

1 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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5 PUBLIC MEETING

6 May 21, 2009

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10 BE IT REMEMBERED THAT, pursuant to the Washington Rules of
11 Civil Procedure, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
12 Public Meeting, was taken before Tia B. Reidt, #2798, a
13 Certified Shorthand Reporter, and a Notary Public for the
14 State of Washington, on May 21, 2009, commencing at the hour
15 of 4:09 p.m., the proceedings being reported at Tacoma Public
16 Utilities Building, 3628 South 35th Street, Tacoma,
17 Washington.

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1 APPEARANCES
2
3 Allan Creamer
4 Gina Krump
5 Nick Jayjack
6 Carolyn Templeton
7 Linda Gilbert
8 Debbie Young
9 (Open Public)
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1 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

2 PUBLIC MEETING

3 Thursday, May 21, 2009

4 4:09 p.m.

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6 DEBBIE YOUNG: Good afternoon. I'm Debbie Young
7 from Tacoma Power, and I'm here to open the public hearing
8 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission about the
9 Cushman Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement.

10 We have five people from the Federal Energy
11 Regulatory Commission with us today, and I'm going to let
12 them introduce themselves.

13 CAROLYN TEMPLETON: I'm Carolyn Templeton with
14 FERC.

15 NICK JAYJACK: My name is Nick Jayjack. I'm with
16 FERC. I'm here on behalf of our West Branch 1 supervisor,
17 Jennifer Hill.

18 LINDA GILBERT: I'm Linda Gilbert from the Office
19 of the General Counsel, our legal office at the Commission.

20 GINA KRUMP: I'm Gina Krump from FERC.

21 ALLAN CREAMER: My name is Allan Creamer. I am a
22 fisheries biologist. I'm also the project coordinator for
23 the Cushman project.

24 DEBBIE YOUNG: And before we invite people to come
25 up who have comments, I wanted to make a short summary of

1 some comments that we heard earlier this afternoon.

2 We had a technical conference with the FERC
3 staff and other settlement parties this morning, and there
4 were some members of the public that attended that meeting.
5 And in the interest of letting them leave rather than wait
6 until 4 p.m., they were given the opportunity to make their
7 comments, and there were two issues that were addressed.

8 George and Eileen Fisher from Save the Lakes
9 Coalition spoke to us about the reservoir level and their
10 interest in having the reservoir elevation up as high as
11 possible during the recreation season.

12 And then Mali and Alann Krivor, the current
13 owners of the Skokomish Farms, Inc., spoke to us about their
14 interest in the farm and their interest in having a bridge
15 built for them, as was contemplated in the 1998 license.

16 Do you -- Allan, do you want to add anything
17 to that summary?

18 ALLAN CREAMER: No. I think that was a very good
19 summary.

20 DEBBIE YOUNG: Thank you.

21 Well, then at this time I would like to
22 invite any members of the public who are here and would like
23 to make comments to members of the FERC commission to step
24 forward.

25 RICHARD NICHOLSON: Hello. My name's Richard

1 Nicholson, and we come from a long line there when the
2 property first came available in '67. We're second
3 generation. So our children and grandchildren have grown up
4 there. And we've been waiting a long time for a resolution
5 to this -- for this to come to a resolution.

6 I guess the biggest point I'd like to make is
7 probably the same thing the Fishers probably brought up, is
8 the fact that -- and I'm probably speaking for a lot of the
9 people that are up there because there's not many here, but
10 we all went to the local one up at the lake.

11 The fisheries is important because when the
12 people that -- like us that first went there, we could go
13 fishing, catch a couple fish, fry them up for breakfast. And
14 over the years, most got away from that. It turned out it
15 was a lake, and it was still a lot of fun in the summertime
16 when it was up. But everyone would like to see a good
17 fishery back up there.

18 And it sounds like, from what I've heard from
19 the people I spoke to, there is a plan to bring that back and
20 make it into a very nice recreational area. And it is a
21 beautiful part of not just the country but the world. The
22 Olympic National Park is the most diverse in the country, and
23 it's -- that's why we've raised our families in that area.

24 The other point is in the area that I live,
25 and I do live -- I'm fortunate enough to live on the lake.

1 There's a very large difference between 735 and 738. And
2 just to concur with the Fishers, you now, if they -- if
3 there's any way they could get it closer to 738, we don't
4 have to hike down the gravel to the lake, because it is a big
5 difference. On the dam, it's not. But in a lot of areas of
6 the lake, it is.

7 The parks usually have a flat sloping beach.
8 And if it's at 735, it's -- you know, it's not as good as
9 738. So I just wanted to interject that and let you know
10 from a personal point of view and for a long time, it's not
11 like we've been there for a couple years, it's a beautiful
12 area and we appreciate the fact that it is coming to a
13 consummation, a satisfactory consummation for all involved.
14 Thank you.

15 ALLAN CREAMER: Thank you very much.

16 Are there any other comments that folks would
17 like to make?

18 BARBARA TARABOCHIA: And I missed out because I
19 didn't hear what everyone else was saying. I got lost in the
20 building.

21 Hi. My name is Barbara Tarabochia, and I'm
22 relatively new to Mason County, having only lived at Lake
23 Cushman since 1995. Our town of Hoodsport is growing and is
24 dependent on the seasonal tourism activity to make it through
25 the off-season months.

1 As a lot and business owner, I'm pleased that
2 we are promised a minimum 735-foot lake level for Memorial
3 Day through Labor Day, but only as a lot owner am I happy to
4 learn that access to my lake will be reduced by about
5 70 percent for public use by not requiring that the day use
6 area and associated parking at Lake Cushman park remain open
7 for public use during that same time frame.

8 Fewer people means lighter traffic flow and
9 quieter residential enjoyment as long as the community parks
10 are staffed to prevent the day users who currently flock to
11 Lake Cushman park from trying to access the lake at the
12 division's community parks.

13 I am told that some of the displacement
14 campers from Lake Cushman park will eventually, in maybe two
15 or three years from now, be able to camp in additional sites
16 a few miles away from the lake at Big Creek Campground in the
17 Olympic National Forest.

18 With more and more people discovering the joy
19 of camping, I'm wondering why fewer camping options are being
20 made available. Under the current settlement agreement,
21 camping will not be required at Lake Cushman park while the
22 additional sites are being added at Big Creek. It's too bad
23 the agreement couldn't be amended to allow for this
24 transition. It might also allow the park's concessionaire an
25 opportunity to use more of the remaining three years of

1 permit to offset its equipment purchases already used to
2 maintain the park and also to give the Tribe more time to
3 consider its options without losing revenue momentum if it is
4 considering keeping part of the land open to camping.

5 Highway 119 isn't the best maintained road,
6 and that is the access to this camping area. If the day use
7 area, slash, parking at Lake Cushman park won't be
8 accessible, and right now I believe it's just the boat
9 trailer parking area that is accessible, during the Memorial
10 Day through Labor Day, I'm wondering if perhaps a trail
11 system could be added to Route 119 or possibly transfer the
12 highway to federal authority since it is mostly federal lands
13 now that are up there, or under federal control.

14 This way, the families that would be camping
15 only at Big Creek, they could walk the two-plus miles from
16 their campground to the Cushman launch and let their children
17 swim where the boat accesses the lake -- or excuse me, the
18 boats access the lake.

19 I understand there's to be a debris-retaining
20 device to be added, which looks like it might create kind of
21 a second lake or a closed-off area towards the north end of
22 the lake. I understand there's to be some sort a boating
23 access or throughway pass. I know that for years water
24 skiing enthusiasts have been asking for buoys to be able to
25 slalom between them, and maybe they can use this as part of

1 their obstacle course.

2 I hope there will be more ranger presence in
3 the Olympic National Park and the Olympic National Forest. A
4 woman reported to me just this morning that the bathrooms at
5 Staircase were vandalized last night, to include human waste
6 on the floor. The ranger hadn't arrived yet.

7 Someone else reported that a camper at the
8 Lilliwaup campground in the national park was up there with a
9 no bail felony warrant out for his arrest and he's planning
10 to camp there over the Memorial Day weekend. It's just
11 another day in paradise.

12 And as a business owner, I feel like we're
13 the collateral damage in all of this, the acceptable loss.
14 We're only looking at six to eight jobs that are impacted by
15 this, but it's our jobs. Our business at Camp Cushman and
16 recreation park is like a ship without a port. My husband
17 and I and the staff up there took a failing campground and
18 turned it into a safe, clean, maintained place where people
19 want to stay, as evidenced by our increased site occupancy.

20 It feels like the thanks we got for this was
21 basically an eviction notice. We would have started 2010's
22 reservations in November of this year, but it appears that
23 momentum will be lost.

24 In closing, it has been a pleasure over the
25 years to work with Kim and Sarah, Cindy, Kara, Ted, Bret and

1 Dennis. Thank you for listening.

2 ALLAN CREAMER: Thank you very much.

3 Are there any other folks here that wanted to
4 comment, provide any comments?

5 (No response.)

6 ALLAN CREAMER: Okay. Seeing none, we are going
7 to keep the meeting open for a while anyway and see if
8 anybody else does come in. But in the meantime, we will be
9 here and, you know, if anyone has any questions of us, feel
10 free to pull us aside.

11 (Pause in the proceedings.)

12 DEBBIE YOUNG: It's 4:30. And if there are any
13 additional members of the public who would like to make
14 comments, we'd like to invite them to come forward at this
15 time; otherwise we'll declare the meeting closed.

16 (No response.)

17 DEBBIE YOUNG: Thank you very much.

18 ALLAN CREAMER: Thank you for coming.

19 (Whereupon, the public meeting was concluded at
20 4:32 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I, Tia B. Reidt, do hereby certify that pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure, the witness named herein appeared before me at the time and place set forth in the caption herein; that at the said time and place, I reported in stenotype all testimony adduced and other oral proceedings had in the foregoing matter; and that the foregoing transcript pages constitute a full, true and correct record of such testimony adduced and oral proceeding had and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of May, 2009.

/Signed

Tia B. Reidt

June 3, 2010

Expiration Date