
15 opportunities are to potentially enhance habitat,
16 particularly in this channel. This one I don't know as
17 much, and I think it may be completely cut off at this
18 point.

19 Those are the big issues. A couple of other
20 issues that I had questions about, I'm assuming with this
21 license that the water quality certificate is going to be
22 issued by the DEP -- not by LURC. But I don't know if
23 that's a safe assumption.

24 Do you know, Frank?

25 MS. CHANG: That's correct.

26

1 MR. RIORDAN: That is correct. Okay.

2 And it looked like an awful lot of the data
3 that Frank cited as existing data on the fishery was
4 associated with the two upstream reaches.

5 There was much more limited information on
6 either the Solon impoundment, which does support some pretty
7 significant fisheries -- I think you'll hear about that from
8 some of the people in the room -- but especially the river
9 reach downstream from Route 201, which is really -- for
10 those of you from FERC who don't know this, it's hard to
11 tell this time of year, but it's probably -- certainly on
12 the middle section of the Kennebec it's one of the two go-to
13 fisheries.

14 And because it doesn't peak it's more reliable,
15 it's better suited for wading anglers. It's better suited
16 for taking kids out than some of the other river reaches in
17 the area are. And the fishery is pretty extraordinary, both
18 for some wild fish but also for stocked fish that are
19 managed by IF&W.

20 Just a couple of other issues that I would
21 flag. I don't know whether rare mussel surveys have been
22 done. But any of us who have worked on the Kennebec Basin
23 are aware that the Kennebec is one of the only -- one of
24 three or four rivers in Maine that supports all ten native
25 species of freshwater mussels, three of which are on the
26

1 state threatened or endangered list.

2 The ones I would suspect might be here would be
3 yellow lamp mussel and brook floaters. But I suppose there
4 might be tidewater mucklets, too. It's probably not ideal
5 habitat for any of those except for brook floater, but that
6 one might be here.

7 And then I just -- I have some scrawled
8 comments on the document that I'll just go through quickly
9 that I don't think I've touched on yet.

10 More information -- I think it would be good to
11 have more information about the side channel enhancement
12 project. I hadn't heard about that until I was reviewing
13 these documents, so I'm not sure what the purpose was, when
14 it was constructed, whether there might be opportunities to
15 have it do more than it does.

16 We've talked a fair amount about -- or I have
17 -- about public access.

18 With respect to cumulative impacts, you had
19 American eel listed as a species. I think you should
20 include cumulative impacts on Atlantic salmon regardless of
21 whether there's discussion of fish passage at this facility.

22 There are plans at least for fish passage at
23 the two dams in Madison. There's a settlement agreement
24 there. So it's conceivable within the term of this license,
25 which will be fairly long, that we will have Atlantic salmon

26

1 in the tailrace. They may not be in the critical habitat
2 area, but they'll be present in the habitat.

3 More importantly, some of the flow management
4 issues I was talking about, if this is the site that
5 re-regulates flows, it's re-regulating flows through all of
6 the main stem habitat that is in the critical -- designated
7 critical habitat.

8 So I think I'd add Atlantic salmon certainly to
9 the list of cumulatively impacted species, and again mostly
10 related to flow management. Also shad, which didn't reach
11 this section of the river but are certainly present
12 downstream of here and potentially affected by flow
13 management.

14 I think -- I'll send you written comments as
15 well, but I think I've covered most of the things I noted
16 when I looked at the scoping document.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. CHANG: Is anybody else interested in
19 making ?

20 MR. DENIS: Good evening. My name is Craig
21 Denis. I live in Athens. C-r-a-i-g D-e-n-i-s.

22 Rehydration of the original -- the eastern
23 channel, I'd definitely like to see that. It's got a nice
24 bottom already. I think it would be excellent spawning
25 habitat for the cold water species that are present in that
26

1 stretch of water.

2 The section of the channel that -- I believe it
3 was 600 -- or 6000 feet, that whole stretch is basically
4 void of fish. I'm going to assume that the major reason why
5 the fish aren't inhabiting it is there wasn't anything in
6 the way of bottom structure, curves, et cetera, et cetera.
7 I'd definitely like to have some enhancement done to that
8 stretch.

9 The waters have been moving enough. It
10 definitely has good temperatures. A lot of fish are in the
11 impoundment -- or the pool directly below the impoundment
12 right underneath the dam, and then they also show back up
13 once you get down below Martin Stream.

14 But that one stretch of river is, for all
15 intents and purposes, is void.

16 MR. CONNELLY: Is there easy access there?

17 MR. DENIS: Excuse me?

18 MR. CONNELLY: Is there easy access there?

19 MR. DENIS: Um, access up above if you're
20 motorized. I mean the whole thing is accessed, which is the
21 way I move.

22 MR. CONNELLY: Okay.

23 MR. DENIS: You can fish. But you don't waste
24 time in that --

25 MR. CONNELLY: Yeah. Right.

26

1 MR. DENIS: I think the water temperatures in
2 the impoundment --if there was more of a cost and flow. I
3 don't think we quite see the warming of the water,
4 especially in the center of the summer when we're getting a
5 lot of re-watering. And that's going to have a direct
6 effect on the Solon stretch.

7 And one thing I've wanted to do is -- And it
8 seems to be more prevalent in the last couple of years --
9 the banks along the straightened channel are deteriorating
10 at a relatively fast rate. It appears that there are more
11 trees that are coming down. And, of course, once the tree
12 comes down it takes the rest of the bank with it.

13 So whether or not that's a flow issue or
14 exactly what it is I'm not going to say -- I'm not prepared
15 to say. But I think it's something that really should get
16 looked at.

17 Jeff talked about some sort of an access point
18 up in the pool below the dam. I think the river would get a
19 great deal more activity -- recreational, not just angling
20 -- if there was a reliable access point up there.

21 And then I'm not sure if it's part of the FPL
22 property or not, but there's also an access that's used
23 quite a bit just above the 201A bridge. And that's going
24 down over a fairly steep bank. Because of the foot traffic
25 it's getting eaten away. If there was some sort of a

26

1 stairwell or a similar type structure there -- it does get
2 utilized a great deal by recreational users on the river.

3 I didn't have a chance to go through the PAD
4 completely, but one thing I noticed in there was it didn't
5 really mention the recreational use of the river. There are
6 times that the plastic hatch is prolific. And a lot of
7 those are launched right there. Plus there's a parking area
8 that's along just the side of the road just to the north of
9 -- where that's accessed, I think that was already taken
10 care of. And I think that covers it.

11 MR. CONNELLY: So going back to the discharge
12 channel, so you'd like to see some sort of study done there?
13 Would you like to see some sort of study done about the
14 erosion there, or just you want to -- what is your kind of
15 goal for -- regarding the --

16 MR. DENIS: You're talking about down by the
17 bridge?

18 MR. CONNELLY: No. Down by the 6000 foot
19 discharge channel. You said that the banks are eroding.

20 MR. DENIS: That's pretty much along that
21 whole

22 MR. CONNELLY: So you'd like to see a study
23 done like documenting the rate, or kind of a --

24 MR. DENIS: Or something done to remediate it.
25 Yeah: Understand what's going on and then do something

26

1 about it.

2 MR. CONNELLY: Okay. I was just clarifying for
3 my notes. That's fine.

4 MS. CHANG: Okay.

5 So anybody else that would like to speak on the
6 record?

7 Okay.

8 MR. ALBUIIT: My name is Joe Albuit. And I'm a
9 landowner.

10 I have bought the southern edge of the proposed
11 boundary, this section right in here which is south of the
12 Route 201A bridge. And we've got about 2000 feet of shore
13 frontage. And we're also -- my wife and I own the
14 Evergreens Campground, which is located at that site.

15 We are an archeological site designated by the
16 State of Maine Museum as an ancient Indian campground, and
17 also on the National Register of Historic Places. And we've
18 been seeing severe erosion from the constant fluctuation of
19 the water that seems to be undermining the vegetation and
20 washing it downstream. And undoubtedly exposing artifacts
21 and washing them downstream.

22 And I'd like to see if we can do something to,
23 well, arrest that erosion and perhaps even shoreline
24 stabilization.

25 Thank you.

26

1 MR. MC CORMICK: Good evening. My name is Sean
2 McCormick. I'm the president of the Kennebec Valley Chapter
3 of Trout Unlimited.

4 We have several concerns. There are things
5 that we would like to see looked at in the project area.

6 One is -- this is kind of reiterating what some
7 other people said. We'd like to see that study into what it
8 might take to re-water that east channel. This currently
9 doesn't have a lot of flow through it.

10 And habitat enhancements in the 6000 foot
11 tailrace: Look at what might be a suitable habitat
12 enhancement that might help with that stretch of the river
13 that has lost its -- seems to have lost its ability to
14 support any -- obviously didn't ever have it when it was
15 built -- any ability to support salmonids.

16 And the other really important thing to us is
17 that we continue to maintain this as a buffering project.
18 And we'd like to see that looked at seriously as part of the
19 license so that that's a stable feature in this project
20 going forward for the duration of the life of the license.
21 And look at the erosion in that project area and whether or
22 not that is caused by operation or not. We have to assume
23 it may be, but we don't know that without a study.

24 And, of course, if we can enhance recreational
25 access in that project area, especially between the dam and
26

1 the Route 201A bridge, that is -- we have good recreational
2 access above the dam, and we have good recreational access
3 below Route 201A.

4 But we don't have good recreational access in
5 between the dam and the bridge. And we would like to see
6 something -- whether or not that's something that's easily
7 do-able. And my hunch is it probably is, depending on how
8 much land NextEra has in that -- or FPL has in that area.

9 But we again, looking at the documents, it's
10 difficult to tell what properties are owned, so how we could
11 make that work.

12 MR. HANSON: Bill Hanson, biologist for FPL.

13 I had a question, Craig. You were talking
14 about some access. Were you referring to that road that
15 people can use -- well, can't use -- but the road that
16 exists across from the hatchery that goes --

17 MR. MC CORMICK: Yeah.

18 MR. HANSON: -- right down onto the shore?

19 MR. MC CORMICK: Yes.

20 MR. HANSON: Yeah. And that was probably used
21 by locals before the gates went up?

22 MR. MC CORMICK: Correct.

23 MR. HANSON: Is that what you implied -- Yeah.
24 Okay.

25 MR. DENIS: And if that is not an option,
26

1 perhaps coming in off of Kilowatt Way.

2 MR. HANSON: Right.

3 MR. DENIS: Although that would be -- come down
4 over a relatively steep bank.

5 MR. MC CORMICK: Yeah.

6 MR. DENIS: But it's do-able.

7 MR. HANSON: I had looked that around Hollow
8 Pine and over it --

9 MR. DENIS: Yeah. Right.

10 MR. HANSON: And Bill Hanson again, FPL.

11 I wanted to just clarify a couple of things for
12 Jeff.

13 Jeff, you were correct: the fishery studies
14 were primarily drop-down study fish from the Wyman area. It
15 was primarily rainbow trout, landlocked salmon and brook
16 trout which were radio-tagged in the area between the
17 Bingham Bridge and Wyman Dam. And some of those fish were
18 found to use the lower segment and into the Williams
19 impoundment.

20 But we didn't do any specific work in that area.

21 MR. RIORDAN: Sean is pretty aware of the fish
22 that use that upper section of the impoundment.

23 MR. MC CORMICK: Yeah.

24 MR. HANSON: And the same goes for the area
25 downstream hasn't been looked at either with brown trout and
26

1 others.

2 MR. RIORDAN: Thanks.

3 MR. HANSON: Thanks.

4 MS. CHANG: Does anybody else have a question
5 or comment?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. CHANG: Okay.

8 Well, thank you all for coming out this
9 evening. I do want to just throw out a couple dates again.

10 If you have written comments please file them
11 with FERC no later than December 8. And in the scoping
12 document there are details about how to do that so that your
13 comments are accepted.

14 And transcripts for this meeting and all other
15 documents that are filed with the Commission are available
16 on FERC's electronic on-line records information system.
17 It's called the eLibrary system. If you go to www.ferc.gov
18 you can kind of navigate through the website and get a hold
19 of any documents that have been filed with the Commission.
20 So that's kind of a good way to see what's been filed and
21 what's going in and out of our offices.

22 And I guess if that's it, thank you all again.

23 MR. QUA: You mentioned the mailing list
24 earlier. I think there's an example format of a letter that
25 can be filed.

26

1 MS. CHANG: On the website?

2 MR. QUA: Yeah.

3 MS. CHANG: Okay. Okay. Okay.

4 So if -- what Andy is referring to, you know,
5 also in the scoping document there is information about
6 getting on our official mailing list if you'd like to be
7 mailed information related to this project. You can also
8 sign up on the eLibrary system to get notified
9 electronically if you don't want a paper copy.

10 So, great. Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, at 6:54 p.m., the scoping meeting
12 in the above-entitled matter was adjourned.)

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