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BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Project No.

SWEETHEART LAKE HYDROELECTRIC : P-13563-003

PROJECT :  
- - - - - x

Centennial Hall Convention Center

101 Egan Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping  
meeting, pursuant to notice, at 6:07 p.m., John Matkowski,  
the moderator.

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

2 (6:07 p.m.)

3 MR. MATKOWSKI: All right I don't know if we  
4 should get started it is 7 after so -- first of all I'm John  
5 Matkowski I'm from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
6 or FERC. This meeting is to receive comments for the  
7 Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project Draft Environmental  
8 Impact Statement.

9 Did everyone get a chance to fill out this  
10 sign-in sheet if you wanted to speak? I guess I will  
11 introduce the rest of the team up here starting with Peter.

12 MR. FOOTE: I'm Peter Foote, I work for Louis  
13 Berger Group, we are contracted to FERC and involved in the  
14 preparation of the Draft EIS. I'm also a fisheries  
15 biologist.

16 MR. O'NEILL: I'm Sean O'Neill with the Federal  
17 Energy Regulatory Commission Division of Hydropower  
18 Licensing. I am the environmental engineer of the project  
19 so I help prepare the geology and soil section as well as  
20 the developmental analysis section of the Draft  
21 Environmental Impact Statement.

22 MS. RODMAN: I'm Diane Rodman, I'm a terrestrial  
23 ecologist with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,  
24 also with the northwest branch and I was helping on the  
25 terrestrial resource section to the DEIS.

1           MS. HYSLOP: Jaime Hyslop I work with the U.S.  
2 Army Corp of Engineers. Our agency is cooperating with the  
3 Draft EIS and I'm also the project manager for the 404  
4 Section 10 permits, Department of Army Permits of the Juneau  
5 Hydro ETA.

6           MR. MATKOWSKI: As many of you already know as a  
7 part of the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA we are  
8 required to conduct an analysis of the project effects  
9 related to licensing the project and that is the federal  
10 action of why we are here.

11           For this project our analysis looked at  
12 fisheries, water quality, wildlife, marine mammals,  
13 vegetation, recreation, multiple and other non-developmental  
14 values of the waterway equally with the developmental and  
15 energy values associated with the project and that is what  
16 we are balancing the environmental resources versus the  
17 developing of sustainable hydropower source.

18           So today again we are here to receive comments on  
19 that Draft Environmental Impact Statement and to see if we  
20 got everything right or wrong or missed anything. Just a  
21 little history on the project -- this project began over 5  
22 years ago in July of 2010 when Juneau Hydro filed their  
23 Notice of Intent and their pre-application document or PAD  
24 is what we call it.

25           They conducted scoping here in Juneau in

1 September, 2011. They conducted their studies at the  
2 project I guess for the two years after that and on May 29,  
3 2014 they filed their final license application and that's  
4 when we began to act on the project and prepare our NEPA  
5 documents.

6           After we did do some additional information  
7 requests we issued a Notice of Intent to prepare the  
8 Environmental Impact Statement and requested final  
9 recommendations, terms and conditions on November 17, 2014.  
10 So that brings us to where we are now and when we issued the  
11 Draft Environmental Impact Statement on October 29th of this  
12 year.

13           Based on the comment period which was 45 days the  
14 EPA actually puts the Notice in the Federal Register. That  
15 45 day period plus a couple of extra days I guess brought us  
16 to December 29th for the comment deadline for this Draft  
17 EIS. Once we have all of the comments in we will address  
18 them all in the Final EIS and we have a preliminary date for  
19 July, 2016 for issuance of the Final EIS.

20           And other processes that we have ongoing we have  
21 requested concurrence with the National Marine Fishery  
22 Service for Endangered Species Act and the central fish  
23 habitat, some of those processes take a little bit longer  
24 but that would really affect the issuance of a license. Not  
25 necessarily the NEPA document so -- and I guess Jamie if you

1 could explain the 404 permit?

2 MR. HYSLOP: Yes so there is a purpose when  
3 working with geo-hydro to have them submit their application  
4 for the Department of Army permits to coincide with the  
5 release of the Draft EIS. So on November 23rd we issued a  
6 public notice after receiving a complete application from  
7 Juneau Hydro that they intend to propose to replace fuel and  
8 water to the U.S. and so that public notice is open right  
9 now and it closes on December 23rd.

10 So it would be a 30 day public notice and we  
11 timed it to coincide with the release of the Draft EIS so  
12 anybody who would like to make comments with regard to the  
13 impacts to the waters of the U.S. we are receiving comments  
14 on that right now so.

15 MR. MATKOWSKI: Thanks and the 404 permit process  
16 is usually done after we issue a license but whether or not  
17 Juneau Hydro can construct is based on receiving that 404  
18 so.

19 MR. HYSLOP: Yes.

20 MR. MATKOWSKI: Cooperating together with the  
21 Corp I guess helps to move the process along.

22 MR. HYSLOP: Yeah and the environmental document  
23 is intended to serve both FERC and the Corp of Engineer's  
24 purposes.

25 MR. MATKOWSKI: So that's the project process in

1 a nutshell so I guess I will go ahead and open up the  
2 meeting to comments or questions. I don't see anyone that's  
3 marked that they were going to speak tonight but you still  
4 have the opportunity and also written comments are fine as  
5 well. Anyone?

6 MS. BECKER: I'll just say that I support this  
7 project. I'm Mary Becker and --

8 MR. MATKOWSKI: Sorry we just -- you can just  
9 state your name again thank you. Okay you can go.

10 MS. BECKER: Yes. Good evening I'm Mary Becker.  
11 I am -- due to the tragic loss of Greg Fisk our Mayor I have  
12 been assumed to the job of Mayor of Juneau and I just want  
13 to say that I really support this project. I think that our  
14 city is looking forward to seeing how this goes. It's  
15 another aspect of what we can have and what we can take to  
16 the mines and what we can bring into the city.

17 We don't have -- I cannot really speak to  
18 affirmatively for every member of the city but there has  
19 been a lot of support expressed and I certainly support this  
20 and I am really glad to see this going in and I hope it goes  
21 smoothly and everything doesn't take as long as some of our  
22 other projects take so thank you for your hard work on this.

23 MR. MATKOWSKI: Thank you anyone else?

24 MR. BECKER: How important is it that you have on  
25 the record just people from the public just to show support

1 without any questions or details?

2 COURT REPORTER: Your name sir?

3 MR. BECKER: I was just asking the question --  
4 other than. How important to the process is it? Because I  
5 would be glad to give comments of support but is it crucial  
6 or are we just trying to eat up a little bit of time?

7 MR. MATKOWSKI: We are -- I mean comments on the  
8 record, we look at everything but today specifically we are  
9 looking for comments on the Draft EIS so but you know it is  
10 a public meeting so knowing whether or not people or the  
11 public support a project is important.

12 MR. BECKER: Okay I will go on the record then.  
13 My name is Jim Becker, I'm a commercial fisherman and a  
14 lifetime resident of Juneau, Alaska and I know both of the  
15 gentlemen here representing Juneau Hydro and I have talked  
16 to them numerous times about the project and I am also the  
17 President of the Board of DIPAC the hatchery that puts in  
18 there every year and I am not speaking for DIPAC I'm only  
19 speaking for myself.

20 But the idea that is along with this hydro  
21 project we are going to have additional fish is pretty  
22 exciting to me. I hear that the level of the lake is going  
23 to be raised and also that provides for more habitat for  
24 fish. We don't know what number could go in there but we  
25 know that there is a problem now when the fish come out of

1 the lake they come down at like a 700 foot drop and half of  
2 them die and the other half swim off and there has got to be  
3 some kind of delayed mortality with them too.

4           And I have got assurances from the applicants  
5 that they are going to have the wherewithal to pick those  
6 and helicopter down to sea water -- you know salt water and  
7 so to me that is just a gesture of what they are willing to  
8 do for the public good and I certainly support their efforts  
9 and everything that they are trying to do so thank you.

10           MR. MATKOWSKI: Thank you, anyone else? Well  
11 with that thanks everyone for coming out and I guess let the  
12 record -- or actually a reminder that the comments are due  
13 December 29th. So thanks again and let the record show that  
14 this meeting for Sweetheart Lake Hydropower Project ended at  
15 6:20 p.m. Thanks, we are off the record.

16 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.)

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