

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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Case: Sly Creek Transmission Line Project

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Phone: 202-347-3700
Fax: 202-737-3638
Email: info@acefederal.com
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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

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SCOPING of ENVIRONMENTAL :
ISSUES for NEW LICENSES for : Project Numbers
the WOODLEAF-KANAKA : P-2281-011 and
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT : P-4851-005
and the SLY CREEK :
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT :
- - - - - x

VFW Post #1747
1901 Elgin Street
Oroville, California

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

The above-entitled matter came on pursuant to notice
at 7:16 p.m.

Sly Creek Transmission Line Project
June 13, 2007

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1 From the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

2 John Mudre, Project Manager and Meeting Facilitator

3 Matt Buhyoff, Fish Biologist

4 Shannon Crosley, Environmental Biologist

5 Shana Murray, Outdoor Recreational Planner

6 Jeanne Sweet (Edwards), Environmental Biologist

7 Frank Winchell, Archeologist

8 From the South Feather Water and Power Agency:

9 Michael Glaze, General Manager

10 Kathy Petersen, Power Division Manager

11 From Devine Tarbell and Associates:

12 James Lynch, Project Manager

13 From Pacific Gas and Electric:

14 Forrest Sullivan, Senior Project Manager

15 From the Plumas National Forest:

16 Cheryl Mulder, Hydropower License Coordinator

17 From the California Department of Water:

18 Rick Ramirez, Program Manager, Oroville Relicensing

19 Program

20 Members of the Public Present:

21 Mike Melanson

22 Rich O'Rourke

23 Peggy Someroth

24

25

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

2 (7:16 p.m.)

3 MR. MUDRE: I want to thank everyone for coming here
4 tonight to our Scoping Meeting. My name is John Mudre. I'm
5 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. And I'm the
6 Project Coordinator for the relicensing of the South Feather
7 Power Project -- the Hydropower Project and also two
8 transmission line projects, the Sly Creek Transmission Line
9 Project and the Woodleaf-Kanaka Junction Transmission Line
10 Project.

11 With me tonight is our team that will be working on
12 the Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Impact
13 Statement for the relicensing of these projects. And I'll go
14 ahead and introduce them now.

15 To my left is Frank Winchell. He is our Archeologist.

16 Shannon Crosley, who is going to be working on the
17 terrestrial and --

18 MS. CROSLEY: Threatened and endangered.

19 MR. MUDRE: -- threatened and endangered species
20 components.

21 Shana Murray, who is working on recreation, land use,
22 aesthetics.

23 Matt Buhyoff will be working on the fisheries.

24 I'll be coordinating the project and also working on
25 water-quality aspects of the project.

1 We also have in the back Jeanne Edwards. She is going
2 to be working on terrestrial, which includes botanical and
3 wildlife resources.

4 I don't think I missed anybody.

5 Okay. So who are we? The Federal Energy Regulatory
6 Commission is an independent agency that regulates electric
7 power, natural gas, oil pipelines, and the hydroelectric
8 industry. It's composed of five commissioners that are
9 appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. And the
10 President designates the chairman of the Commission.

11 Within FERC there is the Office of Energy Projects
12 that administers nonfederal hydropower and gas projects. It's
13 organized into three divisions: The Division of Hydropower
14 Licensing, which is what we're in.

15 There's also a Division of Hydropower Compliance and
16 Administration. That's the division that sort of looks after --
17 after they're licensed, they make sure that all the conditions
18 of the license are being adhered to.

19 Then we also have a very active Dam Safety and
20 Inspections Division that ensures that the projects are operated
21 with adequate public safety.

22 Our office is in Washington, D.C., but we do have five
23 regional offices that are composed mainly of engineers, the dam
24 safety engineers, that do the inspections in different parts of
25 the country. The Regional Office for these projects is the San

1 Francisco Regional Office.

2 The Commission can issue licenses for hydropower
3 projects for terms of 30 to 50 years. The license projects that
4 -- they aren't licensed just to generate electricity but also to
5 provide benefits for the public interest such as recreation,
6 fisheries, and wildlife values, things like that. All in all
7 there are about 2600 licensed and exempted projects throughout
8 the U.S.

9 I'll briefly go through the process that's involved,
10 both for the Hydro Project and for the Transmission Line
11 Projects. Those are -- they are projects that are treated like
12 hydro projects, but they don't have any hydro facilities, but
13 the processing of the applications and the licenses are fairly
14 similar, and they're done by our group.

15 So two years before a license expires the company or
16 applicant that wants to relicense a project has to file an
17 application with the Commission to do that. Once that
18 application comes in, we issue a public notice that it has been
19 filed with us and request additional comments and additional
20 study requests.

21 And those were due on May 25th. We also, when it
22 comes in, we've reviewed the application for adequacy to make
23 sure that everything that's supposed to be in there that's
24 required to be in there by our regulations is in there.

25 And, if it is, then we go ahead and send out a notice

1 accepting the application and requesting protests or motions to
2 intervene if people want to do either of those. And those are
3 due 60 days after the notice. And that says July 16th, but I
4 don't think that's right.

5 Do you have the date with you for the acceptance
6 notices?

7 MS. CROSLY: Yes, July 16th is right.

8 MR. MUDRE: Okay. Sorry.

9 Then we prepare Scoping Document 1 and conduct scoping
10 meetings. Scoping comments are due 30 days after the last
11 meeting, which is going to be also July 16th. And based on the
12 comments we may decide to ask the applicants for additional
13 information if we see something based on our site visits, which
14 we had today and yesterday, or comments raised during scoping.
15 We can ask for additional information from the applicants.

16 Then if we find different issues, we may issue Scoping
17 Document 2 that would then present our final take on what we
18 need to analyze during our environmental review process.

19 Once we have all the information that we think we need
20 to begin our environmental review, we issue another notice. And
21 that's called the REA Notice, or Ready for Environmental
22 Analysis. And we're scheduled right now to do that sometime in
23 August, but if we ask for additional information it may be later
24 than that.

25 Comments, recommendations from agencies for terms and

1 conditions for the project are due 60 days after that notice.
2 And other dates are -- any amendments to the application need to
3 be submitted 30 days from the issuance of the REA Notice.

4 We will issue a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
5 for the Hydro Project and comments on the Draft EIS will be due
6 45 days after the Draft EIS is noticed. And let's just see.

7 Based on our analysis in the Draft the agencies can
8 revise the terms and conditions or recommendations. We then
9 analyze the various recommendations and conditions provided by
10 the agencies and also comments received from the public and take
11 all of those into account as we prepare the Final EIS.

12 And then we'll issue our Final EIS, which will address
13 all the comments that we've received. And our Environmental
14 Impact Statement serves to inform the Commission's decision on
15 whether and under what conditions to issue a license for the
16 Hydro Project.

17 Parties who have filed to be intervenors can file for
18 a request for rehearing of that license order if there is
19 something in there that they don't like. And then the
20 Commission will evaluate the merits of that rehearing request.

21 All right. Just briefly then what we're doing
22 tonight, scoping, what we want to do is identify significant
23 issues that we should address in our Environmental Impact
24 Statement; identify resources that may be cumulatively affected
25 by other things that are happening in the basin; identify

1 reasonable alternatives to the proposed action for analysis; and
2 also to identify issues and resources that may not require a
3 detailed analysis in our environmental document.

4 So we're looking for information. It could take the
5 forms of reports, data, professional opinion. We're interested
6 in federal, state, and local resource plans; future project
7 proposals that might have an impact on what should be done here.

8 We've got a list in Scoping Document 1 of the plans
9 that have been filed with the Commission as comprehensive plans.
10 We might have missed some. We want you to bring them to our
11 attention if we have. And we're also looking for information
12 related to potential cumulative effects.

13 So I think with that -- there's some handouts in the
14 back. There's some copies of Scoping Document 1. There's also
15 a sheet that tells you a bit more information on how to provide
16 comments or how to get more information about the projects.

17 We have a website, www.ferc.gov. There's an eLibrary
18 link where you can look at all the documents that have been
19 filed or issued in this proceeding. We have a Hydroelectric
20 Project Relicensing Handbook that you can request. And, again,
21 all this information is on the handout in the back so you don't
22 really need to write it down here.

23 You saw the sign-in sheets in the back.

24 We do have a court reporter here tonight, and they're
25 going to record the people's comments and what we say just to

1 make sure we have a factual, good record for the proceeding that
2 will be entered into the official record for the proceeding.
3 And that way, you know, we'll have them and be able to refer to
4 them, respond to them.

5 The transcripts will be available of people's comments
6 and the whole meeting actually tonight. So if you're interested
7 in those, you can talk to the court reporter here tonight on how
8 to get them. They will at a later date also be available on the
9 Commission's website, so you can access them there as well.

10 What we're going to do tonight, I'm done with this
11 part of the talk, but we're going to have a brief description of
12 the proposed project by Michael Glaze, General Manager for South
13 Feather Water and Power.

14 We'll briefly go over what we've identified as issues
15 in our Scoping Document 1. And then we get to the important
16 part of the meeting, which is to hear people's comments and
17 agency comments on what they think of the issues, what sorts of
18 things we need to look at, what we should know about this as we
19 begin this process.

20 So I think with that, I'm going to turn to microphone
21 over to Michael Glaze.

22 MR. GLAZE: Good evening. I'm Michael Glaze. Wow,
23 that's louder than it sounded back there.

24 I am General Manager of South Feather Water and Power
25 Agency. My purpose here tonight is to give you a brief

1 description of the project.

2 I want to introduce Kathy Petersen, first of all, who
3 is our Power Division Manager. If you have questions or need
4 detailed information, she is our encyclopedia of all of that
5 information.

6 Jim Lynch also is our Project Manager representing DTA
7 Consultants.

8 And, Forrest, are you going to get a chance to be
9 introduced? Forrest Sullivan is representing PG&E this evening
10 regarding the transmission lines. And I am going to mention
11 transmission lines probably two or three times to earn the \$50
12 he promised me if I would do so.

13 The South Feather Water and Power Project is a public
14 agency. It is an Irrigation District under California law. I
15 work for an elected board of directors, five individuals elected
16 from within the boundaries of the District. And those directors
17 work for the citizens of this area who elect them to that
18 office. So it is a public agency as opposed to a private agency
19 or private company, such as PG&E.

20 Well, I'll stop there, Forrest.

21 MR. SULLIVAN: Maybe I could represent my own project.

22 MR. GLAZE: If I promised before I'll earn the \$50.

23 All right.

24 The South Feather Power Project is one component of
25 the South Feather Water and Power Agency. It also supplies

1 water to the southeast area of Butte County. It has
2 approximately 7,000 domestic customers and five or six hundred
3 irrigation customers.

4 But as far as the hydroelectric facilities are
5 concerned, they are comprised primarily of four hydro plants:
6 Woodleaf, Forbestown, Kelly Ridge, and Sly Creek which we'll go
7 into more detail in a moment, and I'll be describing those
8 graphically.

9 But essentially we have a combined generating capacity
10 of about 125 megawatts. This will be relatively
11 self-descriptive. You are in Oroville presently. Many people
12 often think that we are a function of Lake Oroville, and
13 actually we aren't. Lake Oroville is operated by the Department
14 of Water Resources. Our facilities primarily are on the South
15 Fork of the Feather River, that red line that just came down
16 from our upper reservoir, Little Grass Valley Reservoir.

17 And our lowest reservoir that's actually a part of the
18 operational project is Ponderosa, which is just at the upper end
19 of the South Fork of Lake Oroville. We have Miners Ranch Canal
20 also, and I'll discuss that in a minute.

21 But most of the water that comes through our project
22 literally bypasses Lake Oroville as far as that part that
23 functions to generate electricity.

24 The project actually begins at Little Grass Valley
25 Reservoir, we release water that's stored there down the South

1 Fork of the Feather River about nine miles, the South Fork
2 Diversion. We continue releasing water down the South Fork for
3 ecological purposes, but most of the water is stored and
4 diverted through a 2.7-mile tunnel over Sly Creek Reservoir.

5 We also bring water out of Slate Creek, which is a
6 tributary of the North Yuba River, through a tunnel at Slate
7 Creek Diversion about 2.5 miles long, into Sly Creek Reservoir.
8 Those two diversions are stored in Sly Creek Reservoir. And we
9 have a powerhouse right at the toe of Sly Creek Dam, where power
10 is generated, our first powerhouse.

11 That water goes into Lost Creek where more water is
12 then released for ecological purposes but most of it is diverted
13 through a 2.5-mile tunnel, drops down a penstock into Woodleaf
14 Powerhouse. We divert water just above that for irrigation
15 purposes into what we call the Forbestown Ditch, but most of it
16 generates power at Woodleaf Powerhouse.

17 Woodleaf Powerhouse releases water into the Forbestown
18 Diversion where water is released down the river again for
19 ecological purposes, but most of it goes through another tunnel
20 3.5 miles long, drops into a penstock where power is generated
21 at Forbestown Powerhouse.

22 That water then comes to the Ponderosa reservoir.
23 Most of it is diverted down a canal which follows the south
24 boundary of Lake Oroville, a 6.1 mile canal and two siphons, and
25 into a 4.5-mile-long tunnel which takes the water to Miners

1 Ranch Reservoir.

2 We also release water for irrigation purposes, as well
3 as domestic purposes, to the domestic customers that the
4 District serves. But a good portion of that water is then
5 diverted through a 1.-mile tunnel, which goes under the Kelly
6 Ridge area, drops down to a penstock in the Kelly Ridge
7 Powerhouse, which is just a half-mile down from the toe of
8 Oroville Dam.

9 That's essentially the project. The four powerhouses
10 and the utilization of the South Fork, together with all its
11 diversions, tunnels, siphons, et cetera, comprising the project.

12 Just to give you a graphic overview. Many of you have
13 seen all of these. And I'll inset that same map in the lower
14 right-hand corner so that you can sort of now follow the project
15 down to the pictorially.

16 This is Little Grass Valley Reservoir. Our largest
17 reservoir at about 95,000-acre feet. The surface area is a
18 little over 1600. And here's where our primary recreational
19 facilities are. They have campground facilities at the Black
20 Rock area over here, together with boat-launching facilities.
21 But most of the camping facilities, boat-launching facilities
22 are on this peninsula area here. Just for orientation purposes,
23 the fork La Porte is back over there someplace.

24 As I mentioned, water comes down the South Fork and
25 gets diverted over into Sly Creek Reservoir. Sly Creek has

1 about two-thirds of the storage that Little Grass Valley has but
2 only has about a third of the surface area.

3 Both Little Grass Valley and Sly Creek Dams are
4 rock-filled earthen dams. And at the toe of Sly Creek Dam is
5 Sly Creek Powerhouse, the second of our two smaller powerhouses.
6 The water tails out of the powerhouse immediately into Lost
7 Creek Reservoir. It was actually built in 1924 as a part of the
8 domestic supply for what the District used to be called,
9 Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District.

10 Lost Creek Reservoir now serves primarily as a
11 afterbay for Sly Creek Reservoir and diverts water then into the
12 tunnel that takes it to Woodleaf Powerhouse.

13 Sly Creek Dam is a concrete arch dam, again built in
14 1924. There's two different views of what you would see today
15 if you went there, except for the snow. There are patches of
16 snow on the ground.

17 Woodleaf Powerhouse is our largest at 61 megawatts.
18 It brings water back into the South Fork of the Feather River.
19 And on down to Forbestown Powerhouse is about 40 megawatts. The
20 Ponderosa Reservoir is the afterbay to Forbestown Powerhouse,
21 another rock-filled earthen dam which is just at the upper end
22 of the Lake Oroville.

23 You can see that the high-water line of Lake Oroville,
24 if it was full, would be well up onto the face of Ponderosa Dam,
25 spillway there to the left.

1 When there is ample storage and there has been in a
2 good snow year, and we're generating at full capacity, we will
3 frequently be spilling water into Lake Oroville down that
4 spillway.

5 And that is the South Fork of Lake Oroville as water
6 is released from the Ponderosa into it. But we bring water
7 along the south perimeter of Lake Oroville through Miners Ranch
8 Canal. It's empty in this photo, but it shows you that this is
9 essentially a concrete-walled canal that brings water
10 essentially to Miners Ranch. It was built primarily for
11 bringing water for consumptive purposes to the customers of
12 South Feather Water and Power Agency.

13 At Miners Ranch Reservoir the water comes through the
14 tunnel somewhere right back over here. It comes into the
15 reservoir. This is the domestic water treatment plant at that
16 reservoir, not a part of the FERC project.

17 Most of the water, though, goes through this canal or
18 this channel here into a diversion structure and a tunnel which
19 takes the water under Kelly Ridge and dumps it into the
20 powerhouse at the toe of Lake Oroville as shown here.

21 I've got to let the graphics work. You can't talk
22 past them. And that's the project description.

23 MR. MUDRE: Thank you, Mike. If there is any
24 project-specific now may be a good time to ask them. Otherwise
25 we'll move on and take comments later on.

1 (No audible response.)

2 MR. MUDRE: Okay. Now what I'm going to do now is
3 briefly go through the issues that we identified in our Scoping
4 Document 1 for the South Feather Power Project. And then after
5 I'm done with that, we'll go through issues that we identified
6 in the Scoping Document for the two Transmission Line Projects.

7 So the first resource area that we looked at was
8 geology and soils. And what we determined was we need to look
9 at the effects of the project on sediment production and
10 streambed siltation due to mass wasting and other sources, also
11 look at the effects of project operation and maintenance on the
12 recruitment of large woody debris to the different stream
13 reaches.

14 With respect to water resources, we're going to look
15 at the effects of project operations on water temperature, and
16 look at the effects of project operations on dissolved oxygen,
17 and also look at the potential for contamination of water
18 resources due to project operations and maintenance.

19 The issues that are marked with asterisks on them are
20 issues that we think could be cumulatively affected with other
21 things that are going on in the watershed. And we'll cover
22 those in our cumulative-effects analysis.

23 With respect to aquatic resources, we're going to look
24 at the adequacy of the minimum-streamflow releases for the
25 project for enhancing aquatic habitat and resources; and look at

1 the effect of project operations and maintenance on
2 special-status aquatic species, things like different frogs and
3 types of fish that have been identified as a special-status
4 species.

5 And also look at the effects of project operations on
6 entrainment of endangered species into canals or tunnels,
7 penstocks; also look at effects of project operations on
8 downstream recruitment of aquatic species; look at project
9 operations and maintenance on aquatic resource habitat
10 fragmentation; look at the effects of project operations and
11 maintenance on availability of the ecologically-suitable
12 substrate for aquatic resources. Finally, look at the effects
13 of project operations on coldwater fish habitat.

14 With respect to terrestrial resources, we're going to
15 look at the effects of project operations on special-status
16 plants, also on noxious weeds, and nonnative plants.

17 We're going to look at the effects of project
18 operations and current land management practices on riparian
19 habitats, and look at the effects of project operations on
20 wildlife, including the mule and black-tailed deer habitat,
21 migration routes.

22 We're going to look into whether project operations
23 and environmental measures would affect bat-roosting sites,
24 habitat availability for the foothill yellow-legged frog, and
25 also consider project operations and environmental measures and

1 their effects on special-status birds, including the California
2 spotted owl and the northern goshawk.

3 With respect to threatened and endangered species,
4 species that are on this guide of the Federal Government as
5 being endangered or threatened, we're going to look at whether
6 and how the proposed project would affect the federally-listed
7 bald eagle, the federally-listed elderberry longhorn beetle, and
8 also the California red-legged frog.

9 With respect to recreation, we're going to look at the
10 adequacy of existing and proposed public-access facilities and
11 the effects of project operations on recreational opportunities
12 in the project area.

13 We're going to look at the ability of the existing
14 facilities, including accessible facilities to meet current and
15 future recreational demand.

16 And we're going to consider the effect of project
17 operations on quality and availability of flow-dependent river
18 recreation opportunities, including whitewater boating, angling,
19 and swimming.

20 Finally, with respect to recreation, we're going to
21 look at the consistency of the proposed action and alternatives
22 with the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management
23 Plan, their recreation opportunity spectrum classifications, and
24 the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment.

25 We put that in there for you, sir.

1 With respect to land use and aesthetic resources,
2 we're going to consider whether the project is consistent with
3 the Plumas National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan;
4 the Plumas, Butte, and Yuba County general plans, and other
5 pertinent plans and planning efforts; the effects of project
6 operation on wildfire risk and fire management. And we're also
7 going to consider whether access roads to developed or
8 recreation areas need to be improved.

9 A few more for land use. Effects of traffic
10 associated with recreational use on project-related roads.
11 We're going to consider whether specific measures are needed to
12 ensure that project features are compatible with the visual
13 setting and also consider the effects of project operations and
14 outside development pressures on reservoir and shoreline
15 development.

16 More land use and aesthetic resources. We're going to
17 look at effects of project operations, including maintenance
18 activities and transmission lines on aesthetic resources in the
19 project vicinity; the potential effects on law enforcement and
20 fire management demands in the project area due to construction
21 and maintenance of the recreational facilities.

22 And, again, we're going to look at the consistency of
23 the proposed action and alternatives with the Plumas National
24 Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the Sierra Nevada
25 Forest Plan Amendment.

1 And with respect to cultural resources, we're going to
2 look at the effects of continued project operations or any
3 proposed changes in operations of facilities on historic,
4 archeological, and traditional resources that may be eligible
5 for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

6 And, finally, we're going to look at the effects of
7 the different proposed mitigation and enhancement measures on
8 project economics.

9 And, again, comments for the Hydro Project should
10 include -- make sure you put the project number and sub docket
11 on your comments. The FERC number is 2088-068. Again, all this
12 information is contained on the handouts in the back.

13 Okay. And now we'll just speak about the two
14 Transmission Line Projects and go through the issues that we've
15 identified there. And then we'll turn the meeting over for
16 comments and any questions that people may have.

17 For the two Transmission Line Projects we've
18 identified some resource issues with respect to botanical and
19 wildlife resources, including effects of project operations on
20 special-status plants, noxious weeds, and nonnative plants; the
21 effects of project operations on special-status bats; and
22 whether the proposed project operations and environmental
23 measures would affect special-status amphibians and/or reptiles.

24 Also whether the proposed project operations and
25 environmental measures would affect special-status raptors,

1 including the spotted owl and the northern goshawk; and the
2 effects of project operations on mule deer habitat and migration
3 routes.

4 There are also threatened and endangered species
5 concerns with these transmission lines, including whether the
6 proposed project operations and measures would affect the bald
7 eagle and also the valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

8 Recreationally speaking, we're going to consider the
9 effects of the project action and alternatives on recreational
10 access to existing and future recreational activities within the
11 project area.

12 There are also some cultural resource concerns,
13 including the effects of project operations and measures on
14 archeological and historic sites of concern to Native Americans.

15 There are some land use and aesthetic resource
16 concerns with these transmission lines including the effects of
17 project operations on wildfire risk and fire management; the
18 effects of traffic associated with recreational use on
19 project-related roads; whether specific measures are needed to
20 ensure that the project features are compatible with the visual
21 setting; and whether the projects are consistent with the Plumas
22 National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and other
23 pertinent plans and planning efforts. We've already gone
24 through threatened and endangered species. That's a duplicate.

25 And those are the issues that we've identified for the

1 Transmission Line Projects.

2 Similarly, you need to indicate in which project it is
3 you're submitting comments on, if you do submit written
4 comments. And the information is on the handout. And that's it
5 for our end of the presentation.

6 And at this point we'll go ahead and request any
7 comments that people in the audience have. The one thing I ask
8 is that since we do have the court reporter here that before you
9 start speaking, state your name. And if it's a tough one to
10 spell, go ahead and spell it for them, so they make sure they
11 get it correctly in the project record. And speak slowly enough
12 so that they can make out what you're trying to say.

13 And we have I think -- Jeanne, did we have two people
14 that wanted to speak, or one that indicated?

15 MS. EDWARDS: Two people.

16 MR. MUDRE: Okay. And if you didn't mention it
17 before, but you changed your mind and want to talk, we'll ask
18 for you after the two people that did indicate that they want to
19 speak.

20 Who wants to go first? It looks like Rick Ramirez.

21 Take this microphone because that records, but this is
22 the one that goes to the PA. So... But you can stand over there
23 and they'll get both of them.

24 MR. RAMIREZ: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. MUDRE: Is that okay?

1 MR. RAMIREZ: Okay. Rick Ramirez of the California
2 Department of Water Resources. Ramirez is R-a-m-i-r-e-z.

3 I'm actually the Program Manager for the Oroville
4 Facility's Relicensing Program, that's for the Oroville project
5 referred to in some of Mike's slides where it's immediately
6 south of -- or southwest of the South Feather Water Project.

7 My question may not actually be project specific and
8 we'll submit, on behalf of the Department, specific comments,
9 written comments, by the due date.

10 But my question, I think, goes more to your analysis.
11 I didn't see anything in there about global warming or
12 greenhouse gas emissions. And I'm not quite sure what the FERC
13 approach is there. I know in our particular project in our FEIS
14 we did see some FERC staff analysis of global warming.

15 And I'm just curious whether that was just an omission
16 in your slides, or is that something that is going to be part of
17 the analysis.

18 MR. MUDRE: I'll go ahead and answer that.

19 And what I can say is that that's really why we're
20 here tonight is to hear things, if people think that that's
21 something that should be analyzed, to let us know that. And
22 then we'll consider that. And if it appears to be warranted,
23 that is something that we will analyze.

24 Was there anything else, Rick?

25 MR. RAMIREZ: No, that was it.

1 MR. MUDRE: Okay. I'm not sure which of you was going
2 to speak, or both of you.

3 MR. O'ROURKE: Hi. My name is Rich O'Rourke, and I
4 live in La Porte, right at the head of this project previously.
5 And this is Peggy Someroth. She lives down at Clipper Mills and
6 Stag Creek. We use both of them. I wish she was here to speak.

7 We've been reading that all this because we are
8 interested in the recreational end of it. And we've put in a
9 pontoon boat. And the history is very good for the Native
10 American and all the tribes that have migrated out of this
11 country -- I mean --

12 MR. MUDRE: I think you need to get a little closer to
13 the other mic.

14 THE REPORTER: I can't hear him.

15 (Aside comments regarding microphones off the record.)

16 MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. I was trying to look at
17 everybody.

18 Some of my questions or comments after reading a lot
19 of this, and your surveys in the volumes that you have, the four
20 or five volumes, they are for recreational resources.

21 Beings as I was raised there in La Porte, and I've
22 seen the lake. I actually worked on it back in the old days
23 when I was a little younger. But we would like to see some
24 boat-ramp enlargements.

25 And I see now where -- I'll put this all in comments

1 in writing later. Okay.

2 MR. MUDRE: Okay, if you like, or if you have specific
3 details that you can't, you know, more than you can present
4 tonight, but that would be fine.

5 MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. Yeah, the peninsula boat ramp,
6 our pontoon boat, and a lot of the people that live there and
7 that come there, it's not quite big enough for these pontoon
8 boats and the big trailers, we've noticed. A little enlargement
9 there.

10 Little Beaver, a person can get by over there. The
11 paving from the road where it ends now to the dam, like this
12 year, everybody is a little short of money, it's pot-holed up.
13 It's bad. You take your boats there your jar equipment. And
14 the motorhomes go over to Black Rock. People drive all the way
15 around the lake. And we have quite a few bicyclers and
16 what-have-you.

17 So hopefully in the future -- we've talked to our
18 supervisors. And then they say the Forest Service and now it's
19 South Power, which is OWID to me. But then maybe a new
20 subdivision is going in; everybody pitching in. But that's part
21 of it.

22 I went before the Fish and Game Commission about six
23 years ago to try and change some of the laws, the tributaries
24 coming into the lake to get them to be closed until Memorial Day
25 weekend.

1 Our lake is the only one that opens up around when
2 fishing season opens up. I'd like to see the fish come back
3 again. I can remember when I was a kid it was, it was great.
4 The spawners going up. Very few now. And we have fish planted
5 there in the lake, but they don't seem to respond or go up like
6 they did. There's so few of them anymore.

7 But these are a few of the things. I see now where to
8 go. I have a question.

9 How do we get the water rights from Slate Creek so
10 that it's pumped over to the Feather? Way back when, yeah,
11 that's what fills up Sly Creek, a big part of it now. Yeah.

12 And then another little note here is we were talking
13 of mule deer. This is basically black-tail. Okay. That's what
14 I see on the board. Yeah. I'll put this in writing later and
15 hand it in. Okay.

16 MR. MUDRE: And mail it in in accordance with the
17 instructions.

18 MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. Well, thank you.

19 MR. MUDRE: Great. Thank you very much.

20 Is there anyone else who would like to make any
21 comments to this point?

22 (No audible response.)

23 MR. MUDRE: I don't see anybody jumping up.

24 We are going to have another scoping meeting tomorrow
25 morning right here at ten o'clock. If you change your mind or

1 want to hear it all again, you're welcome to come by.

2 Anyone, any FERC staff have any comments or questions?

3 Cheryl Mulder?

4 MS. MULDER: Yes.

5 I'm Cheryl Mulder, Hydropower License Coordinator for
6 the Plumas National Forest. And I'd like to thank South Feather
7 Power and Water and PG&E for the tour that they have given us
8 for the last two days. They've been excellent, very
9 informative.

10 And thank you to all you people for coming out.

11 The Forest Service is digging through the copious
12 amount of information that we have and scoping issues, and we
13 will be submitting our comments in writing on time.

14 I just have a question, and I probably could have just
15 asked you this later, but the difference in timing between -- if
16 you're doing an EA versus an EIS, is there a difference in
17 timing for when comments are submitted, such as for EAs, or
18 whatever. I'm it's a different NE- -- it's kind of a different
19 NEPA-type of product. And I'm just wondering if the time line
20 changes with that.

21 MR. MUDRE: There are some differences in the required
22 lengths of comment periods under NEPA for EAs and EISs. We'll
23 try to keep all the parties apprised in our various notices as
24 to when different things are due.

25 At the present time we're envisioning that the

1 schedules for the EIS for the Hydro Projects and the EA for the
2 two Transmission Line Projects are going to be the same until
3 February or so. And that's when they'll start to diverge.

4 And, again, we'll keep everyone apprised of that. But
5 until, say, February when the Draft document comes out, they're
6 on the same schedule. But then they'll change because, again,
7 because of the differences in comment periods and also in the
8 depth of analysis, perhaps, in responding to different comments
9 and things.

10 I hope that answers your question.

11 Anyone else? Any other questions?

12 (No audible response.)

13 MR. MUDRE: And I also would like to also thank South
14 Feather Power and PG&E for their assistance in the tour, and
15 they did a great job.

16 Hearing nothing further, I'll say that we'll go ahead
17 and adjourn this meeting. And thanks again for coming out.

18 (The scoping meeting was adjourned at 8:05 o'clock p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

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

5

6 Name of Proceeding: Scoping of environmental issues for new
7 licenses for the Woodleaf-Kanaka
8 Transmission Line Project and the Sly
9 Creek Transmission Line Project

10

11 Docket Nos.: Project Numbers P-2281-011 and P-4851-005

12

13 Place: Oroville, California

14 Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2007

15 Time: 7:00 o'clock p.m.

16

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

21

22 Nancy Palmer, CERT 00121

23

Official Reporter

24

25