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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Division of Hydropower Licensing

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Columbia Gulf Transmission, LLC Project P-2934
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UPPER MECHANICVILLE PROJECT

Hilton Garden Inn
Whitney-Travers Room
30 Clifton Country Road
Clifton Park, New York 12065
Wednesday, June 15, 2016

The public scoping meeting, pursuant to notice, convened
at 7:06 p.m, before a Staff Panel:

JODY L. CALLIHAN, Ph.D., Environmental Project
Manager

With:

JIM GIBSON, VP, Hydropower Services, HDR

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

2 DR. CALLIHAN: Okay, everyone, I think we're
3 going to go ahead and get started tonight. It's about five
4 after. Maybe a few people may trickle in but I'd like to go
5 ahead and get started.

6 My name is Jody Callihan, I'm a fish biologist at
7 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Project
8 Coordinator for the Upper Mechanicville relicensing project.
9 We're here tonight to have the public scoping meeting for
10 the relicensing.

11 I want to thank NYSEG and Steve Mullin and Tim
12 Brennan for facilitating and showing us the site. The
13 project, which you see here up on the screen, the Upper
14 Mechanicville Project. I think most of us know each other
15 but I'd like to just go around the room and everyone
16 introduce themselves. State your name and affiliation and
17 the entity you represent. Start off with our FERC staff
18 that's here from our headquarters.

19 MR. CHOWDHURY: My name is Monir Chowdhury; I am
20 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I am an
21 engineer and will be working in engineering and development
22 of the resource.

23 MR. PATCH: Steve Patch, U.S. Fish & Wildlife
24 Service.

25 MS. HOWLAND: Carol Howland, Manager,

1 Environmental; NYSEG.

2 MR. IVES: Hugh Ives, Director of Hydro
3 Operations for NYSEG.

4 MR. MULLIN: Steve Mullin, Hydro-License
5 Coordinator for NYSEG.

6 MR. GIBSON: Jim Gibson with HDR.

7 MS. CALEY: Katherine Caley with HDR.

8 MR. BRENNAN: Tim Brennan from NYSEG, I am the
9 Hydro Plant Supervisor.

10 DR. CALLIHAN: All right. Thank you, everyone.

11 Just a couple housekeeping items. We have a
12 registration table in the back. If you haven't, please sign
13 in so we can get your name spelled correctly on the
14 transcripts. We have a court reporter, Dan Hawkins, here
15 with us tonight. And also have copies of the scoping
16 document on that table as well.

17 So if you haven't picked up a copy of that, go
18 ahead and do so, I'll be referring to page numbers on the
19 scoping document throughout the meeting tonight and also
20 some of the text I present on the slides will also be taken
21 directly from the scoping document; so if you're taking
22 notes, that way you don't have to write down everything on
23 the slide.

24 There'll be time at the end of the presentation
25 for anyone who would like to come up and give any oral

1 comments or statements. Those will be placed in the FERC
2 public record. When you're doing that, just state your name
3 and affiliation. We have a wireless mic that can be passed
4 around or else you can come up to the podium to do that.

5 [Slide] Just an agenda here. A brief overview of what
6 we're going to be talking about; an introduction to FERC and
7 what we do; overview of the licensing process and what
8 exactly scoping is and entails. Then, Steve Mullin from
9 NYSEG will give us a project overview and talk about the
10 facilities and operations of the project. And then we'll go
11 into some preliminary resource issues that we've identified
12 and intend to analyze in our NEPA document for this project.
13 We'll hold our questions and comments until the end of all
14 the presentations. They ask that we do that.

15 So what FERC does, we're a federal agency located
16 in Washington, D.C. In addition to regulating the wholesale
17 of electricity market and interstate transmission of natural
18 gas, one thing that Congress has tasked us with and we're
19 responsible for is authorizing the construction, operation,
20 and maintenance of non-federal hydro projects that are in
21 the public interest. Part 1 of the Federal Power Act gives
22 us that jurisdiction.

23 By non-federal projects I mean those privately
24 owned and operated hydro projects like NYSEG'S Upper
25 Mechanicville Project, and also those owned and operated by

1 state and local municipalities. There are over 1,600 of
2 these FERC-regulated projects across the country and you can
3 see them outlined in these red dots here. Generally they
4 are located or concentrated in the mountainous areas along
5 the eastern and western US where we have lots of flowing
6 water of head so we can generate hydro-power.

7 Together, collectively, these projects generate
8 enough electricity to power 10 to 15 million households
9 annually. If the licensing procedures are followed
10 correctly and the Commission deems the project is in the
11 public interest, the license ends with a license order.
12 That license order contains terms and conditions for
13 operation and maintenance. For example, one of those where
14 the Upper Mechanicville project is that the reservoir level
15 be maintained at an elevation of 72.6 feet above mean sea
16 level.

17 The license order also contains environmental
18 protection, mitigation and enhancement measures. An example
19 of one of those may be that -- this doesn't apply to Upper
20 Mechanicville, but just an example -- that the reservoir
21 should not fluctuate more than a half a foot above or below
22 that target elevation, for example, to prevent the
23 desiccation of spawning beds or to mitigate flooding along
24 the shoreline.

25 To get to the license order, that relies heavily

1 on input from the stakeholders. That's one reason we're
2 here tonight, is to get public input on any public issues
3 and concerns there are with the project. So we're kicking
4 off the relicensing project today. The current license was
5 issued in 1981 for a 40 year term and it expires in March of
6 2021.

7 This is an overview of the integrated licensing
8 process, the ILP. This is the licensing process that the
9 applicant chose for this proceeding. Pre-filing the NOI and
10 the pre-application document were filed back in March. And
11 the next step, that's why we're here today, is to hold the
12 scoping meetings and receive any public comment, and also to
13 let you know how to file study requests.

14 Based on comments and study requests the
15 applicant will then put together a study plan that needs to
16 be approved by the Commission. After that they conduct
17 those studies to provide information that supports our
18 environmental analysis, and they prepare their application.

19 When they file their final application with us,
20 this is important, a milestone, this marks the start of what
21 we call post-filing; and everything before that is pre-
22 filing. So we review the application for adequacy. There's
23 a public comment period on that. Also, we prepare our
24 environmental document, the NEPA document, which is
25 typically in the form of an environmental assessment.

1 There's a comment period on that as well.

2 You can see there's lots of opportunity here for
3 input and feedback from stakeholders. Ultimately, if the
4 project is deemed in the public interest, we issue our
5 authorization in the form of a license order.

6 I did forget to say one thing here. If you look
7 in the back of the scoping document, the last two pages of
8 the scoping document have a detailed schedule for the pre-
9 filing deadlines associated with the ILP.

10 So what exactly is scoping? It's the process
11 where we identify any issues and concerns from environmental
12 perspective in regards to the project. A big part of that
13 is holding the scoping meetings and getting input from the
14 public and the agencies on pending issues and concerns they
15 may have. We need to think about the potential effects of
16 the project on the aquatic, terrestrial, and human
17 environment. Also, determine what information we need to
18 better understand and analyze those potential effects mainly
19 for our NEPA purposes.

20 So, for some resources, as this existing
21 information is enough, for example, if anyone has any
22 insight on any resource reports or survey data, or
23 professional opinion that they think may be useful for this
24 relicensing they can file them with us. In some cases, we
25 need new information; for example, we may not have site-

1 specific data. Or water quality conditions have changed at
2 a site through time. For example, the Hudson River PCB's
3 have been cleaned up and water quality has improved relative
4 to the 1970's and 1980's.

5 In those situations where we need new information
6 that stakeholders feel are necessary for us to evaluate any
7 environmental concerns, they need to make a study request;
8 and I'll have some information at the end of the
9 presentation on how study requests can be made, and they
10 will be due by July 15th
11 . We'll get into that more in the
12 last few slides and after when Steve talks.

13 I want to go into a bit more about some other
14 aspects of scoping. We'd like to identify resources that
15 may be cumulatively affected and considering the effect of
16 the project in concert with other activities in the river
17 basin, for example, fish migrating to their spawning grounds
18 may need to pass through multiple hydroelectric projects and
19 therefore may be exposed to cumulative entrainment
20 mortality. Any suggested alternatives to the way the
21 project is operated in the applicants proposed actions; and
22 resources not requiring a detailed analysis.

23 For example, the area may be very industrial in
24 nature, and aesthetics and recreation and things like that
25 that are not as important of issues, and we'd like to hear
feedback on that as well. So just be thinking about these

1 things as Steve goes through his presentation, any
2 information gaps in any of these items listed above.

3 And before I had it over to Steve, I just want to
4 list those resource groups that I've been referring to. The
5 various resource groups that we look at in our environmental
6 analysis, geology and soils, aquatic resources -- this
7 includes fish, mussels, water quantity, contaminants, water
8 quality, terrestrial resources, threatened endangered
9 species. Rec use, aesthetics, cultural and developmental
10 resources.

11 So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to
12 Steve. He's going to give us an overview of the project and
13 I'll come back with preliminary resource issues that we've
14 identified.

15 MR. MULLIN: Thank you very much, Jody.

16 My name is Steve Mullin. I'm the Hydro-License
17 Coordinator for the Upper Mechanicville project, and I'm
18 going to pull up a powerpoint here.

19 Steve Mullin, New York State Electric and Gas,
20 Hydro-License Coordinator for this project. I'd like to
21 thank the FERC for the opportunity to present the project
22 overview, and for representatives, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
23 to attend the meeting as well,

24 We have done introductions, but I would like to
25 say to folks here on behalf of NYSEG, who are very

1 supportive of the project, that Carol Howland is the Manager
2 of Environmental Compliance, We have Hugh Ives, Director
3 of Hydro Operations and Maintenance in substations, Tim
4 Brennan, thank you, Hydro Supervisor. Melanie Putnam is our
5 Manager of Community Outreach and Development for the east
6 region which encompasses this, and we do have two folks from
7 HDR who support NYSEG on this project, Tim Gibson and
8 Katherine Caley.

9 One thing I'd like to acknowledge here is New
10 York State Electric and Gas is a wholly-owned subsidiary of
11 Avangrid, so you will see that name on our presentation as
12 well. So with that, we'll get into our presentation. We
13 set this up to present an overview of the project location
14 and layout.

15 We'll do a brief overview of the PAD or the pre-
16 application document; we'll identify some potential
17 information needs and studies; identify some rare,
18 threatened, and endangered species that we've noted in the
19 pre-application document; and then for those of you who
20 weren't able to make the site visit today we have some
21 photographs that will depict what we generally saw today.
22 Many of those will be very familiar to you.

23 To begin with, Upper Mechanicville is in the
24 County of Saratoga in Rennsselaer. It is also in three
25 townships; Stillwater -- Mechanicville is actually a city

1 so excuse me on that -- and they're both in Saratoga.
2 They're going to show up on the left hand side of the
3 screen. And then on the right-hand side, Rennselaer
4 County, it's in the town of Schaghticoke. So we have three
5 municipalities, two counties. The County basically cuts the
6 dam and the river in half.

7 As a project overview, the red circle denotes
8 where the dam, the powerhouse, and lock 3, New York State
9 Canal, a corporation-owned lock on the Champlain canal, Lock
10 3. We also have a 34.5 KVA transmission, or subtransmission
11 line it's referred to technically, to go from the powerhouse
12 up to a substation where it interconnects into the grid.

13 As a point of reference, the river is flowing
14 towards the bottom of the page and we have a railroad bridge
15 above. For sake of argument, I'm calling the top of the
16 page to be north, the bottom of the page to be south. The
17 river is flowing south. This is just a little closer view
18 so you can get an appreciation of the features a little bit
19 more. The river is flowing down, comes into the intake
20 through the powerhouse, out the discharge, back into the
21 river. We have the dam here and the canal Lock 3, C3, here
22 and then again the subtransmission line runs off this way.

23 I would like to note that in this photograph you
24 do see buildings on this parcel just downstream of the
25 plant, those are no longer there; it's vacant. And this

1 photo was retrieved off of Bing Maps. It did not depict it
2 the way it is today. So, please keep that in mind as well.

3 Again, just one more a little bit closer. On
4 this one point of interest is that we have the forebay and
5 the intake; just to the right side on the picture here is
6 the sluice gate. We have the dam. We have three bays, what
7 we call A, B, and C. Again the flow is down the tailrace.
8 These buildings are gone and the earthen embankment
9 starboard would be here, proceeding to the east.

10 This map here is intended just to give you an
11 appreciation of the locks on the Hudson. In red is the
12 Upper Mechanicville, the NYSEG facility at Lock C3. So,
13 what you'll see here is we have four locks upstream. These
14 numbers to the right or just slightly underneath the name is
15 river miles, upstream, so the US would be upstream and the
16 DS would be downstream.

17 Another point of interest is in terms of hydro,
18 there is no hydro up here at Fort Edwards or at Thompson, or
19 down here at lock C1. I'm not going to spend a lot of time
20 on this slide. It is in the PAD, table 4.2.1. It's
21 basically the same information as you saw on the map with
22 the exception that we provide coordinates is a FERC-
23 regulated project you'll see there; everything else is the
24 same. That is in the PAD.

25 Now in terms of a little project overview, in

1 terms of license and operations is what the next few slides
2 will present. As Jody mentioned, the existing license was
3 issued in 1981. It's a 40 year license term, it expires
4 March 31st
5 , 2021. The licensed authorized construction of a
6 powerhouse, and we have an authorized capacity of 18.5
7 megawatts.

8 In the PAD we did provide generation for the past
9 11 years, average generation for that time period was a
10 little over 93,000 megawatt hours. In terms of what does
11 that mean? That's approximately 13,200 homes that the plant
12 was able to provide electricity for. That number, if you
13 look at the bottom of the slide, was taken from a survey
14 from the US Energy Information Administration from a 2014
15 survey. 591 kilowatt hours per month for the average house.

16 The facility or the project operates in run-of-
17 river mode and supports navigation up and down the Champlain
18 canal. As we noted on the previous photographs, New York
19 State Canal Corporation lock C 3 on the Champlain canal is
20 there. The dam was originally built in 1882. We believe
21 that was for industry. The lock was built in 1908. As part
22 of NYSEG's license and construction of the powerhouse, in
23 1983 they also resurfaced the spillway. The plant obviously
24 provides emission-free electricity but also serves as a load
25 balancing for services in the area, so it is a nice unit for
the area. And again it supports navigation on the canal.

1 The dam at spillway, the lock C 3 dam, it is
2 owned by New York State Canal corporation. Is maintained
3 and operated by NYSEG and under agreements. It's a 700 foot
4 long dam. 19 feet high. It is concrete and it is a gravity
5 dam. The spillway crest elevation is 66.6 feet. That's a
6 mean sea level.

7 If you notice on the photographs there were two
8 concrete-looking piers towards the center and then there was
9 two on each end. The bays are 222 feet long each. And the
10 effective spillway is 666 feet. Each spillway is topped
11 with a 6 foot high Obermeyer pneumatic crest gate with an
12 elevation, when it's in full upright position, of 72.6 feet
13 which equates to 6 feet above the crest of the dam.

14 The pneumatic gates. They're steel gates,
15 sections and they're raised and lowered by pneumatic air as
16 there are rubber bladders behind the lift to facilitate the
17 movement. The gates can move independently, gates A, B, and
18 C. You'll also notice that what we call the left, would be
19 the east side, we have the east earthen embankment, and on
20 the right side, or the west side is the concrete abutment
21 that you saw as well that runs along the river.

22 The powerhouse was built in 1982 and in 1983.
23 It's owned and maintained by NYSEG. It measures roughly 150
24 feet by 122 feet long. It is located on the right side,
25 again, or the west side of the river. It has intakes, trash

1 racks, with 6 inch clear spacing. And the powerhouse has
2 two generating units, they're Kaplan units. Again they have
3 an authorized capacity of 18.5 megawatts rated, a head of 19
4 feet. They have a maximum hydraulic capacity of 12,000
5 cubic feet per second. So that's what the water flow
6 through the two turbines operating together can handle.

7 In addition, there is an intake sluice gate, so
8 we did show that on that third photograph, if you recall.
9 That is a 20 foot wide by 7 foot high gate. It's a steel
10 gate. It sits, the sill elevation is 66.5, so that matches
11 up above with the crest of the dam, which would be about a
12 tenth of a foot lower. That's primarily used to help with
13 mitigating ice, in ice-outs. It helps alleviate flows.
14 Minor debris if it gets caught in the area of the forebay.
15 And primarily when the units are on, that gate will be in
16 the closed position.

17 In terms of the reservoir, approximately 380
18 acres, surface acres, it's 1.8 miles in length. It goes
19 from the dam just below lock C4. It has a storage capacity
20 of roughly 10,735 acre feet. Normally, the plant operates
21 at a 72.6 feet mean sea level. It is adjusted as required
22 to support navigation. The navigation, the height of the
23 reservoir is dictated by the type of ship or vessel going
24 through the lock system. And the call to adjust that is
25 made by the lock operator.

1 I guess the other piece of information here is
2 that it does have a drainage area in here, about 4500 square
3 miles. The transmission aspect of the project, if you
4 recall in that first photograph, was a yellow line, it was
5 about 1.1 miles. It will take the power from the plant over
6 to the grid. It interconnects at what we call the Mulberry
7 Street substation, it's in the town of Stillwater. And that
8 line's vegetation is managed in accordance with our
9 company's vegetation management plan and program.

10 In terms of recreation, the project does support
11 recreational boating within the project area, primarily
12 through the lock as well as commercial vessels. In it, it
13 has been exempted before from the FERC form 80 surveys. The
14 project is located outside of the New York State coastal
15 zone and the block C3 dam is listed as the only contributing
16 resource to the New York State Barge Canal Historic District
17 within 1000 feet of the projects proposed area of potential
18 effects, sometimes referred to as the APE, you may hear
19 that.

20 Project operations. How does the plant operate?
21 The project operates on a run-of-river basis, it does
22 support navigation as I indicated, is adjusted as requested
23 by New York State Canal Corporation for vessel traffic
24 through the canal lock system, which typically runs May 1st
25 through November 15th

and it does vary from time-to-time and

1 we support whatever their schedule is for the year.

2 One of the deciding, what helps the canal corp
3 decide where the river needs to be, or the pond, is the
4 bridge just upstream of the lock, which you may have noticed
5 I made that as a reference point. That does have some
6 limits on clearance, and the taller ships do require the
7 pond to be a little bit lower.

8 In the typical, reservoir elevation does range
9 between 50 and 72 inches, this is measured above crest. It
10 does occasionally, but less frequently 30 inches above crest
11 for these taller vessels. And if there's other needs that
12 Canal corp has, it is adjusted accordingly, too. NYSEG will
13 adjust the water level, One if there's an emergency; Two if
14 there is a call by an emergency organization to lower the
15 river; and Three if we need to do any maintenance or
16 schedule we'll make the notifications through the resource
17 agencies. Other than that, the target elevation is 72
18 inches above crest.

19 This table, Table 4.2-2 is from the PAD, and here
20 what we've done is prorated river flow based on the drainage
21 basin. We've used the USGS gauge that is about six miles
22 downstream adjacent to lock C1. And Jim, if you want to
23 give just a short note on how you prorate? Typically
24 prorate that.

25 MR. GIBSON: So, the gauge, once again, is about

1 six miles downstream of the project. Therefore, there's
2 just over a hundred square miles of difference in that
3 watershed area. So we took the flow data from that USGS
4 gauge near Waterford and essentially multiplied it by around
5 98 percent. And that gave us the number that you see here
6 on the table, what we're showing here is the annual as well
7 as monthly. And when we take a look at the pre-application
8 document this data was used to derive the flow duration
9 curves that were provided in the PAD.

10 MR. MULLIN: Thank you. Pre-application document
11 outline. So we submitted, the PAD was distributed on March
12 30th
13 , 2016. It does provide a comprehensive overview of
14 existing information available relative to the project's
15 power and non-power resources. It does follow FERC's
16 regulatory guidance and the PAD is outlined with an
17 introduction and background, the purpose of the pre-
18 application document. It does contain a process plan and
19 schedule, and it's important to know we provided that based
20 on some assumptions of dates, those have been updated in
21 Jody's, in FERC's Scoping Document 1. And that will be the
22 plan and schedule that will be followed through the project.

23 Section 4 of the PAD gets into project location,
24 the facilities on the project and the operations.
25 Basically, I've summarized it in the previous slides, more
detail than in the PAD. It does get into description of

1 existing environment and resource impacts, section 5.
2 Section 6, preliminary issues, project effects, potential
3 study list, and then 7 is comprehensive plans and Section 8
4 would be literature cited, and then the appendices to
5 support information in the PAD.

6 Potential studies and information needs. So,
7 based on the information that we've collected and looking at
8 what we thought was a robust data set, some of it
9 contemporary with the work that GE has done in the Hudson
10 River, as well as some other studies done on aquatic
11 resources, and terrestrial resources, that there seems to be
12 a good data pool out there. From that we have identified
13 some potential studies that, in consultations with the
14 Agency, could include water quality, temperature, dissolved
15 oxygen, and then on the rare, threatened and endangered
16 species, what we're thinking there is there is an eagle
17 close by that maybe we can map that out a little tighter.

18 Again, all this, our opinion here is just based
19 on the amount of data we were able to collect throughout the
20 PAD development. In terms of rare, threatened, and
21 endangered species off the federal list that we obtained
22 through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; the
23 northern long eared bat, that is a threatened species; and
24 then from the state list, obtained through the Natural
25 Heritage Program, a bald eagle, we do have one in close

1 proximity to -- downstream of the project.

2 And then we have identified two plants, they show
3 up as rare and have been historically documented about 1.5
4 miles upstream in the vicinity of the lock C4, State Canal
5 Park, in where the Hoosic River comes in. The Davis's Sedge
6 is a densely clumped perennial grass-like plant that prefers
7 wet, seasonally flooded areas and the Mock Pennyroyal is
8 from the herb family and it does prefer a more land dry
9 environment. And again, those were historically documented
10 by 1.5 miles upstream.

11 In terms of, we have a few additional photographs
12 for those who could not make the site visit today. I'll run
13 through these very quick. Again, this would just be a photo
14 of the flow in the forebay. West side of the river, or the
15 right side coming into the plant. Flow would be this way
16 the plant would be right about here.

17 This photograph, and I've got to step away from
18 this so I can see -- here we have the intake, the flow would
19 be this way, into the powerhouse, the intake side and then
20 the sluice gate would be off to your right. The dam would
21 be off this way. Here's a closer look at the sluice gate.
22 This would be the sluice gate that you saw on the previous
23 with the arrow. So we have the intake, here. Sluice gate
24 here. And then in the background is the dam and the
25 spillway.

1 This view is just trying to get a close look at
2 the crest gate and the pneumatic ladder system that we use
3 to operate, raise and lower the crest gates. This photo
4 would be on the downstream side or the tailrace area. So,
5 water would be coming out of the plant, this way, the dam
6 structure is here, down river is towards us. If you see a
7 little, linear, vertical shadow here that's the stack gauge
8 on the backside. And that would be for tailrace, elevation
9 water.

10 And just a little more close up of the tailrace
11 area, you can see the stack gauge here. We have two units,
12 so outflow would be from one unit here, the second unit
13 would flow out these areas. And one more view from the
14 backside of the power plant, this gives you just a little
15 appreciation of the tailrace as it comes from the plant and
16 enters back into the river system.

17 This photo we wanted to put in here it's just, if
18 you can see the structure here, that's the dam. This would
19 be just the downstream side of the dam, rocks -- the river
20 bottom surface is very close here, these are rocks out here,
21 and when there's no spilling going on, discharge through the
22 plant, this is kind of the environment that you would see.

23 And I believe this is the last two photos of the
24 interior of the plant. This view is taken from this door,
25 so we're looking from the door back this way. Here is unit

1 1, unit 2, up on the mezzanine level would be some
2 electrical controls and our office area control room. And
3 then, looking from the mezzanine, we're standing up in this
4 area, looking back towards this door, this would be the top
5 of the turbines that you see here; and again the door --
6 that I'm referencing looking this way.

7 And with that, that's the slides we have for the
8 presentation. Again, I'm Steve Mullin, the Hydro-License
9 Coordinator for the project. I am in the Environmental
10 Compliance Group, and if you do have any questions
11 afterwards, feel free to send me a letter, call me, email
12 me, anything that I get I will share with Jody and FERC so
13 it's on the record.

14 With that, thank you for the time and I
15 appreciate your interest.

16 DR. CALLIHAN: Thanks, Steve. Okay.

17 Now we're going to go through the last bit here
18 of the presentation, and if you turn to page 14 of the
19 scoping document, the preliminary list of resource issues
20 that we've identified are listed there. And as we go
21 through these, be thinking about if you feel there's any
22 issues or concerns of yours we may have missed and also if
23 you disagree with anything that we have listed and why.

24 Our environmental assessment analysis will be
25 considering the effects of continued project operation and

1 maintenance on geology and soils. Also, aquatic resources.
2 We'll be assessing the entrainment and impingement mortality
3 of American Eel, and this will be intended to be part of a
4 cumulative analysis; mature silver eels that have to out-
5 migrate to their oceanic spawning grounds in the Sargasso
6 Sea may pass at least five hydro-plants on the Hudson;
7 that's reason for the cumulative analysis.

8 We'll also consider the entrainment and
9 impingement mortality of some resident fishes, sport fish
10 including Walleye, small mouth bass and large mouth bass.
11 And also the effects of the continued project operation on
12 water quality, including PCB's and navigation.

13 Terrestrial resources. Effects of project
14 operation and maintenance on species of special concern.
15 Steve listed some of these. Bald eagle, and the two plant
16 species. Also, the effects on the spread and introduction
17 of invasive plants. Wetland habitat and wildlife and
18 botanical resources. Again, Steve mentioned the federally
19 threatened Northern Long-Eared bat. In terms of rec land
20 use and aesthetics, is there any need for recreation
21 facilities at the project? And the effects of the continued
22 project operation on land use and aesthetic resources within
23 the project area.

24 As well as the effects of operations and
25 maintenance on historic properties and archaeological

1 resources. The effects of any recommended environmental
2 measures on the project's economics.

3 So now for the last few slides here I'll go
4 through some filing details with the Commission. We have
5 some brochures on the registration table that go through how
6 to e-file with the Commission and also some of our online
7 resources that are handy, that follow the licensing
8 proceeding. So at the end of the presentation today anyone
9 who would like to can give an oral statement for the record,
10 and also to file any comments on the PAD or SD1. Or
11 importantly, to file any study requests with the Commission.

12 Again, we prefer e-filing. Hard-copies are
13 accepted, but the filing instructions are on page 18 of the
14 scoping document and there's also a filing guide brochure on
15 the registration table. Any comments and study requests are
16 due by July 15th
17 of this year. It's important that any
18 study requests that are made address each of the seven study
19 plan criteria that are listed in Appendix A of the scoping
20 document. Study requests much address each and every one of
21 those to be considered for approval by FERC.

22 In terms of keeping in the loop and keeping up to
23 speed on how the project is proceeding, we have a few online
24 systems and if you are using those to track the project you
25 want to use the Docket number P-2934. The first is our e-
Subscription; this way any time anything is filed with us

1 for the project or issued any documents on the project, if
2 you sign up and you eSubscribe to it, you will get an email
3 notification that has a link to the eLibrary that will take
4 you right to that document; so you can take a quick look at
5 it and choose whether or not you wish to download it or not
6 from our eLibrary system. In our eLibrary system we
7 have all of our public documents archived there
8 electronically back to about the early 1990's so this is
9 useful for example, if you're looking up the history of a
10 project. Another way to keep in the loop is our mailing
11 list. You need to request to be added to the mailing list.
12 The instructions for that are on page 23 of the scoping
13 document, and if you're on the mailing list you'll receive
14 hard-copies of all of the project issuances.

15 So with that, would anyone like to come up and
16 make an oral statement or comment for the record on the
17 project? Anyone?

18 Okay. I see no comments. Are there any
19 questions you have for myself or Steve on what was presented
20 today? We'll take those as well. Anyone? Hugh?

21 MR. IVES: I do have one question. Did you make
22 any mention of developmental resources early on in the
23 presentation in the area. What does that mean?

24 DR. CALLIHAN: That's basically anything that
25 can effect the project economics in terms of generation

1 potential or costs, or industrial activities that may affect
2 the other water uses in the basin. But basically anything
3 that can affect the project economics is what we're mainly
4 referring to there.

5 Any others?

6 Okay, then I'd like to close the scoping meeting
7 and thank everyone for attending, and tomorrow at 9 a.m.
8 we'll have the agency meeting and in the same room here, so
9 thanks everyone. Good night.

10 (Whereupon, at 7:54 p.m., public scoping meeting
11 concluded.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

3 This is to certify that the attached proceeding
4 before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the
5 Matter of:

6 Name of Proceeding:

7 UPPER MECHANICVILLE PROJECT

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14 Docket No.: P-2934

15 Place: Clifton Park, NY

16 Date: 6/15/2016

17 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original
18 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy
19 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcripton of
20 the proceedings.

21

22

23 DANIEL HAWKINS

24 Official Reporter

25