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PUBLIC MEETING SOLICITING COMMENTS  
ON THE  
SCOPING DOCUMENT 1  
FOR  
BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
P-619-158

Held at:  
Holiday Inn  
685 Manzanita Court  
Chico, California

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

7:04 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.

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Reported by: CAROLE W. BROWNE  
RPR, CSR NO. 7351

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PANEL MEMBERS

ALAN MITCHNICK  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

J. ADAM BEECO, Ph.D.  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

REPRESENTING PG&E

ALAN SONEDA  
Senior License Project Manager  
Power Generation

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1                                ---o0o---

2            Tuesday, February 11, 2014, Chico, California

3                                7:04 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.

4                                ---o0o---

5                                PROCEEDINGS

6                                ---o0o---

7                    MR. MITCHNICK: Good evening, everybody, and  
8 welcome to the scoping meeting for the Bucks Creek  
9 Project.

10                    For those who were at the morning meeting, we  
11 welcome you back to tonight. I don't know why  
12 everybody's sitting in the back, though.

13                    So this is sort of the first step in the  
14 licensing process, and I'm going to basically just talk  
15 a little bit about the agenda and then Adam will talk  
16 about the more detailed information.

17                    My name is Alan Mitchnick, and -- I think I  
18 already said that -- but I am the licensing coordinator  
19 for the Bucks Creek Project.

20                    Dr. Adam Beeco is a rec specialist working on  
21 the project.

22                    We'll go through the audience and ask you to  
23 introduce yourselves. For the benefit of the court  
24 reporter, and so that we have a complete record, I've  
25 asked that, before you make any statements, that you

1 give your name and spell your name, at least the first  
2 time, and if you use any acronyms or difficult words,  
3 for the court reporter to understand, to please spell  
4 those words out.

5           So Adam's going to go through and explain why  
6 we're here, talk about the integrated licensing process,  
7 the ILP process. PG&E will then describe the project  
8 facilities and operation of the project. We'll go  
9 through the scoping of the environmental issues  
10 associated with this project.

11           We'll have opportunities for comments both on  
12 the process and on the project, if you have questions of  
13 PG&E. So hopefully we can get through this pretty  
14 quickly tonight. So I will pass the microphone around,  
15 and if you could just introduce yourself.

16           MR. FRANZ: Matt Franz, PG&E technical  
17 coordinator.

18           MR. WETZEL: Hi. I'm Jeff Wetzels, W-e-t-z-e-l,  
19 State Water Board.

20           MR. BARNES: Peter Barnes, B-a-r-n-e-s, State  
21 Water Board.

22           MS. LIND: Amy Lind, L-i-n-d, with the Forest  
23 Service, Plumas National Forest.

24           MS. MULDER: Cheryl Mulder, M-u-l-d-e-r. I'm  
25 from the regional office of the U.S. Forest Service.

1 MS. SIMON-JACKSON: Terri Simon-Jackson,  
2 S-i-m-o-n, J-a-c-k-s-o-n. Plumas National Forest.

3 MR. KOLNOWSKI: Kevin Kolnowski,  
4 K-o-l-n-o-w-s-k-i. City of Santa Clara.

5 MR. HOOBLER: Sean Hoobler, H-o-o, b as in boy,  
6 l-e-r. California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

7 MS. EWING: Anna Ewing, E-w-i-n-g, California  
8 Department of Fish and Wildlife.

9 MS. CHOUDHURI: I'm Freda Choudhuri,  
10 C-h-o-u-d-h-u-r-i, PG&E.

11 MR. BAUMAN: Steve Bauman, B-a-u-m-a-n, PG&E.

12 MS. KESTER: Susan Kester, K-e-s-t-e-r, PG&E.

13 MR. FREY: Rick Frey, Bucks Lake Homeowners  
14 Association, and my wife Jani. F-r-e-y.

15 MS. ARMSTRONG: Cheryl Armstrong, Bucks Lake  
16 homeowner.

17 MR. J. ARMSTRONG: Jeff Armstrong, also  
18 Bucks Lake homeowner.

19 MR. N. ARMSTRONG: Niles Armstrong, Bucks Lake  
20 homeowner.

21 MS. SIMPSON: Lori Simpson, Plumas County  
22 Supervisor, District 4. S-i-m-p-s-o-n.

23 MR. DOYLE: Dustin Doyle, D-o-y-l-e.  
24 Bucks Lake cabin owner for 65 years, and board member.

25 MR. NEVARES: Steve Nevares, N-e-v-a-r-e-s,

1 with Cardno ENTRIX. Cardno ENTRIX is an environmental  
2 consulting firm assisting PG&E and the City of  
3 Santa Clara to relicense the project.

4 MR. SONEDA: Alan Soneda, S-o-n-e-d-a. I'm the  
5 relicensing project manager for PG&E.

6 MR. MITCHNICK: Just to remind you about the  
7 handouts in the back, there's an attendance sheet,  
8 sign-in sheet, so I'd appreciate it if you can sign it  
9 before you leave. Also copies of the scoping document  
10 and copies of this hydropower licensing publication,  
11 which has a lot of useful information on how to  
12 participate. And we will be talking more about that  
13 later on. So I'll now turn it over to Adam.

14 DR. BEECO: All right. Well, thanks,  
15 everybody. So those are the introductions, so just a  
16 little bit about why about we're here and who FERC is  
17 and what we do.

18 So FERC regulates nonfederal hydropower  
19 projects and we require these projects to have licenses  
20 to operate. And a license consists of articles and  
21 conditions that direct how our licensee -- in this case,  
22 PG&E -- can operate a project. These conditions are  
23 used to protect, mitigate, and enhance resources of the  
24 project, and these are resources that can be fisheries,  
25 recreation and cultural resources or numerous others

1 that we'll talk about tonight. So that's kind of FERC  
2 in a nutshell.

3 For this relicensing we have a process, and for  
4 PG&E it's going to be what we call the ILP process,  
5 which is the integrated licensing.

6 So for this we basically break it up into what  
7 we call pre-filing and post-filing. So this is a  
8 five-year process, so we're just going to really give a  
9 quick glaze right over it. Hopefully, not iron out too  
10 many details, but if we got too in the weeds here we'd  
11 be here all night.

12 So for the first one to two to three years is  
13 what we call pre-filing, and this is all before the  
14 applicant even files their application. And then once  
15 they file the application, we'll go into what we call  
16 post-filing. And we'll get into that a little bit more  
17 right now.

18 So the first step in the entire relicensing  
19 process is when PG&E files what's called the NOI, notice  
20 of intent. And so last November they filed that, which  
21 is basically letting FERC know and everybody else know  
22 that they would like to relicense their project and  
23 continue to operate the project.

24 They also at that time submitted a PAD,  
25 preapplication document, and this document is used to

1 gather the existing information that is currently  
2 available and to allow everybody to become familiar with  
3 the process -- familiar with the project. I'm sorry.

4           So that brings us to where we are today, and  
5 this is the scoping process that FERC is putting on.

6           So what we did back in January is we issued the  
7 Scoping Document 1. Scoping Document 1 is essentially  
8 where FERC -- we read the PAD and what was provided by  
9 the licensee and we identified what we thought may be  
10 issues for the upcoming license.

11           Some of these issues in the scoping document  
12 may not be issues. There may be issues that we've  
13 missed that we're looking to be identified. And that's,  
14 of course, why we're here today to have this meeting.  
15 So here we are.

16           Up there is "Commission conducts scoping  
17 meetings to identify issues of concern," so that's the  
18 main purpose of tonight.

19           As part of this process, after this meeting  
20 you'll have the opportunity to -- or during this meeting  
21 you'll have the opportunity to make verbal comments, but  
22 also after the meeting you'll have the opportunity to  
23 file comments and also study requests, and we'll talk a  
24 little bit more about those study requests.

25           And so this process, to give you the first date

1 here that you'll need to know is March 15th is when  
2 comments and any study requests will need to be filed  
3 by. And we'll talk more about that here in a second.

4           So study requests and study request criteria.  
5 So we talked about earlier today you can make comments  
6 and you can also submit study requests for this process,  
7 so if you're just making general comments, which you can  
8 do tonight, just identifying an issue, say, as some  
9 people did earlier today, they identified reservoir  
10 levels affecting recreation, so you can simply do that.

11           But what you could also do is if you're really  
12 interested in that specific resource, you can also  
13 submit what's called a study request. And here is --  
14 the study requests are used to -- where there may be an  
15 issue but there's not enough existing information out  
16 there, and so you submit a study request that basically  
17 suggests goals and objectives and methodologies to dig  
18 deeper into that issue.

19           And so these seven study criteria, basically  
20 the first one, you've just got to identify your goals  
21 and objectives, so what needs to be studied and why it  
22 needs to be studied.

23           And then, if you're with a resource agency,  
24 which most of you seem to sit over here, then you  
25 identify how those goals may also be associated with

1 your agency's goals.

2           And then if you're with the public, which you  
3 all sat over there, you identify why that request might  
4 be in the public interest.

5           And so, as you submit the information, you're  
6 also identifying existing information that might be out  
7 there on the issue that you are aware of. Of course,  
8 you don't have to be aware of all the existing  
9 information.

10           This is the most important thing here: You  
11 have to tie whatever the resource issue is back to the  
12 project. Okay? So it can't just be any extraneous  
13 thing that you may be interested in. It has to be tied  
14 to the project and how the project operations may be  
15 affecting that resource specifically.

16           And then the methodology. You want to  
17 identify, within your expertise, any specific  
18 methodology that may be used or that you would recommend  
19 to use for a specific type of study, and then, down at  
20 the bottom, the level of effort and cost that may be  
21 associated with that study.

22           So after all the study requests are  
23 submitted -- and again, that's got to be done by  
24 March 15th -- the licensee will prepare a proposed study  
25 plan. So they'll take all our suggestions,

1 stakeholders' suggestions, FERC's suggestions, and then  
2 they'll come up with a proposed study plan; and then  
3 we'll have a period of opportunities to meet on the  
4 study plan, stakeholders and licensees, everybody comes  
5 together, and hopefully, when the applicant submits the  
6 revised study plan, everybody will be kind of on the  
7 same page.

8           Once the applicant submits the revised study  
9 plan, FERC will have 30 days to review that study plan  
10 and come out with a determination. So what that  
11 determination says is that everybody's basically  
12 agreeing to everything, it's quite simple for us, and we  
13 can just accept that modifications.

14           A lot of the studies, however, if there's still  
15 some discrepancies between stakeholders and the  
16 licensee, we'll come in with a determination and  
17 determine exactly how the study needs to be done.

18           So then, once the determination comes out, the  
19 applicant will actually conduct the study, and then  
20 they'll file -- after the first full year of studies,  
21 they'll file a report; and then, if there is a second  
22 year of studies, then they'll file a final study report.  
23 After each of these study reports, stakeholders will get  
24 a chance to comment as well. And then, hopefully, by  
25 the end of all these studies, enough information for the

1 applicant to proceed with the preliminary licensing  
2 proposal, which gets us into the post-filing.

3           And so that's all two to three years away by  
4 the end of that process, so we're not going to spend too  
5 much time on this. We just wanted to let you all know  
6 that once we're in post-filing, which is, again, when  
7 the applicant files an application, there's still  
8 another year and a half there of the process that will  
9 continue to include stakeholders' comments and input.

10           At this time we'll let the licensee talk a  
11 little bit more about the project.

12           MR. SONEDA: Thank you.

13           I'm Alan Soneda, and I'll be running through a  
14 few slides at FERC's request to talk about what  
15 facilities are part of the project, sort of how the  
16 project operates, and also to talk about where the  
17 recreation facilities are and things of that nature.

18           The project is basically two powerhouses: one  
19 called Bucks Creek and one called Grizzly. Bucks Creek  
20 is the larger of the two. It's 65 megawatts, produces  
21 over 200 gigawatt hours per year of average annual  
22 generation. That will fluctuate from year to year.

23           It's particularly capable of very flexible  
24 operation -- it's what's called a peaker -- and is very  
25 valuable to the system, the electric grid of the state

1 of California, for that reason.

2           Its operation ranges from zero to almost  
3 400 cubic feet per second, pretty similar to Grizzly.  
4 It was completed in 1928.

5           Grizzly powerhouse is owned by the City of  
6 Santa Clara. It is 20 megawatts in capacity and  
7 produces about 49 gigawatt hours of energy every year.  
8 It generally operates on a different schedule,  
9 preplanned-in-advance kind of operating schedule.  
10 Again, its operation is in the similar kind of range, up  
11 to about 400 cubic feet per second, and it was completed  
12 about 20 years ago, 1993.

13           The project has four reservoirs. Bucks Lake is  
14 the largest of those. It is the principal reservoir for  
15 storing water on the project, has a gross storage of  
16 over 100,000 acre-feet and a surface area of over  
17 1,800 acres.

18           Maximum, the range in maximum to minimum water  
19 surface elevation, the highest is 5,157 feet. In a  
20 normal year we can get as low as 5,100, and in a dry  
21 year we'll allow it go to as low as 5,080.

22           Lower Bucks is the second largest of the four  
23 reservoirs. It is the point of diversion for the supply  
24 of water to generate at Grizzly powerhouse. Gross  
25 storage is quite a bit less than Bucks Lake, at

1 5,800 acre-feet, about a hundred-plus surface area acres  
2 and the range of max to minimum water surface elevation  
3 is what you see there, in the range to 5,022 down to  
4 just over 5,000.

5 Three Lakes are pretty small, 513 acre-feet  
6 total, divvied up into three separate sort of connected  
7 lakes, small surface area of 40 acres, maximum to  
8 minimum, much higher elevation, over a thousand feet  
9 above some of the other project reservoirs.

10 Then, finally, Grizzly Forebay. Although it's  
11 called Grizzly Forebay, it's not the forebay for the  
12 Grizzly powerhouse. It's actually the forebay for the  
13 Bucks Creek powerhouse. It's on Grizzly Creek. It's  
14 just the way the name originally came from way back in,  
15 I guess, 1928, when Bucks Creek powerhouse was created.

16 Grizzly Forebay is the point of diversion for  
17 Bucks Creek powerhouse. Gross storage is a little over  
18 a thousand acre-feet. Surface area is pretty small, and  
19 then the maximum to minimum is in the 4,300 feet range.

20 I wanted to show you how these facilities are  
21 all arranged. Bucks Lake is the biggest blue blob here.  
22 Fairly close by is Lower Bucks. Way up here is the  
23 Three Lakes. And here is the fourth reservoir, Grizzly  
24 Forebay. The powerhouses are right here, Grizzly  
25 powerhouse, and Bucks Creek powerhouse on the main stem

1 north fork Feather River.

2           And you can see some of the linear features  
3 that are associated with the project. This is a conduit  
4 that carries the water from Three Lakes down to Lower  
5 Bucks. This is the tunnel, another power tunnel for  
6 Bucks Creek powerhouse, and so on. Those black lines do  
7 show all the features of the project, including these  
8 linear features.

9           This is helpful to understand how the flow of  
10 water runs in the main north fork Feather River system  
11 all the way from Mountain Meadows in Almanor up here  
12 down to the very bottom.

13           Bucks Creek comes in from the side, about the  
14 middle of the rest of the PG&E north fork Feather River  
15 project. It's outlined here in red, the dotted line.  
16 You can see the four major reservoirs shown by these  
17 blue triangles, and then the two powerhouse symbols  
18 here. And there's four different places where these  
19 flows come into the north fork Feather River, all pretty  
20 much within the Rock Creek-Cresta Project, for those  
21 familiar with those other PG&E facilities.

22           An aerial view, sort substituting for a site  
23 visit, which we weren't able to schedule this time of  
24 year. So again, you can see the three reservoirs down  
25 here, Three Lakes up here, the two powerhouses.

1           And if we were to sort of virtually fly down  
2 the system at high elevation, Three Lakes, just over  
3 6,000 feet elevation, one, two, three; Bucks Lake, the  
4 largest storage facility, just over 100,000 acre-feet.

5           You can see below it the edge of Lower  
6 Bucks Lake, here in full view right here, and there's  
7 Bucks Lake itself in the background. And finally,  
8 Grizzly powerhouse and part of the Grizzly Forebay  
9 powerhouse right here, and the forebay continues on up  
10 out of the picture.

11           Here's a view of the Bucks Creek powerhouse  
12 itself down in the north fork Feather River Canyon.

13           And the next slide is really showing another  
14 view of Bucks Creek powerhouse way down there. That's  
15 the building. And it's labeled to show the Bucks Creek  
16 penstock.

17           You can't really see it, but it's running up  
18 the hillside right here. And this is intended to convey  
19 just how much elevation difference there is between  
20 Bucks Creek powerhouse down here at the bottom and the  
21 sources of water that provide the energy to create power  
22 with.

23           So this one slide is to talk about the project  
24 operations. How does this thing work? The two  
25 powerhouses are quite different. Bucks Creek powerhouse

1 is quite valuable as a flexible peaker. It's among the  
2 first units that the California Independent System  
3 Operator, or Cal ISO, will call on when electric-event  
4 demands fluctuate rapidly up and down.

5 Grizzly powerhouse is fairly new. It's one of  
6 the newest we've constructed here at PG&E. And it's  
7 designed more for prescheduled operation. The slide  
8 right after this shows that visually, and we'll talk a  
9 little bit more about that. The station between the two  
10 powerhouses is on that slide.

11 Also wanted to talk about reservoir operation,  
12 and particularly Bucks Lake. Folks have noticed and  
13 folks have mentioned at prior public meetings that  
14 Bucks Lake is quite low this time of year. This is  
15 typical. We typically manage Bucks Lake to have its  
16 highest levels in the summer, when the water's of  
17 greatest value for folks for generating power, because  
18 that's when system demand for electricity tends to be  
19 the highest, as well as for recreational usage by the  
20 public.

21 Water stored in Bucks Lake is also used for  
22 irrigation for California farmers. Up to 70,000  
23 acre-feet is part of the covered and approved water  
24 right. Oh, and in the winter it is the lowest, and you  
25 would expect in the spring, coming forward, for the

1 reservoir to come up very quickly.

2           So I'm going to run first through a powerhouse  
3 graphic. There are two colored lines here. The red is  
4 Bucks Creek powerhouse. The blue is Grizzly powerhouse.

5           The measurements are in cubic feet per second,  
6 so you can see, like I mentioned, both powerhouses maxed  
7 out at about 400 cubic feet per second. And most times  
8 they're drawing a little bit less than that.

9           You can see how spiky the Bucks Creek  
10 powerhouse line is. This happened to be water year 2011  
11 to 2012. And you can see just how much the Bucks Creek  
12 powerhouse is being yanked up and down to meet  
13 electrical demand.

14           The blue line, representing Grizzly powerhouse,  
15 you can see some longer stretches of horizontal, meaning  
16 they're scheduled to just run at a certain level.

17           With respect to lake level, we created this  
18 graph, and it's been most recently updated as of  
19 January 31st, less than two weeks ago.

20           That dot right there, the gray dot, that's  
21 January 31st level. About 5,124.7 I think is what this  
22 equated to. And it shows from January -- or  
23 December 31st right there at the end -- I'm sorry --  
24 September 30th. This is a water-year graph. So the  
25 start of the water year, September 30th to October 1st,

1 right there, there, there, there.

2           Comparing it against that, the main thing is  
3 this gray dotted line. That is the 30-year median,  
4 meaning if we look at the last 30 years of record and  
5 arrange those years through wettest to driest, it's sort  
6 of the middle value. And that's depicted as a sort of  
7 calculated curve, showing as this dotted line.

8           So the point of this graph, one of them is that  
9 current operations is below the median. It's below  
10 normal. Not by a whole lot.

11           It's actually interesting to note that this  
12 green line here, 2008, the dots for the current year  
13 have been falling pretty much on top of it. And as our  
14 folks look out into the future as to what storm tracks  
15 are being predicted, they're guessing that it's going to  
16 end up looking pretty similar to this, but we don't  
17 know. Nobody really knows just how much water's going  
18 to appear the rest of the precipitation season.

19           We've also graphed a couple of prior years that  
20 are quite significantly -- were significantly drier.  
21 This red line is 1977, and the one down here in orange  
22 is 1985.

23           '77 was quite remarkable in being very, very  
24 flat. It hardly came up at all that year. That was an  
25 extremely dry year.

1           '85 did recover some, but it was starting from  
2 a very, very low point. We're quite a bit above that  
3 right now in the 2014 water year.

4           Folks have asked about, you know, just more  
5 recent years. 2013 is shown on here, this blue line  
6 right here. And you can see it ends about 5,136 feet  
7 and then continues over here with the 2014 curve.

8           And so it does matter what the prior year  
9 record was like, because that gives you an indication  
10 where you're starting from.

11           I also added this line here in purple, 1997.  
12 This shows over about a two-month period just how fast,  
13 if precipitation does come, how fast Bucks Lake can fill  
14 up.

15           The Bucks Lake watershed, because of the  
16 terrain and the topography and the way the prevailing  
17 storm fronts come into California, amongst all the  
18 watersheds in the state, this one can get these very,  
19 very intense storms, and it's quite unpredictable.

20           The kind of year that's shown as 1997 is part  
21 of the reason that we typically will operate and try and  
22 draw the reservoir down fairly low in the winter. You  
23 never know what kind of precipitation's going to come in  
24 the spring.

25           We had a bunch of discussion about this graph

1 in the morning session. I don't know if we need to go  
2 through any of that again. But if anyone has any  
3 questions, you're certainly welcome.

4 MR. FREY: Rick Frey. I just had a question on  
5 what the draws are predicated on. Is it in cubic feet?  
6 The graph here is in acre-feet. Or is it in elevation?  
7 Or both?

8 MR. SONEDA: So the elevation is whatever the  
9 facility's been built at. Right?

10 MR. FREY: Right.

11 MR. SONEDA: It's the measurement of the  
12 difference in feet between the reservoir and the  
13 powerhouse.

14 The number of cubic feet per second that a  
15 facility can take, that's again defined by what was  
16 built back in 1928 for Bucks Creek powerhouse and in  
17 1993 for Grizzly powerhouse.

18 And the decision is around, at any given time,  
19 how many cubic feet per second up to that limit that the  
20 equipment can handle should you draw or not draw.

21 MR. FREY: This graph's in acre-feet, isn't it?

22 MR. SONEDA: So this graph on this side is  
23 storage in thousands of acre-feet. So right now we're  
24 about at 52,000 acre-feet.

25 MR. FREY: Right.

1           MR. SONEDA: There's a line up here showing the  
2 maximum storage at about 105. It's almost exactly half.

3           MR. FREY: Has the storage changed since 1928?  
4 I mean, what was the depth of the lake in 1928 compared  
5 to what the depth is today?

6           MR. SONEDA: Good question. We don't regularly  
7 measure actual sedimentation and infill of reservoirs,  
8 not on a regular basis.

9           Bucks Lake is not filling in as fast as some  
10 others we have in our system. Depends how long ago that  
11 105,000 total capacity was measured.

12          MR. FREY: Right, but is it 105 today or is it  
13 90?

14          MR. SONEDA: It's probably not 90.

15          MR. FREY: Yeah.

16          MR. SONEDA: It's probably much closer to 105.  
17 I don't have very current data on that.

18          MR. FREY: Okay. Thanks.

19          MR. SONEDA: Sure.

20          MR. J. ARMSTRONG: Just out of curiosity --

21          MR. SONEDA: For the reporter, would you say  
22 your name again, please?

23          MR. J. ARMSTRONG: Jeff Armstrong, cabin owner,  
24 Bucks Lake.

25          The graph shows that on your curve on -- when

1 was the last date? January 1st? It was shown it was  
2 taken in terms of --

3 MR. SONEDA: January 31st? Right here?

4 MR. J. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. And at that point,  
5 that was before our recent storms.

6 MR. SONEDA: Correct.

7 MR. J. ARMSTRONG: And so what was the  
8 snowpack? Like, the lowest in recorded history at that  
9 point? And if that's the case, how are we predicted to  
10 have more storage on the right side of the graph this  
11 year than we did in those two previous -- those two  
12 other years, the drought years?

13 MR. SONEDA: So this is what our data is  
14 telling us. Right now we're, in fact, not at the lowest  
15 level that we've ever been. Since January 31st, as of  
16 yesterday, we're at 5,125.8. So we've come up 1.1 feet  
17 from this point.

18 And it's hard to see where that would be. It's  
19 a little bit higher than this green line. And I'm  
20 shaking too much to -- somewhere above the green line,  
21 right about there. Barely noticeable. But in two days  
22 it came up over a foot.

23 Things can move very, very fast when we get a  
24 storm. A lot of folks have been saying -- a lot of  
25 meteorologists have been saying that was great. It

1 wasn't nearly enough. We probably need four more of  
2 those.

3           And four more of those would get us, you know,  
4 pretty good. I don't know exactly where, but it will  
5 refill. We have 30 years plus of record, and with very  
6 few exceptions, like these, it does refill. It's all  
7 unpredictable. Nobody can guarantee anything.

8           MS. MULDER: So I'm not going to get into too  
9 much detail, but the right side and the left side don't  
10 quite match up.

11          MR. SONEDA: Right.

12          MS. MULDER: But is that -- if I'm just looking  
13 at the left side, the starting point for all the non-red  
14 years, it's right at the same spot. So is there a state  
15 division of safety of dams requirement to have reservoir  
16 elevation at that level for flood safety?

17          MR. SONEDA: No. Not at this time, no.

18          THE REPORTER: Could I have a name, please?

19          MS. MULDER: Cheryl Mulder.

20          THE REPORTER: Thank you.

21          MR. SONEDA: Yeah. So I failed to -- you're  
22 right. The scale on the right is elevation. It's not  
23 very easy to say -- we can calculate about what  
24 10,000 acre-feet corresponds to in terms of elevation,  
25 but it's not linear. So as you go from 10,000 to 20,000

1 acre-feet, the difference in feet of elevation isn't the  
2 same as when you go from 20,000 acre-feet to 30,000.

3           The part, as you can imagine, the shape of the  
4 reservoir is not uniform, because you fill up twice as  
5 much water in the reservoir, you're not twice as deep.  
6 It's not intended to be.

7           MR. J. ARMSTRONG: Jeff Armstrong, once again.

8           Although there are parameters for draw-down  
9 between -- during the summer months for recreational  
10 purposes and so forth, is there a minimum draw-down  
11 between September 1st and -- is it June 1st?

12           MR. SONEDA: June 1st and September 1st.

13 That's correct. So between June 1st and September 1st  
14 the maximum draw-down is 15 feet.

15           MR. J. ARMSTRONG: Right. Is there a minimum  
16 draw-down in dry years from September 1st to June 1st?

17           MR. SONEDA: No. That's mainly where the  
18 judgment and the art and the consultation of our water  
19 management team, the State of California experts,  
20 federal experts, every piece of data we can get our  
21 hands on, just how low do you allow the reservoir to  
22 drop in the winter. It's a judgment call. It's an art.

23           The recent history here is that right about  
24 December, mid December, we realized that we need to stop  
25 discretionary power operation at that point, and we

1 discontinued anything other than to avoid spill flows at  
2 either powerhouse.

3           You know, at some point we decided things had  
4 changed a little bit and we did start operating or  
5 allowing Bucks Creek to become available for operation.

6           And as of the most recent storm, will we  
7 re-evaluate? Yes. We're constantly re-evaluating. Do  
8 we take it completely out of operation or do you make it  
9 available to the California Independent System Operator  
10 as the best source they have available to meet electric  
11 demands?

12           MR. J. ARMSTRONG: Is Fish and Wildlife --  
13 California Fish and Wildlife involved in that process in  
14 terms of BMPs, in terms of draw-down in relation to fish  
15 populations and so forth?

16           MR. SONEDA: I'm not aware that they're  
17 involved in this watershed at all. They may be involved  
18 with some of the watersheds, depending on the specific  
19 fish species, if it's one of concern to the service.  
20 They have let us know about those species of concern in  
21 times of year when there are environmental restrictions  
22 because of a specific species, not on this project that  
23 I'm aware of.

24           MR. FREY: Rick Frey again. Just to clarify,  
25 you said the draw-down from June to September is

1 15 feet.

2 MR. SONEDA: Mm-hmm.

3 MR. FREY: But that's 15 feet below what the  
4 June 1st level is; is that correct?

5 MR. SONEDA: Mm-hmm. Right. It's a relative  
6 level.

7 MR. FREY: Right. So if it were 1977, that  
8 could be a significant draw-down.

9 MR. SONEDA: Sure.

10 MR. FREY: Okay. I just noticed, I mean, in  
11 the scoping document, it doesn't say June 1st level.

12 MR. SONEDA: So I want to caution -- the only  
13 document you have -- you should have before you that  
14 PG&E created is the PAD.

15 MR. FREY: Right.

16 MR. SONEDA: That's the best source. That's  
17 what we've been trying to tell people. If you want to  
18 read one document -- I know it's the fattest one --  
19 sorry -- but that's the right source of information.  
20 Everything's in there.

21 MR. FREY: But we are here to comment on the  
22 SD1, are we not?

23 MR. SONEDA: Well, so, FERC, having created  
24 SD1, having read our PAD and picking out of it things  
25 that they believe are most significant.

1           MR. FREY: So we should still comment on the  
2 PAD?

3           MR. SONEDA: And we intend to as well, because  
4 we don't necessarily think they understood completely  
5 everything we were trying to say in the PAD. You know,  
6 nothing specific, but we always reserve our right to  
7 look at the SD1 ourselves and say you tried to say this  
8 in the PAD, but you missed that, you know.

9           MR. DOYLE: Dustin Doyle. Do you have any data  
10 on the snowpack in '77 on the -- on the yellow line, the  
11 red line, and the green line, at the point of  
12 January 30th?

13           MR. SONEDA: I would venture to guess that our  
14 folks have ample data on that, yes. I don't have it  
15 with me, no. I couldn't tell you what it says. But  
16 that's the kind of thing that every year our folks are  
17 looking at. They're looking at what's normal. They're  
18 looking at the extremes, what was unique about that very  
19 extreme year on either end, the very wet, the very dry,  
20 how did the snow accumulation differ in this year versus  
21 that year. It's all part of, you know, everything.  
22 They look at everything. And it's quite a difficult  
23 balancing act, but they do it quite well.

24           MR. DOYLE: So regardless of the data, you're  
25 really banking on the fact that it's the unknown

1 potential for it to fill up, it will happen.

2 MR. SONEDA: We're banking on what the most  
3 common set of historic data tells us is most likely.

4 MR. DOYLE: Unknown.

5 MR. SONEDA: It's probabilities.

6 MR. DOYLE: Right.

7 MR. SONEDA: We are trying to play  
8 probabilities as best we can, yes. It's a very  
9 unpredictable science.

10 I think this is my final slide, recreation  
11 facilities. This is attempting to show all the  
12 facilities, whether they're PG&E-owned, FERC -- I'm  
13 sorry -- Forest Service facilities, commercial.  
14 Everything that we've listed in our PAD is a  
15 project-related facility inside the FERC project  
16 boundary. They're all here, shown with these kind of  
17 hard-to-read, but different icons, depending on if it's  
18 a campground or a day-use area, with the picnic table.  
19 The commercial resorts are in the circle with a dot.  
20 Different icons mean different kind of facilities.

21 There's quite a few facilities, mostly at  
22 Bucks Lake, a handful at Lower Bucks, a handful at  
23 Grizzly, and really just one principally at Three Lakes.

24 And that's pretty much it. And thank you for  
25 your time.

1 DR. BEECO: All right. So now what we're going  
2 to do is we're going to go through the issues that we've  
3 identified, that FERC has identified within the scoping  
4 document, and we'll work through these.

5 First thing I want to talk about is cumulative  
6 effects. So cumulative effects on a project. We talked  
7 about issues within a project. Lots of times those are  
8 kind of isolated within a project, but sometimes the  
9 issue may be affected by things going on outside of that  
10 project. A great example is fishery resources.

11 And so we call that a cumulative effect, where,  
12 you know, one effect may not be all that much, and then  
13 if you add up ten times -- or ten different projects, or  
14 things like that, you can have a cumulative effect.

15 So within the cumulative effects that we've  
16 identified are aquatic resources or the geographic scope  
17 of aquatic resources goes beyond the project boundary,  
18 it's on the north fork Feather River from Lake Almanor  
19 to Lake Oroville.

20 And I think most of you guys are familiar with  
21 this, but there's Lake Almanor, there's Bucks Lake, and  
22 then there's -- Lake Oroville is actually down off the  
23 map a little bit.

24 All right. So these are the eight resources  
25 that we've identified and that may have issues with the

1 project, and so we'll go through these one by one and  
2 talk about them. And I'll let Alan go through what  
3 might be termed the hard sciences, and then I'll go  
4 through the last four, the more social sciences, with  
5 you.

6 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. We're going to start  
7 with geology and soils, and we've identified -- well,  
8 before I get into that, I just want to make clear that  
9 this is the staff's preliminary list of issues. It's  
10 subject to change pretty much throughout the whole  
11 licensing process as more information is developed. But  
12 this is sort of the starting point for looking at  
13 issues.

14 So for geology and soils, we're looking at the  
15 effect of project operation on erosion and sedimentation  
16 of Bucks and Grizzly creeks downstream of project  
17 impoundments; effect of project operation and  
18 maintenance on shoreline erosion at Bucks Lake; effect  
19 of project operation and maintenance on upland erosion,  
20 including erosion caused by runoff from project-related  
21 roads and trails; effect of project operation on erosion  
22 and sedimentation, including operation of project  
23 spillways and dam outlet facilities; and effects of  
24 project operation on landslides and erosion rates at the  
25 project.

1           So anything to add to that list of issues that  
2 we're going to be looking at? No? Okay. So we'll move  
3 on to aquatic resources.

4           We've identified six issues: Effects of  
5 project operation and fills on dissolved oxygen and  
6 water temperature and in project reservoirs and bypassed  
7 reaches; effects of project operation on fish and  
8 aquatic habitat in the bypassed reaches; effects of  
9 project operation and facilities on upstream and  
10 downstream fish passage, including fish entrainment and  
11 turbine-related mortality.

12           Also identified effects of project operation on  
13 fish populations in project reservoirs and project-  
14 affected stream reaches; effects of project operation on  
15 recruitment and movement of large woody debris and  
16 coarse sediment through the system; and effects of  
17 project operation and facilities on the potential spread  
18 of invasive mussels to project reservoirs.

19           So those are the six aquatic issues that we've  
20 identified. Are there other issues that you think  
21 should be considered through this process?

22           MS. SIMPSON: So I have a list of issues  
23 from -- on behalf of Plumas County that I want to file,  
24 so should I just read them at a certain point or try to  
25 interject these comments in with this, or -- I will give

1 the written statement, too.

2 MR. MITCHNICK: Are they aquatic issues  
3 or . . .

4 MS. SIMPSON: Let's see. Well, I saw one.  
5 Well, they're sort of involved.

6 MR. MITCHNICK: Why don't you wait until we go  
7 through, and then I'll give you an opportunity to  
8 provide your comments.

9 MS. SIMPSON: Okay.

10 MR. MITCHNICK: So let's move on to  
11 terrestrial.

12 We've identified the effects of project  
13 operation and maintenance activities on vegetation  
14 communities and associated wildlife species; effects of  
15 project operation and project maintenance on the spread  
16 of invasive plant species; effects of recreational use  
17 on vegetation communities and the spread of invasive  
18 plant species; and also the effect of project operation  
19 on riparian habitat and Grizzly, Bucks, and Milk Ranch  
20 creeks and tributaries; the effect of project operation  
21 on wetland habitat occurring along the reservoir  
22 shorelines; and the effect of project operation and  
23 recreation on rare species, including the state-listed  
24 willow flycatcher, bald eagles, special status bat  
25 species, special status plant species, plant species

1 that are important to Native American tribes, and  
2 special status amphibian and reptile species.

3 Are there other terrestrial issues that we  
4 haven't identified?

5 MS. SIMON-JACKSON: You have one more slide;  
6 right?

7 MR. MITCHNICK: Yes.

8 In terms of federally listed threatened or  
9 endangered species, we've identified the valley  
10 elderberry longhorn beetle, and also we'll add the  
11 Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, which is proposed for  
12 listing but may very well be listed as we go through the  
13 licensing process.

14 Any other threatened or endangered species  
15 issues?

16 DR. BEECO: All right. So for recreation land  
17 use, I'll read through these points: Adequacy of  
18 existing recreation and public use facilities in meeting  
19 existing and future regional public use needs; effects  
20 of project operations on quality and availability of  
21 reservoir level-dependent recreation opportunities;  
22 adequacy of structural integrity, physical capacity, and  
23 management methods to support recreation use at existing  
24 facilities; adequacy of management methods for informal  
25 recreation along reservoir shoreline access to

1 Bucks Lake wilderness area; and adequacy of existing  
2 shoreline management policies and programs to control  
3 nonproject use of project lands.

4           And earlier today there were a couple more  
5 comments made about this, and two of those included  
6 disbursed recreation in the projects, that's disbursed  
7 recreation and impacts associated with that, and then  
8 whitewater access and opportunities within the reaches  
9 as well. And those are the two off the top of my head.  
10 I'll have to review it with the court reporter later and  
11 find out if that was all of them. But are there any  
12 more?

13           All right. Aesthetics: Effects of the project  
14 features, operations, and maintenance on the surrounding  
15 landscape; effects of the project's features place and  
16 maintenance on the surrounding landscape; cultural  
17 resources, historic, archeological and traditional  
18 cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in  
19 the National Register; and developmental resources,  
20 which is FERC jargon for the economics of the project  
21 and alternatives and the effects of any recommended  
22 environmental measures on the project's economics.

23           All right. So --

24           MR. MITCHNICK: Why don't you let . . .

25           DR. BEECO: Oh, yeah. Okay. This would be a

1 good time. Here, you want this?

2 MS. SIMPSON: Okay. I'll just read this and  
3 then file it. Okay.

4 So some preliminary thoughts on the draft  
5 proposed study plan for Bucks Lake FERC No. 619 hydro  
6 project.

7 Number 1. It's hard to evaluate the proposed  
8 study plan without a description of the current project  
9 operations and how they will or will not remain the  
10 same. Are the studies designed to assess cumulative  
11 effects of continuing the existing operations or are  
12 studies being proposed to evaluate cumulative effects  
13 plus changed operations?

14 In describing the existing and new project,  
15 Plumas is very interested in how the Bucks Lake lake  
16 levels will be managed in the future. What is the  
17 current lake level agreement for the different water  
18 year types and will it be changed in the new license  
19 period?

20 Without the current and proposed project/  
21 reservoir operational information, it is hard to  
22 evaluate studies like RWL-2 effects of the project on  
23 wetland habitat along reservoir margins and the studies  
24 on shoreline erosion issues, recreation access, and the  
25 reservoir and Bucks Lake -- Bucks Lake tributaries,

1 fisheries, and the reservoir water quality studies,  
2 et cetera.

3           The studies reference studying these reservoir  
4 issues at the high water level or high water mark.  
5 Isn't the lowest water level just as important or even  
6 more important for assessing aquatic species, stress,  
7 aesthetics, cultural resources, recreation needs and  
8 impacts, and water quality issues?

9           Number 2. How will these studies be presented  
10 to the public? Will there be informational meetings in  
11 Quincy in the summer so that Bucks Lake recreationists  
12 and homeowners can attend and comment?

13           Will study presentations be made to the FERC  
14 number 1962 ERC agencies who have been studying the  
15 relationship of the Bucks project operations and water  
16 temperatures and fisheries in the north fork Feather  
17 River for over ten years now?

18           Number 3. Are you planning to do a  
19 socioeconomic study of recreation values at Bucks Lake?  
20 I don't see it specifically identified as a standalone  
21 study, but maybe socioeconomic impacts are folded into  
22 the other recreational studies somehow.

23           If socioeconomic studies of recreational values  
24 are not proposed to be studied, I would recommend that  
25 PG&E undertake such studies, and I would be happy to

1 discuss study ideas with PG&E staff.

2           Number 4. The cultural resources assessment  
3 seems well designed and adequately funded. Plumas  
4 County and Bucks Lake homeowner and recreational  
5 associations and a number of tribes were involved in the  
6 Bucks Lake land conservation proposals with the Pacific  
7 Forest and Watershed Land Stewardship Council. I hope  
8 that PG&E had access to that important information.

9           Number 5. I am curious on how we will be  
10 notified of operational changes, given the drought and  
11 the recent drought proclamation from FERC that we got a  
12 copy of.

13           And the last, I look forward to a concise  
14 summary of how Bucks Lake reservoir and recreational  
15 land are proposed to be managed under the new license.

16           So these were on behalf of Plumas County. We  
17 have staff working on them, and we will be making more  
18 comments as the project goes forward.

19           DR. BEECO: All right. Thank you.

20           All right. So comprehensive plans. FERC has a  
21 list of comprehensive plans on their website that we are  
22 aware of. You know, as a county or as a federal agency  
23 or state agency, if there's a comprehensive plan that  
24 you think we should be aware of that's related to this  
25 project, please let us know. If you're interested in

1 getting on the mailing list, see Section 10 of the  
2 scoping document for instructions on how to get on that  
3 mailing list.

4           Again, the basis to take home today is that you  
5 can make comments on the PAD, you can make comments on  
6 the scoping document, you can file study requests, and  
7 agencies can file study requests, and all this is due by  
8 March 15th. That's the big take-home for the day.

9           The Commission prefers that all these comments  
10 be filed electronically. And you can do that on  
11 eLibrary. And I'll talk about that in a minute. If you  
12 all want to do that electronically, you can submit paper  
13 copies here. And any correspondence, just make sure you  
14 identify the project and the project number.

15           So FERC online, eFiling, eComments,  
16 eSubscription, eLibrary. So all these are -- so we'll  
17 start with eFiling. So if you're interested in filing  
18 comments, filing attachments or anything like that,  
19 eFiling is the easiest way to do that. You will have to  
20 register.

21           If you don't want to register and you just have  
22 a few comments that you want to make, eComments may be  
23 the avenue for you rather than eFiling.

24           eSubscription is where you can basically sign  
25 on for a subscription service with FERC and anything

1 related to the project that you sign up for -- in this  
2 case, Bucks Creek -- anytime that anything's filed on  
3 the record, you'll get an email with that.

4           And then eLibrary is where we house the entire  
5 record for the life of the project. So if you look --  
6 you can use eLibrary to look up information on the  
7 project. And then that's on our website as well.

8           And I think that's it. Are there any  
9 questions?

10           Yes, ma'am.

11           MS. MULDER: So this is Cheryl Mulder, from  
12 Forest Service. I'm representing the regional forest  
13 for Region 5.

14           And we do have in our possession the recent  
15 letter from FERC to license holders of 125 projects in  
16 California. And this happens to be one of the ones  
17 that's in this letter, so that's why I'm mentioning it  
18 tonight.

19           You've just given us a deadline for commenting.  
20 The same people who are working on this are working on  
21 numerous other relicensings in this state. Many -- most  
22 of those projects are on this list as well.

23           And I'm kind of speaking for state agency  
24 employees as well as other federal agencies. We don't  
25 have time to meet all of your filing deadlines for all

1 of these relicensings as well as stopping our work and  
2 dealing with the requests that are coming in full-bore  
3 right now for us to look at variances, instream flows.

4 A hundred twenty-five projects, if you just  
5 averaged four reaches per project -- which you know is a  
6 way underestimation -- that's 500 reaches we have to  
7 think about how we're going to deal with aquatic species  
8 and all the other things during this drought.

9 And so I'm just kind of going on record -- we  
10 may follow this up with a letter to FERC -- but, Alan, I  
11 know you're fully aware we have another deadline looming  
12 for another project, actually bordering this forest as  
13 well, and so I'm wondering if FERC is considering the  
14 workload and the deadlines for these other projects and  
15 how we can work with maybe relaxing some of those  
16 deadlines to be able to meet the emergency for the  
17 drought variances.

18 MR. MITCHNICK: I know you're waiting for this  
19 grand response, but I don't have a clue. It's a good  
20 point. I understand your predicament. Never really  
21 thought about it. To be honest, haven't even looked at  
22 the Commission's letter.

23 Certainly filing of the Bucks Creek license  
24 application is statutory. It has to be filed no later  
25 than a certain date. So I guess we certainly could look

1 at where there is flexibility. I mean, that's two years  
2 away or whatever, three, two years away.

3 My recommendation would be to write a letter to  
4 the Commission. And it's certainly something I could  
5 bring up when I get back and I could bring this up with  
6 Ed Abrams and Ann Miles to see what room there might be.  
7 You know, I just don't have a clue at this point, and  
8 I'm not the one that really is in a position to answer  
9 this question. But, you know, I certainly understand  
10 the importance of your point.

11 So, you know, the best I can do is brief people  
12 back at the Commission. And, you know, from, I'm sure,  
13 your experience, we like to see things in writing, so I  
14 suspect that ultimately we'd want to see something in  
15 writing.

16 This involves a lot of different projects, a  
17 lot of different people. So I'll get the ball rolling  
18 once I get back, and if I have some different direction,  
19 then I'll . . .

20 MS. MULDER: Is there flexibility on that March  
21 date that you just put up on the wall?

22 MR. MITCHNICK: I guess there is flexibility,  
23 since these dates are regulatory dates, and we can waive  
24 them for good reason, and this would be a good reason.

25 I mean, do you have a revised time frame that

1 you're thinking of?

2 MS. MULDER: No. We just got hit with this  
3 letter. I mean, you know, we're just getting hit with  
4 it, and it's trickling in from all the licensees. So  
5 no, we haven't conferred, but I can tell you, even  
6 though it's hitting a lot of people, most of them are  
7 sitting right here.

8 A lot of us are dealing with most of the  
9 projects, and there aren't a lot of us. There are a lot  
10 of reaches and a lot of projects, but there are not a  
11 lot of people to deal with however many variance  
12 requests.

13 And we'll follow it up with a letter, a formal  
14 letter to FERC, but I just wanted to bring it in, since  
15 you put a time -- since you put a date due up here, I  
16 thought I would just mention it tonight, that we may end  
17 up having to do specific letters on these relicensings  
18 that also have, you know, looming DLA comment dates and  
19 this kind of comment date. I mean, we have a lot of  
20 deadlines hitting us this spring, right now, and we just  
21 don't know how we're going to get it all done, so . . .

22 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. Well, I certainly  
23 appreciate your concern and your comment. And, you  
24 know, where there is an opportunity, then we'll look at  
25 what can be done, and maybe we'll have a talk with the

1 applicant to see what -- you know, if they have any  
2 suggestions.

3 Any other questions? Comments?

4 MR. J. ARMSTRONG: Jeff Armstrong, cabin owner.

5 On a different note, but we touched on it a  
6 little bit this evening, the reason that -- one of the  
7 primary reasons that I have a cabin lease up at  
8 Bucks Lake is because of the fishing opportunities. And  
9 I realize that the reason the reservoir was built, of  
10 course, was to generate power, and then, after that, to  
11 generate opportunities for Plumas County for tourism and  
12 recreational opportunities and so forth. So I'm being a  
13 bit selfish here, but I do have grave concerns about the  
14 potential for draw-downs in the winter, particularly in  
15 drought years. I'd like to see those decisions based  
16 more on science than on art.

17 I don't know about the -- I've done a lot of  
18 investigation, some of it's come up short, regarding the  
19 spawning of the kokanee and the lake trout, brook trout,  
20 so forth, the different species that are up there in the  
21 lake, but I'm sure some of them are very reliant on the  
22 draw-down levels during the wintertime. And I would  
23 really like to see a study or feel an assurance that  
24 science is being brought into some of these decisions on  
25 winter draw-downs.

1 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. Thank you.

2 Any other comments, questions? I did want  
3 to -- did we have another question?

4 MR. FREY: I just had a question on the  
5 visitation in May. Is that going to be able to be  
6 attended by some of us representing the homeowners?

7 MR. SONEDA: (Nodding head.)

8 MR. MITCHNICK: Yes. And that's one thing that  
9 you didn't remind me to talk about.

10 DR. BEECO: Sorry.

11 MR. MITCHNICK: We will be having a site visit  
12 in May. The public will be invited to attend. So  
13 anybody who wishes to attend will be able to  
14 participate. We will issue a notice probably about a  
15 month beforehand. But if information is available  
16 earlier, then we'll try to get that out to people --  
17 which sort of segues into my question to Alan.

18 Maybe talk a little bit about the consultation  
19 process that you envision, plus development of your  
20 relicensing website and how that will fit into all this.

21 MR. SONEDA: Sure.

22 So we certainly appreciate that a lot of the  
23 interest is from Plumas County. We did consider holding  
24 this meeting in Plumas County. We thought it was  
25 prudent to hold it in a better location in terms of safe

1 access for many people. We certainly will hold future  
2 meetings up in Plumas County. That was fully our intent  
3 last spring, when, in drier conditions, we held a couple  
4 meetings up in Quincy.

5 For the rest of the winter, as we schedule  
6 meetings, if we are on this kind of a time frame where  
7 March 15th, the first deadline for comments, I believe  
8 end of April, PG&E's deadline for submitting its written  
9 proposed study plan.

10 What Plumas County's commented on is a draft.  
11 We're not required in those regs to produce that, but we  
12 hope it was helpful to indicate what our thinking was on  
13 studies. We plan to hold specific follow-up meetings to  
14 discuss specific subjects.

15 There was some discussion, I guess, on  
16 January 22nd when we had a public meeting to talk about  
17 the draft proposed study plan in the past, and at that  
18 meeting a couple of things were -- points were raised  
19 around prescheduling some meetings, perhaps on a regular  
20 recurring schedule would be very helpful. It's been  
21 used on other projects to make sure that people can  
22 block it into their calendar. I know folks are very,  
23 very busy, particularly so this year with some of the  
24 additional workload around drought-related measures.

25 So we're probably not going to schedule regular

1 monthly meetings or things of that nature that some  
2 folks are used to in some of our other projects.

3           This project does have a lot of existing  
4 information. That's part of the reason the PAD is quite  
5 as thick and intimidating as it is.

6           We will probably hold, I'm guessing, two,  
7 three, however many we need, but on specific issues  
8 probably.

9           The reason for identifying issues that seem to  
10 be of great interest to a large number of people would  
11 be, okay, let's schedule a meeting about that one topic  
12 and make sure everybody knows about it; we can all come  
13 and talk about that topic and come to some agreement  
14 around testing against those FERC criteria, including  
15 the one about the nexus, the connection to the project.

16           We thought about all those issues ourselves,  
17 did our best to figure out which ones we thought fit the  
18 seven criteria, and wrote study plans that we thought  
19 met this criteria.

20           We would welcome your help, and we will  
21 schedule some meetings. Probably next week we'll be  
22 thinking about specific dates, specific topics, and make  
23 our announcements as quickly as we can.

24           Those announcements for now will be by email,  
25 preferably, so we really would love to get as many

1 folks' email addresses as we can. We collected a whole  
2 bunch from the Bucks Lake Homeowners Association. We  
3 appreciate that. I think you've all given us your email  
4 addresses.

5           We've tried our best to distribute these  
6 documents by email. As soon as we get a public website  
7 activated, we will start using that so we're not  
8 emailing things with large file attachments. It's very  
9 difficult to do.

10           We don't have a public website set up yet.  
11 We're going to get one started as soon as we can. It  
12 will not be on PG&E's website. There's a prohibition at  
13 my company from doing that.

14           All the other projects that have public  
15 websites are on third-party servers. We have in mind a  
16 specific contractor that we hope to use. They do very,  
17 very good, very usable public websites.

18           We will probably, as soon as we can get the  
19 contractual arrangements in place, start working on  
20 getting that set up, I'm hoping, you know, within weeks.  
21 I won't -- I can't say much more. Hopefully it's not  
22 months. More weeks rather than months. But we'll do it  
23 just as soon as we can. That will hopefully be a much  
24 better way to get information out, get documents  
25 distributed so that you can reach documents easily.

1           And then, in the meantime, we've been  
2 encouraging folks to learn how to use eLibrary, because  
3 we've been using it a lot ourselves at PG&E as well.  
4 Sometimes the first notice we get about some activity on  
5 the project, my first -- Dustin, you filed something. I  
6 got it eSubscription, email. I clicked on the link,  
7 there was the letter. I was able to, you know, read it  
8 right on the spot. It does work. ESubscription, you  
9 know, is really, really helpful to do. Encourage people  
10 to get used to that.

11           And our public websites will have to adopt some  
12 of the same best practices that FERC's website uses, and  
13 it's not that bad. It's just a whole lot of stuff on  
14 it, and it can be very hard to find what you're looking  
15 for.

16           Ours will have less stuff on it. It's got one  
17 project's worth; they've got thousands of projects'  
18 worth. But fundamentally it's going to be a similar  
19 kind of architecture, and you're going to have to learn  
20 how to use it. And we'd be glad to help you do that.

21           But we'll get it set up; we'll get the word out  
22 about meetings; we'll start, you know, helping people  
23 use the site. And we'll try and hold as many meetings  
24 as we can, get your input about key studies before, I  
25 think, February -- I'm sorry -- April 29th when we have

1 to submit our proposed study plan, unless that gets  
2 relaxed in the interim.

3 That's all I have to say.

4 MS. ARMSTRONG: Cheryl Armstrong. I have a  
5 question -- I kind of digress here -- I should have  
6 brought it up earlier -- having to do with aesthetics.

7 I know that there was some comments that the  
8 old tunnels, you know, were out of sight. I'm wondering  
9 what the plans are or that should be addressed in this  
10 to remove and restore the property, the old dam tenders,  
11 the structures by the dam. The building collapsed  
12 several years ago, and it's still standing there with  
13 "No Trespassing" and locked doors and the lights on.

14 MR. SONEDA: On in the cabin?

15 MS. ARMSTRONG: Well, outside the cabin.

16 MR. SONEDA: Okay. So as I understand it, the  
17 cabin has been under active discussion with the  
18 U.S. Forest Service for at least a couple, three years,  
19 maybe more.

20 You probably remember better than I do where  
21 that sits, or maybe one of the folks in the  
22 Forest Service.

23 MR. BAUMAN: My understanding is we had some  
24 issues with the consultation with --

25 MR. MITCHNICK: Can you give your name, please?

1 Give your name.

2 MR. BAUMAN: Oh, Steve Bauman, B-a-u-m-a-n.

3 I think we're looking at still trying to get  
4 through that consultation and getting that work done  
5 later this year.

6 MR. SONEDA: Right. It is a cabin that's  
7 jurisdictional to the state history, preservation.

8 DR. BEECO: Anything else?

9 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. I want to thank  
10 everybody for coming.

11 This can be a very daunting, long, drawn-out  
12 process. And if you don't understand where you can  
13 participate, how you can participate, then it's not  
14 going to be an effective process.

15 So as I said this morning, you know, FERC staff  
16 is available to provide any assistance that we can to  
17 help the public understand the process. Agencies  
18 already know the process. So, you know, we'll be happy  
19 to guide you through the process as we can.

20 We will talk to FERC management about delaying  
21 the next deadline on this project, and we'll certainly  
22 get back to everybody as soon as we can.

23 So I just want to appreciate everybody for  
24 coming today, both meetings, in the morning and  
25 afternoon, and look forward to working with you

1 throughout this process. Thanks.

2 (Time noted: 8:20 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I, CAROLE W. BROWNE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of California, duly commissioned and a disinterested person, certify:

That the foregoing transcript was taken before me at the time and place herein set forth;

That the statements of all parties made at the time of the proceeding were recorded stenographically by me to the best of my ability and were thereafter transcribed into typewriting;

That the foregoing transcript is a record of the statements of all parties made at the time of the proceeding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my name on this 14th day of February, 2014.

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Carole W. Browne, RPR, CSR  
Certificate No. 7351

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