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APPEARANCES:

For the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

- DIANNE RODMAN
- NICK JAYJACK
- PATTI LEPPERT

For the Louis Berger Company:

- JIM HOLEMAN
- LUCY LITTLEJOHN
- JEAN POTVIN
- KEN HODGE

For Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan:

- DAN BOETTGER
- ERNIE BOLZ
- NICK CHRISTOPH
- GLENN HUBER
- DOUG ADAMS
- JEREMY PRATT

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APPEARANCES :

From the Public:

- GEORGE HANSON
- ARNIE MARCHAND
- LEE McFADYEN
- JERRY BARNES
- RICH BOWERS
- THERESA TERBASKET

1 MS. RODMAN: Hi, folks. I am sorry we
2 weren't here yesterday evening. I am Dianne Rodman,
3 one of the two project coordinators for the Enloe
4 Project. I keep, since Kim's not here, I keep saying,
5 "Oh, I'm the team lead." There is actually a second
6 one, Kim Nguyen. But she is doing the same process in
7 California today.

8 I'm from the Washington, D.C. Office of the
9 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

10 With me I've got Nick Jayjack, fishery
11 biologist, also from the Washington office, and Patti
12 Leppert, from the Washington office.

13 We also have staff from the Commission's
14 environmental contractor, Louis Berger Group. Their
15 team lead is Jim Holeman, who is the terrestrial
16 biologist. Ken Hodge in back, he's their engineer.
17 Lucy Littlejohn, over on the corner there, she's the
18 fishery biologist. And Jean Potvin, who is going to
19 be working on recreation, land use and esthetics.
20 They are from all over the country. Ken and Jean are
21 from New England. Jim is --

22 MR. HOLEMAN: San Francisco.

23 MS. RODMAN: -- from San Francisco.

24 And Lucy --

25 MS. LITTLEJOHN: Idaho.

1 MS. RODMAN: -- is from Idaho. Right.

2 So, today, the purpose of today's meeting
3 is to scope the environmental analysis for the Enloe
4 Hydro-Electric Project license application.

5 The purposes of scoping are, under NEPA and
6 my agency's recommendations, to evaluate the
7 environmental effects of licensing hydro-electric
8 projects, and we use this process to identify issues
9 and concerns.

10 Okay. Also as part of this process we
11 would like to ferret out any information that the
12 District has not yet provided in the application, the
13 agencies or others may have about the environmental
14 impacts of this proposed hydro-electric project.

15 That would include telling us about any
16 significant environmental issues, especially ones that
17 weren't in the scoping document, any studies in the
18 project area that we and the applicant had not known
19 about that would help us understand this project and
20 its effects, any information or data describing past
21 and present conditions of the project area, and any
22 resource plans and future proposals in the project
23 area.

24 And that last brings me to the Shanker's
25 Bend Project, which is not proposed but which is being

1 studied and would be located just about immediately
2 upstream of the Enloe Project.

3 My agency has issued a preliminary permit
4 for Shanker's Bend. What that means is that no other
5 entity other than the District can apply to our agency
6 to build a hydro-electric project at the Shanker's
7 Bend site for the three-year period of that permit.

8 Basically, it is protecting the site from
9 claim jumpers so that the district's money and efforts
10 spent in finding out that really is a viable site to
11 build a hydro project would not be wasted by someone
12 who comes in, slaps an application together and files
13 it with us first.

14 We are not going to be looking at the
15 Shanker's Bend Project in analyzing the Enloe Project
16 because from our point of view, there is no project.
17 There's only an idea that an engineer has that this
18 might be a very good spot to build one.

19 We issue hundreds of preliminary permits
20 for projects that never get built.

21 It is only until somebody files a Notice of
22 Intent to file an application, begins the application
23 process, that we actually take these ideas seriously.

24 So, I know that there have been a number of
25 requests on the record for this project, to look at

1 Shanker's Bend, in connection with Enloe, and we don't
2 want to be dogmatic, but we don't see that as a viable
3 course of action.

4 Okay. Comments. As you can see, we have
5 our court reporter, Mr. Bridges, over here. So,
6 anything that we say during the course of this meeting
7 is going to be put in the transcript for the meeting.

8 If, however, you're not prepared, your
9 ideas are not at a point where you can present them
10 effectively, you can file written comments. You would
11 mail those to the secretary, the secretary, Kimberly
12 Bose, of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or
13 you can electronically file them.

14 And the deadline for filing comments is
15 February 16th, which after we set that date, someone
16 looked at the calendar and said, "Oh, my God, that's
17 President's Day," which is a federal holiday. So,
18 actually the real due date is February 17th.

19 A warning about electronic filing.
20 Comments to be -- The due date is five o'clock in the
21 afternoon Eastern time. If you file them at, like,
22 5:01, the computer will immediately say, oh, sorry,
23 you filed on February 18th.

24 So, if you work with our agency, please
25 bear in mind that the filing dates are always set at

1 five o'clock on Eastern time.

2 Okay. And I would be glad to, if anybody
3 wants to discuss how to file comments, how to file
4 written comments with me afterwards, I would be glad
5 to give you more detail.

6 And if you have any problems in dealing
7 with my agency in this proceeding, you've got my phone
8 number and my e-mail address in the scoping document.
9 Please give me a call or send me an e-mail, I would be
10 glad to help you make your position known to the
11 agency. Okay?

12 All right. Your written comments. We
13 desperately need for you to say, to give the project
14 number, which is 12569. The dash 001 is a little less
15 important, but the 12569 is very important. Okay?
16 There's the address of the Secretary of the
17 Commission. And if you were filing by paper, you will
18 need to file an original and eight photocopies.

19 Okay. At this point I'd like to turn over
20 the meeting to the District, because this is their
21 project, and they know it best, so they will describe
22 it best. Okay?

23 MR. PRATT: Thank you, Dianne. I'm
24 Jeremy Pratt with ENTRIX. I'm the licensing manager
25 supporting the PUD on the license application. I

1 think I will stand over here where everybody except
2 Jean can see me. I know many of you have heard the
3 story, the project description before. I will try to
4 be as brief as I can. Unfortunately I am sort of like
5 the horse heading toward the barn, I have said this
6 spiel so many times, I just start running downhill
7 with it. So, we'll see.

8 As you know, the Enloe Project, as most of
9 you have visited either in previous site tours or
10 today, is about three-and-a-half miles up Similkameen
11 River here from Oroville.

12 And it's a 54-foot hydraulic height
13 concrete gravity arch overflow spill dam about 315
14 feet long.

15 And the proposal is to restore the
16 functionality of the original flashboards that were
17 part of the original project, at least the original
18 dam project, and adding about five feet of height to
19 the dam.

20 The flashboards originally were wooden that
21 fit in slots along the top of the dam. What we're
22 proposing now is a crest gate. I will have a picture
23 in a little bit of what a typical crest gate looks
24 like and talk about the operation at that time.

25 The reservoir is about two miles long.

1 With the crest gates adding additional head, it will
2 be another four-tenths, and it will send flat water
3 up, around the hairpin on Shanker's Bend, it would be
4 about 2.4 miles.

5 And it's a narrow in size canyon, a lot of
6 topographic shaving of the reservoir, about 200 feet
7 wide, average depth is about nine feet.

8 It is a reservoir that's been largely
9 filled by accumulated sediment over the years. It is
10 more than two million yards of sediment accumulated
11 behind the dam.

12 And because of that, the current storage
13 volume is about 550 acre-feet. That would be a little
14 less I think than shown in Scoping Document 1.
15 There's older numbers out there, and they have
16 actually been reduced by continuing sediment over the
17 years.

18 The powerhouse originally in 1905 was on
19 the east side of the river, the site we visited in the
20 site tour. It was a true run-of-river, no dam project
21 in those years, and then up into the early 1920s the
22 dam was built, changed hands several times, was
23 finally acquired by the PUD, and operated until 1958
24 when it was taken out of service because it was more
25 economic to buy power available with the new

1 transmission coming up the valley from Bonneville.

2 The District has since gone through
3 relicensing a couple of times, in the '80s and '90s,
4 and actually had, my understanding, is had licenses on
5 both of those proceedings, and then asked for those
6 licenses to be rescinded due to lack of consensus of
7 the fish passage requirements.

8 So, when this proceeding began again, the
9 District had spent some time with the Tribes, the
10 strong opposition to the original projects in Canada
11 and the Okanagan Nation Alliance in Canada, the
12 Similkameen Bands, strongly opposed to provision of
13 fish passage upstream over Enloe Falls where anadromy
14 had not occurred in the recorded history, and where
15 the Canadian Bands have a very strong cultural legend,
16 indicating that it would essentially be the end of
17 their world if anadromy occurred up there.

18 So, the District had met over a period
19 after the last license was rescinded with the Tribes
20 at the Colville Nations and the Okanagan Band, and
21 come to a consensus which was later supported by the
22 United States federal fisheries agencies, that fish
23 passage would not be appropriate above Enloe Falls,
24 and on that basis the District agreed with FERC, that
25 FERC would entertain another application, and that

1 application at the time, my understanding, is that the
2 direction was to refresh the previous license
3 application and the suggestion was to use the
4 traditional licensing process.

5 So, when this process was begun, the
6 request was made to FERC for permission to use the
7 traditional licensing process, and permission was
8 granted, and that's the process we are in now, which
9 is the reason why we're going through NEPA afterwards.
10 Instead of with the current processes, that all gets
11 done integrated up-front.

12 So, a little history on the background
13 there.

14 The project that is proposed to be restored
15 is run-of-river. It does not ramp the river up and
16 down. There are crest gates that go up and down, they
17 go up and down essentially under water, on the rising
18 and falling limbs of the spring hydrographs.

19 So that they meet the water as it comes
20 down and they drop as the water comes up, and they
21 essentially maintain a permanent higher head for the
22 project, which increases generation.

23 The storage does not provide any functional
24 use for flood control or for water storage or anything
25 of that sort.

1 down here is Enloe Dam.

2 And you will see the boundary as proposed
3 to FERC does push out here on the east side where the
4 project is proposed to be redeveloped. The original
5 project would be right down here at the bottom on what
6 we call the west side.

7 Now, there is some disagreement, depending
8 on who you talk to, on whether this is east or west or
9 north or south. But we call it the east side.

10 If we could go onto the next slide. This
11 is the actual concept design. So, up here,
12 Similkameen River is coming down from Shanker's Bend.
13 Down here is the proposed intake channel. It is
14 designed to be as high, as shallow and as wide as it
15 could be in order to minimize the disturbance of
16 sediments, as flow, as you see by these arrows, is
17 turned and taken into the project.

18 So, that is one of the design features to
19 reduce impacts in terms of immobilizing sediments and
20 what might be in those sediments.

21 The water goes down through twin penstocks
22 to vertical Kaplan turbines and out through this
23 tailrace which in part takes advantage of the original
24 1905 tailrace that was blasted in rock on that side
25 and you may have, I don't know if Dan or Nick pointed

1 that out in the field tour today.

2 Here is the dam itself, of course. And
3 this is the bypass reach that would be bypassed during
4 low flow periods. It's about 340 feet from the top
5 of the dam to the falls, and that's what would be
6 affected by the passing of flow through the project.
7 And down here is the powerhouse.

8 These are new roads that would be provided,
9 and up above is proposed recreation improvements,
10 which is what we will get to in a little bit.

11 This is the original existing penstock,
12 down to the existing powerhouse.

13 So, one of the things that the new proposal
14 takes advantage of is moving the project upstream.
15 This was about 800 to a thousand foot bypass reach, so
16 we much reduced that reach, and the tailrace is
17 oriented such that it circulates flow up to the base
18 of the falls. So, we minimize the affected reach of
19 river for the bypass.

20 This is the crest gate. This is not, you
21 know, the Enloe crest gate. It is a typical one. You
22 can see here is the crest gate as it stands up. And
23 this along, you see the cylinder along the back and
24 bottom, is an inflatable bladder, basically,
25 automatically inflates and deflates based upon a water

1 level sensor in the reservoir, so that it maintains
2 the reservoir level at the desired height.

3 And as I said, as the hydrograph goes up in
4 the spring and down in the fall, it goes up and down.
5 So it will maintain a permanently higher level for the
6 reservoir and it will permanently inundate about 11
7 acres that had not been inundated but it will not
8 exceed the ordinary high water mark as it's been over
9 the history of the Similkameen River Dam.

10 So, we were asked to go quickly through the
11 PM&E's. I won't try and read all of these. But just
12 in brief, they are organized by resource area, for
13 geology and soils. The primary PM&E's are erosion and
14 sediment management plans.

15 For water resources, we have some
16 monitoring for water temperatures. We've got the
17 location of the tailrace which I described before to
18 provide circulation.

19 Another design feature that was worked out
20 with the engineers at NMFS was to provide aeration in
21 the draft tubes, in the flow tubes, such that we would
22 maximize the oxygenation of the water and provide
23 highly oxygenated water, if we could, out of the
24 tailrace down there before the falls.

25 The Tribes and I believe WDFW feels is a

1 potential cool water refuge for anadromous fish that
2 do come up to the base of the falls, and minimize the
3 stress on those.

4 The dissolved gas would also be monitored,
5 and, let's see, we've already talked about the intake
6 design, would be a spill control plan for any fuel
7 spills or that type of spill.

8 Fisheries and aquatic resources. There
9 will be a blasting plan that will be implemented for
10 managing the blasting that would be necessary during
11 construction, in terms of the effects of blasting on
12 aquatic resources.

13 Upstream there will be boulder clusters, a
14 couple of boulder clusters placed up above to provide
15 structural diversity and improve habitat for species
16 such as mountain white fish.

17 Large woody debris will be allowed to pass
18 over the spillway, or if need be, if there's a jam,
19 will be assisted over the spillway on its way
20 downstream, to provide structural diversity and
21 habitat for fish downstream.

22 Another item that was worked out in
23 consultation with the fisheries group, NMFS and U.S.
24 Fish & Wildlife Service, WDFW was to modify the intake
25 trashrack so that the smaller fish can pass safely

1 through and with the Kaplan turbine design, the
2 survival is well over 90 percent.

3 And discourage the resident larger fish.
4 There is a resident rainbow trout fishery higher up
5 into Canada, for example, so that they don't fall over
6 the spillway and become lost to the upstream fishery.

7 There will be some study to follow up on
8 entrainment and explore the susceptibility to being
9 entrained and the mortality that is experienced by
10 fish.

11 Downstream, and again this was worked out
12 with NMFS engineers, there is a proposal to use
13 tailrace net barriers, kind of a wiggle in the water
14 and discourage fish from swimming into the tailrace,
15 and if they are in the tailrace, from swimming
16 upstream into the draft tubes during the low flow
17 periods, and we will have some video monitoring to
18 follow up on that.

19 Continuing on fisheries and aquatics. We
20 have already talked about locating the tailrace.
21 That's a PM&E for both water quality and fish.

22 The fisheries enhancement project that is
23 mentioned in the second bullet is spawning side
24 channels that will be located in consultation with the
25 river fisheries managers, WDFW and the Colville

1 Tribes, to provide spawning habitat for anadromous
2 fish, and then there will be an ongoing biological
3 review panel group with the fisheries agencies and
4 Tribes that I have mentioned to go forward on all of
5 that.

6 Terrestrial resources. There is a
7 mitigation and monitoring plan. I should mention that
8 some of these plans are the subject of additional
9 information requests from FERC and that in turn
10 entails a 30-day review period. So, some of these
11 have already been released with agencies and Tribes
12 and stakeholders for review, and some of them are just
13 coming out.

14 One of them being the MMP. That will be
15 out in the next couple of weeks for review. There
16 will be vegetation, revegetation and plantings at
17 various locations in the project design on the east
18 and west banks to mitigate for the temporary loss of
19 habitat that will be inundated.

20 There will be new habitat, new riparian
21 vegetation establishing itself around the fringe of
22 the reservoir over time, but in that interim period of
23 some plantings to offset that loss.

24 If you remember on the field tour where
25 that road dropped down and down again, we were down

1 into some low wet areas along the shoreline. The
2 proposal is to abandon the road in that area and move
3 it upslope and revegetate and restore that area for
4 riparian habitat, and there will be some plantings
5 along the corridor to mitigate the effects of
6 abandoned shoreline roads, all the way on east and
7 west sides there will be various locations where we
8 can take advantage of topography to restore or enhance
9 riparian habitat.

10 Moving on, grazing control measures. We
11 are actually in the midst of consultation with the
12 grazing lessees. BLM has three leases out there that
13 are within the proposed project boundary or adjacent
14 to it.

15 One of them is really not affected at all
16 by anything that the project would do. One of them
17 has a very minor interaction with the project in that
18 there's a small fencing of riparian habitat, and that
19 lessee has indicated that that's of no particular
20 importance to their operation.

21 One of them is on the east side where we
22 have the project proposed to be developed, and we have
23 fencing that would control the interactions between
24 recreationists and livestock, although we did have
25 some of the folks at the recreation meeting, telling

1 us that people did like to interact with livestock.

2 So maybe we will leave it the way it is.

3 Protect culturally sensitive areas, protect
4 new riparian plantings, and protect water quality. So
5 there is a fencing plan and what we are working now
6 with the lessee on that side, where and how to provide
7 water gaps so that their cattle can get appropriate
8 access to water.

9 Monitoring the restored areas and replant
10 as necessary. The MMP is to protect wetlands and
11 riparian vegetation during construction.

12 There will be an environmental training
13 program and monitors to ensure that during
14 construction we avoid and properly handle any resource
15 issues that might emerge.

16 There is a noxious weed management plan
17 that is an appendix to the license application and
18 some ongoing modifications in response to consultation
19 and FERC's AIR's.

20 The project's transmission line for the
21 purposes of the application consists of a single power
22 pole, and then we connect to the existing distribution
23 line. And that power pole will be appropriately
24 designed to avoid any impacts to bald eagles or other
25 golden eagles up there, as well.

1 And then there are some timing
2 considerations that are embodied in the construction
3 plan to avoid disturbing sensitive species.

4 The T&E species we have pretty much talked
5 about, the draft tube aeration and so forth.

6 The recreation and land use PM&E's have
7 been discussed through a series of consultation
8 meetings to develop a recreation management plan,
9 which is just now released for the 30-day review, as
10 of our meeting Tuesday with that group. And it
11 includes a host of PM&E's.

12 Again, abandoning the road, restoring
13 existing road and moving up to a new route, using the
14 OTID irrigation canal in part, some barricades and
15 fencing. I think I have already described that.

16 Public access will be allowed past the
17 security fence that protects the facility itself so
18 that as we did today on the field tour, people will
19 continue to be able to go on down below and access
20 those views of the falls and of the dam upstream. And
21 there will be viewpoints and interpretive signs on
22 that trail.

23 The District has transferred the trestle
24 bridge to the groups that are -- I guess it's to the
25 county, which is working with the groups.

1 MR. BOETTGER: It is actually the
2 right-of-way.

3 MR. PRATT: Thanks, Dan, to facilitate
4 the Oroville Night Hawk Trail.

5 There is an existing informal boat ramp
6 that has been actually developed by informal use, and
7 that would be replaced and improved. A number of
8 interpretive publications, maps, reader board on-site
9 and so forth. There will be cleanup, trash removal,
10 both major trash removal and ongoing trash inspection
11 and removal as necessary.

12 Parking area, a toilet will be installed.
13 Picnic banks, new primitive campsites with fire rings
14 and picnic tables.

15 And the recreation management plan itself
16 which has been developed in consultation with the
17 group that's included BLM and WDFW and Tribes. We've
18 had about eight or 10, 12 people come to it.

19 Similarly, the esthetic effects are subject
20 to a plan, and that will be out, it hasn't come out
21 only because a part of the esthetic plan is a
22 revegetation component, and the revegetation component
23 is part of the MMP. So, we wanted to finish the one,
24 and get it reviewed soon. It primarily addresses
25 things like colors and textures and materials, grading

1 and riparian slopes. Installing again some
2 interpretive panels coordinated with the recreation
3 plan.

4 The cultural PM&E's, and the entire
5 approach to the cultural resources has been through a
6 cultural resources working group that's been meeting
7 now for three years, it involves FERC, it involves
8 BLM, the underlying landowner, it involves the Tribes,
9 of course, SHPO.

10 And that group has carried through the 106
11 process and is currently finishing up the HPMP, the
12 Historic Properties Management Plan. They have worked
13 on the traditional culture property plan, so forth.
14 So, that is happening through that group.

15 There are, as a consequence, both of FERC's
16 questions and of the ongoing consultations, several
17 new PM&E's that are being considered to be proposed to
18 FERC and being modified based on discussion with
19 agencies and stakeholders.

20 And they include a PM&E that provides a
21 viewpoint down below the dam, about where we all
22 walked down to this morning, looking back upstream.
23 It will have an interpretive board.

24 Bats issue has been raised by BLM and WDFW.
25 There may be some sensitive bats using the tunnels

1 from the old irrigation canal, so we are looking at
2 that. We just this morning GPS'ed the locations of
3 those, looking at maybe screening, if they are
4 temporarily displaced during construction by noise.

5 And recreation. A number of the PM&E's are
6 proposed to be modified, based upon what we have heard
7 in that consultation process.

8 The plans I have pretty much gone through
9 already. That's the list of the plans. I don't think
10 there are any that I haven't mentioned already.

11 And then in addition to FERC's additional
12 information requests and these plans, we have also had
13 a process that occurred after the filing and closed in
14 late October where agencies and stakeholders were
15 invited to request additional studies.

16 So, as a result of that, the District is
17 currently undertaking an esthetic flow study which is
18 in review with the District, would be probably out in
19 February.

20 Several agencies and others requested that
21 we do recreation site key observation points,
22 simulations of what the project would look like on the
23 ground once it was in place. And we will be doing
24 those.

25 We're held up a little bit there because we

1 want to use background photos without the snow. So,
2 we are waiting for a melt-off to get appropriate
3 photos for that.

4 And then the recreation needs analysis that
5 was requested by the National Park Service, American
6 Rivers. And that is under way and probably will be
7 completed in late February or early March.

8 So, that is enough for me.

9 MS. RODMAN: Okay. The scope of
10 cumulative effects. At this time we have identified
11 no resources that could be cumulative effected by the
12 development of the proposed project.

13 Here at this point, I'm going to go into a
14 list, our preliminary list of the effects that we see
15 if the project were to be built, operated and
16 maintained, by resource area.

17 Okay. Effects of land disturbing
18 activities associated with the construction of the
19 proposed intake canal, penstocks, powerhouse and other
20 proposed project facilities.

21 The effects of project construction
22 activity on the State of Washington's turbidity
23 standard for the Similkameen River and what measures
24 could be implemented to avoid adverse effects.

25 The effects of construction on the

1 potential release of contaminants, such as fuel,
2 lubricants and other waste, into project waters, and
3 what measures could be implemented, again, to avoid
4 adverse effects.

5 And three, would be the effects of project
6 operation on temperature and dissolved oxygen
7 downstream of the dam. And, again, what measures
8 could be implemented to avoid those effects.

9 Okay. The fisheries and aquatic resources.
10 We have the potential project construction and
11 operation effects on state sensitive species, which
12 would be the Pacific lamprey, western ridged mussel,
13 western pearlshell mussel, western floater mussel, and
14 California floater mussel in the Similkameen River
15 below the dam.

16 Then we have the effects of project
17 construction on fish, such as the disruption of
18 downstream spawning and fish habitat through such
19 mechanisms as sedimentation, temperature changes,
20 changes in dissolved oxygen levels below the
21 Similkameen Falls and the Okanogan River.

22 Then three would be the effect of project
23 operation on pre-spawned mortality of summer Chinook
24 and sockeye salmon associated with lethal water
25 temperatures in the Similkameen and Okanogan Rivers.

1 Okay. Then effects of upstream migrating
2 fish, which could include potential for false
3 attraction and entrance into the powerhouse tailrace
4 and subsequent injury or mortality by turbine strikes.

5 Then the effects of retention of spawning
6 gravel and large woody debris in Enloe reservoir on
7 the Similkameen and Okanogan Rivers downstream of the
8 dam.

9 And the effect of project operation on
10 aquatic resources due to dewatering the Similkameen
11 River between the dam and the powerhouse tailrace
12 during nonspill periods.

13 For terrestrial resources, we have the two
14 major effects, which would be effects of project
15 construction operation and maintenance on wetland,
16 riparian and littoral habitats and associated wildlife
17 within the project boundary.

18 And the effect of the inundation of
19 approximately four-tenths of a mile of riverine and
20 riparian habitat upstream of the reservoir pool at
21 Shanker's Bend.

22 Other terrestrial effects would be the
23 effect of the establishment, spread and control of
24 noxious weeds and exotic plants, effects of removal
25 and disturbance of vegetation due to project

1 construction and maintenance.

2 Effects of disturbance from noise and other
3 construction activities on wildlife, which could
4 include waterfowl, aquatic furbearers and amphibians.

5 Effects of modified flows in the tailrace
6 on wildlife and vegetation.

7 Effects of new public access on wildlife
8 and vegetation.

9 And effects on project construction and
10 operation and maintenance on state wildlife and plant
11 species of concern within the project area.

12 So, you've got the state threatened bald
13 eagle, state endangered sage grouse, state endangered
14 Ute ladies'-tresses, which I believe is also a
15 federally listed species. Well, that was listed in
16 the following section. And the state sensitive Snake
17 River cryptantha.

18 Okay. Federal endangered species. We have a
19 potential for listed species and their habitats that
20 would include -- that could include threatened bull
21 trout, threatened Columbia River steelhead and the
22 threatened Ute ladies'-tresses.

23 Okay. Recreation and land use. Effects of
24 public access to public waters, which would include
25 trails to provide access to the river below the dam

1 for fishing, hiking and portaging of car-top boats.

2 And the ability of recreational facilities
3 and opportunities to meet current and future
4 recreational needs. If we do issue a license, of
5 course, it would be for decades, so we are looking at
6 the possibility of meeting future needs.

7 Effects of the project operation which
8 would include reservoir level fluctuations on
9 recreation resources, including but not limited to
10 shift in recreation use from boaters taking out
11 farther upstream at Miner's Flat, and closure of an
12 informal boat launch and dispersed campsite,
13 which I think Jeremy had already mentioned.

14 And then effects of the proposed project on
15 nearby recreational opportunities, which could include
16 the proposed Greater Columbia Water Trail and the
17 proposed Nighthawk Oroville Rail Trail.

18 Then effects of developing a river
19 crossing. Possibly restoring the historic foot bridge
20 near Similkameen Falls, which we saw the piers of this
21 morning, to provide public access across from the east
22 shore of the Similkameen and connect with the Pacific
23 Northwest trail on the opposite shore.

24 And effects of project construction and
25 operation on the three BLM grazing allotments.

1 Okay. Effects of possibly turning
2 abandoned road segments into trails for recreation
3 use.

4 Effects of project construction and
5 operation on fishery resources as it relates to the
6 Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission tribes and
7 other fishers and the fishing industry.

8 For esthetic resources, we came up with the
9 effects of project operation which would include flow
10 releases over the dam and the falls and project
11 construction on esthetic resources, including the
12 demolition of the historic -- the possible demolition
13 of the historic powerhouse on the west bank. Or the
14 effects of maintaining the powerhouse for at least
15 five years and to determine if another entity would be
16 interested in partnering with the District to maintain
17 and restore it.

18 And the last esthetic resources effect that
19 we have identified was the effect of the noise level
20 from the proposed powerhouse to visitors in the
21 project area.

22 Okay. Cultural resources. We have the
23 effects of project construction and operation on
24 historic and archaeological resources that are listed
25 for or considered eligible for inclusion on the

1 National Register of Historic Places.

2 And the effects of project construction and
3 operation on properties of traditional religious and
4 cultural importance to an Indian tribe.

5 And effects of project operation on
6 archaeological resources located along the reservoir
7 shoreline, as the surface elevation fluctuates and
8 perhaps causes erosion.

9 Okay. Developmental resources. That would
10 be the effects of the proposed project and
11 alternatives, including any recommended environmental
12 measures on project generation and economics,
13 otherwise known as how much is all of this stuff going
14 to cost.

15 Okay. The EA preparation schedule that we
16 have developed at this time. We have issued Scoping
17 Document 1, and we are in the middle of our last
18 scoping meeting.

19 The comments on this scoping document are
20 due in February.

21 If we get substantive comments, if things
22 are brought up that we had not considered in the
23 Scoping Document 1, we will revise it and issue a
24 Scoping Document 2, and the schedule for that would be
25 March.

1 We will have to have the comment period be
2 finished on February 17th, and then we do our revision
3 and issue it.

4 We hope to issue the ready for
5 environmental analysis notice in March 2009. In that
6 case, the deadline for filing comments, recommenda-
7 tions, and agency terms and conditions or fishery
8 prescriptions would be May 2009, and if everything is
9 on schedule, we would issue a Draft EA in November
10 2009.

11 That document would be available for
12 comment, and those comments would be due January 2010,
13 and we would, knock on Formica (indicating), issue a
14 Final EA in June 2010.

15 Okay. So, Ken, did any of our late --
16 Okay. We would like to open it up for comment. I
17 would like to start out, we have no elected public
18 officials, right? Ah. Did you want to speak?

19 MR. BOLZ: Ernie Bolz, Okanogan County
20 PUD. I spoke at the end last night, and I would
21 reserve that, if possible.

22 MS. RODMAN: All right. Great. We do
23 have a representative from Washington Department of
24 Fish and Wildlife who I believe wanted to speak.

25 MR. VERHEY: Patrick Verhey, Washington

1 State Department of Fish and Wildlife. I am out of
2 the Ephrata office.

3 I just wanted to draw some attention,
4 Jeremy mentioned earlier the potential for bats
5 occupying the irrigation tunnels. And I was also
6 interested in an additional study for effects of the
7 project on amphibians in the project area. That's
8 about all I have right now.

9 MS. RODMAN: Okay. For amphibians,
10 what species are you particularly concerned with?

11 MR. VERHEY: Well, there is a potential
12 that there are northern leopard frogs in the area,
13 although there was just a reconnaissance level
14 investigation done by ENTRIX earlier on amphibians,
15 and I would like to see an amphibian survey to
16 determine just what amphibians are in the area.

17 MS. RODMAN: Okay. For my own
18 curiosity, that would be a one-season effort?

19 MR. VERHEY: That was the proposal that
20 WDFW worked up on the request of Okanogan PUD, a one-
21 season survey developed at a cost of I believe it was
22 \$10,000 for WDFW to conduct the survey.

23 MS. RODMAN: Ah. Okay. All right.
24 So, the bats and the amphibians.

25 And was there anything else that your

1 agency is concerned with?

2 MR. VERHEY: Well, of course we are
3 concerned with entrainment of fish and we are
4 concerned with whitefish populations there, and also
5 concerned with the potential for the increased
6 recreation in the area because of the facilities that
7 are going to be built and the draw of people coming
8 down to look at Enloe Dam and enjoy the beautiful
9 scenery there, that there may be increased recreation
10 activity in the form of fishing, and, so, we're
11 interested in seeing something that can mitigate for
12 that future fishing pressure and also potentially
13 create some economic benefit to the area.

14 MS. RODMAN: Okay. That's it? Okay.
15 Does anybody have any more comments? Yes, sir?

16 MR. BUCKMILLER: I wouldn't come to a
17 meeting without saying something.

18 MS. RODMAN: Please identify yourself.

19 MR. BUCKMILLER: I am David A.
20 Buckmiller. I've lived here all my life. Really an
21 addicted steelheader, and I love it up there at the
22 powerhouse, a neat place.

23 And, so, I will make a couple comments with
24 a quick question for you.

25 One, I'm glad that you at least mentioned

1 here that the Shanker's Bend studies are going on.
2 There's an international committee, three from the
3 state and three from Canada, that are studying the
4 Similkameen deal, and two of them are friends of mine,
5 Tom Scott and Jerry Barnes. One heads the Whitestone
6 Irrigation and one heads the Oroville Tonasket.
7 That's why they're on that committee.

8 And, so, they give a report once in a while
9 to the Okanogan watershed meeting. I'm on the
10 watershed committee, supposed to be representing
11 sportsmen, and that's what I will try to do here, for
12 up there at the dam.

13 But anyway, and I don't want to state for
14 the two Indian bands, but the report comes from them
15 at our meeting, they aren't as opposed at this time as
16 they used to be, anyway. Don't know whether that's
17 fair or not assumption, but that's what I got from
18 their report. That they've been looking to places in
19 Canada. And some day I feel they'll probably build
20 some storage up there. They've got some sites they
21 are studying.

22 And, so, one of my questions is, is the dam
23 proposal and permit that the PUD is asking for, is it
24 taking into consideration that some day there could be
25 a lot more storage upstream for the flows?

1 And when they talk about Shanker's Dam,
2 they're studying a high dam, the Corps of Engineers
3 study this way back when, got shot down then, probably
4 shot down forever, because it would flood
5 international land, and a lot of friends of mine live
6 up there, too.

7 And then they're studying an intermediate,
8 and I don't know all about that.

9 But I've always had a dream myself of a low
10 dam at Shanker's Bend that wouldn't flood out the
11 little community of Nipox, but that would be high
12 enough to make a beautiful lake reservoir, and
13 hopefully hold three or four feet of the average six
14 foot of water that goes into Palmer Lake free every
15 year when the Similkameen gets high. At least that's
16 an average figure they throw out.

17 So, that's something I'm in favor of, and
18 even a low one, could enhance water supplies down
19 there.

20 I was going to make a comment on that
21 flash boarding, the first time I have heard about
22 that. I thought, how stupid. We'll have to get a
23 dentist to put a cement crown up there.

24 But if you go from here over to Tom Scott's
25 office, there's a picture of Enloe Dam back in I think

1 1950, and it's got flash boards that you mentioned
2 put in place.

3 One of the problems with the dam that's
4 there, there's no way of lowering or to let water out,
5 you know. Maybe something could be done. But it is
6 silted pretty bad behind.

7 But it just seems to me, if you were going
8 to go up, I know that balloon deal sounds pretty
9 feasible, and it might be. It just seems like if
10 you're going to do it, do it right, and put a cement
11 crown up there. A comment.

12 And a comment for beings we've got somebody
13 from the Ephrata office of the Washington Fish and
14 Wildlife, I'm kind of a friend of Bob Jateff, but I
15 make him bad at times.

16 MR. VERHEY: Bob is the District fish
17 biologist.

18 MR. BUCKMILLER: Yeah. And also
19 Christine Peterson is a biologist at Portland.

20 MR. VERHEY: National Marine Fisheries.

21 MR. BUCKMILLER: And something I've
22 fought for for years, for sportsmen, is why can't we
23 fish for salmon up at Enloe Dam, rub elbows with the
24 Colvilles that I like, and the cheaters that go up
25 there, why does us real good people have to not get up

1 there?

2 And last year they even kicked us off of
3 Enloe Dam for steelhead.

4 And it's the enforcement people that did
5 this, brought it about. They drive up that road, they
6 see that big old canyon where you can't see the river,
7 that's the golf course now, and they don't want to
8 have to patrol it.

9 And I got Senator Bob Mortens, he said,
10 "I'll personally call the highest enforcement officer
11 for the State of Washington and make your request
12 known."

13 And my request is, get one of those game
14 wardens to walk those railroad tracks with me sometime
15 and get acquainted with that river. And one of the
16 best times would be right in the peak of the Chinook
17 spawning.

18 Because they've got pictures in their mind
19 that these people down over the banks snag hooking
20 those salmon out of there.

21 That is not existent. The canyon doesn't
22 need patrolled. There isn't that much good fishing
23 down there.

24 The majority of the steelhead that are
25 caught above the trestle, where they cut us off last

1 year, are caught in the powerhouse hole and the second
2 hole below. A few in the third. The fourth is the
3 biggest hole.

4 And I'm a hiker and I like to dream of
5 getting away and finding a special spot where I could
6 go. It doesn't exist. I've caught one fish out of
7 that fourth hole. Probably never will walk that far
8 again. Because as they come in, they come up through
9 there.

10 So, I just mention, this year Bob Jateff
11 got on our side, he got us back up to the powerhouse.
12 But with a club over our head. If we -- if they -- if
13 there's one violator, is the impression I get, and
14 they catch him, they're going to close it down. Not
15 fair. But it's the world we live in. They just don't
16 like it.

17 It's the easiest place to enforce, the
18 easiest place to check fishermen and find out what's
19 going on, and with the new dam and the park and roads,
20 you know, should be good.

21 So, take some comments back and see, maybe
22 you've got enough influence to get somebody to get off
23 their dead one and walk the railroad tracks and
24 actually see for themselves what that river's like
25 down there. They might have floated over it a few

1 times or something.

2 And the good time would be, like I say,
3 right in the peak of Chinook salmon, because the
4 spawning grounds are all down below. Just a smidgen,
5 you know, up there.

6 So, back to that one question I asked, the
7 PUD, do they have built in it, can they enlarge, or
8 are they considering that some day there might be a
9 lot more storage upstream?

10 MS. RODMAN: I'll tell you what, Mr.
11 Buckmiller, why don't you talk with the PUD about that
12 after the meeting?

13 MR. BUCKMILLER: Okay. Okay.

14 MS. RODMAN: That has more to do with
15 their -- the possibility of Shanker's Bend Project
16 than with the Enloe Project. But they are available
17 for you to talk to them.

18 Is that it for you, Mr. Buckmiller?

19 MR. BUCKMILLER: Sure. I've mouthed
20 off long enough.

21 I'm also part of the trail crew, and we
22 hope to have the trail, and if they ever built, even a
23 low dam at Shanker's Bend, no problem, it's no problem
24 to raise the trail up there on the side-hill, above
25 the water, which goes without saying, if they flood

1 the railroad grade, we'll move it up a little higher,
2 if we ever get a right-of-way clear through.

3 MS. RODMAN: Okay. Does anybody else
4 have any points they would like to raise about aquatic
5 resources, recreation resources, anything like that?

6 MR. VERHEY: Patrick Verhey again with
7 State Fish and Wildlife.

8 I thought I would just go ahead and
9 mention, the fisheries investigations, the surveys
10 that were conducted there, showed very few rainbow
11 trout above the dam.

12 And historically we've heard anecdotal
13 information from anglers that there were rainbow trout
14 above the dam.

15 So, that's one of the things that we had
16 discussed in previous meetings with the Okanogan PUD,
17 to look into potentially doing a survey in the
18 wintertime.

19 As you saw today, the river is iced over
20 and that is problematic for sampling fish there.

21 But it's just one of those questions that
22 has Bob Jateff scratching his head as far as just not
23 seeing the rainbow trout in the river in those fishery
24 samplings.

25 So, the data collection efforts to look at

1 the fisheries were -- they weren't in as much detail
2 as we would have liked to have seen. We realize there
3 are limited resources and limited time available to
4 look into those sorts of things. But that information
5 could be improved.

6 MR. JAYJACK: This is Nick Jayjack
7 from FERC. I am wondering to what end, though.
8 Certainly, I know you are trying to build an
9 information base.

10 MR. VERHEY: Uh-huh.

11 MR. JAYJACK: But I am just wondering,
12 what is your thought? Is their concern with
13 inundation of their habitat up in the head waters, or
14 what is the concern, that is underlying getting that
15 type of information?

16 MR. VERHEY: Well, I think that it
17 stems from the FERC license being a number of decades
18 in granting it, and in the future it may be that the
19 climate conditions may improve, they may not improve,
20 but over that period of time the fisheries in the
21 area, the rainbow trout fishery may be something
22 that's sporadic and it comes back into being and that
23 there would be impacts to that fishery related to the
24 dam, related to potential entrainment, related to
25 increased recreational harvest.

1 MR. JAYJACK: Okay.

2 MS. RODMAN: Mr. Buckmiller?

3 MR. BUCKMILLER: Just a comment on what
4 he just said.

5 We have so much fishing around here, so, a
6 lot of times some of our waters just get neglected.
7 But Bob Jateff is planning on putting some triploids
8 in the river up above the dam this year. They've
9 never, as far as I know, ever done any kind of
10 stocking up above or anything.

11 So, this is just kind of a plus to me. And
12 there are, it's a place I like to fish once in a
13 while. There aren't a lot of native rainbows up
14 there. But there's some. Hooking them's one thing,
15 landing them is, they are like river trout, but there
16 are some just above the backwaters of the place I fish
17 occasionally, and have some luck. You can always
18 catch squatters.

19 MS. RODMAN: Yes, Ma'am.

20 MS. BRANAN: Eleanor Branan from the
21 Pacific Northwest Trail Association, and I would just
22 like to say the Oroville would vote for keeping the
23 old spillway.

24 MS. RODMAN: The old powerhouse?

25 MS. BRANAN: Yes. We like it. And I

1 think it's very -- it means a lot to our people in
2 town, and if you are on Main Street, you will see it
3 from there.

4 MS. RODMAN: Does anybody else have --

5 MR. BOWERS: Rich Bowers with the
6 Hydropower Reform Coalition.

7 Jeremy had talked about the consensus on
8 fish passage issues. But it's not a unanimous
9 consensus, I am just wondering if FERC sees any future
10 for going in that direction.

11 I notice it's not listed in the Scoping
12 Document 1. Just thinking, just a question about
13 where FERC sees this issue going in the future as far
14 as further discussion.

15 MS. RODMAN: Okay. You're correct,
16 there is not a 100 percent consensus on that issue.

17 Two, to a certain extent that is within the
18 effects of, you know, development of any proposed
19 project on fisheries. And it is on the record, and we
20 will have to analyze that as part of our study of this
21 proposal.

22 MR. BOWERS: Okay.

23 MR. JAYJACK: This is Nick Jayjack of
24 FERC. We didn't identify that as an issue. Is this
25 an issue you want to be included as part of our

1 environmental effects analysis?

2 MR. BOWERS: We requested that in our
3 comments several times.

4 MR. JAYJACK: So, that would be
5 something we could consider.

6 MR. BOWERS: Thanks for that. I
7 noticed it was kind of alluded, it could be alluded to
8 under SD1, but --

9 MR. BUCKMILLER: Is this issue you are
10 talking about, whether there were ever anadromous runs
11 of fish up over the falls at one time?

12 MS. RODMAN: Well, even I believe
13 beyond the question of whether fish did pass, whether
14 fish should pass, whether a fish ladder should be
15 installed at the dam and fish should move on past
16 Enloe Dam.

17 This is something that we had analyzed in
18 the '90s when the District filed the license
19 application, and as Mr. Bowers said, the question has
20 not completely gone away.

21 MR. BUCKMILLER: I worked for Wayne
22 Powell, who used to be a Senator, and I looked into it
23 when they investigated that.

24 You all saw the falls that were up there
25 this morning. They're not like the falls used to be.

1 The old pictures of it, the Indians called it Swammish
2 Falls, or the Rock Wall. It was, like, 30 foot high,
3 and it was well established in those studies made,
4 there never was a fish run up above there.

5 Now that falls is lower and Tom Scott's got
6 some videos of the big old king salmon trying to jump
7 the dam. But on given years, they could make it over
8 the falls. And I caught one steelhead one time that
9 made her way over.

10 And Arnold Fraser said all the years he was
11 head of the powerhouse there, and they did a lot of
12 fishing and watching, he said he saw one steelhead
13 make it over, made a big jump, got in a pocket that
14 could hold and shot on over.

15 So, it's been well documented, and there
16 never was a run up there.

17 And when they were trying for it, you know,
18 trying to make the PUD pay for building a fish ladder,
19 that's when this all really come to the front, and the
20 feedback from Canada was really strong. They did not
21 want our fish coming up into Canada.

22 I couldn't tell you whether they still feel
23 that way or not. I've got one friend that lives up
24 there, man, he sure wishes that they had steelhead,
25 and I don't blame him. But that's the sentiment I

1 got, that they still do not want the runs going up
2 there.

3 MS. RODMAN: Yes, sir.

4 MR. DENNIS: I am Robert Dennis from
5 Canada. We recommend that there is no fish ladder put
6 in.

7 MS. RODMAN: Okay. I'd like to remind
8 people that if you tonight, when you were having
9 dinner or something, it suddenly occurs to you, "Oh, I
10 have thought of this brilliant point I should have
11 made about this discussion," we do have a period for
12 written comments, February 17th, either electronically
13 filed on the website or paper copies.

14 Does anybody else have any comments or any
15 questions to us about the procedure?

16 MR. JAYJACK: Did you want to remind
17 people if they want to get on the mailing list?

18 MS. RODMAN: Oh. Yeah. If you want
19 to get on the Commission's mailing list, I will take
20 your names back to Washington. I have some people
21 from the site visit.

22 The mailing list will typically include our
23 public notices, which will be the very -- well, it
24 would be first of all Scoping Document 2, if we issue
25 one, the ready for environmental analysis notice,

1 which kicks off the period for recommendations,
2 comments and the agency terms and prescriptions --
3 terms and conditions and prescriptions. And then the
4 Draft Environmental Assessment which you also have a
5 comment period following that issuance. And the Final
6 Environmental Assessment. And then whatever order on
7 the Commission issues that describes the action that
8 we will take on the application.

9 So, if you would like to be added to the
10 mailing list, I have the start of one here, and please
11 give it to me and I will probably have you on the list
12 by the end of next week.

13 Also you can, I believe I said, you can
14 follow the progress of this application electronically
15 on the internet. If you go to our website,
16 www.ferc.gov, I believe the tab is called Documents
17 and Filings, our home page. If you click on that
18 you'll get a pull-down menu which has a number of
19 things. It has, and where I'm going is Esubscription.
20 If you sign up for that, and it's like creating a new
21 account on Amazon, basically, you give them the Docket
22 Number that you're interested in, for this one it
23 would be P as in project, P-12569. If you sign up, if
24 you Esubscribe for the docket, every piece of paper,
25 either mailed to us on this application or that we

1 send out, it will result in a little e-mail that you
2 get that has a hyperlink, you click on it, and there's
3 the document.

4 It's a very good way to make sure that
5 nothing happens on the project that you've missed.
6 Even if we send you a paper copy of the public notice,
7 that the application is ready for environmental
8 analysis, you might get it late, you would not have
9 the full comment period within which to respond. This
10 way the day that that notice is issued, you would have
11 your e-mail and you would know that the clock was
12 ticking.

13 That's where you would electronically file
14 copies on the project, if you wanted to do that,
15 rather than send us an original and eight copies of
16 paper filing.

17 Again, if our website stymies you, please
18 give me a call or send me an e-mail and I'll talk you
19 through it.

20 Does anybody else have any further
21 comments? Have you thought of anything?

22 MR. VERHEY: I have. Patrick Verhey,
23 Washington Fish and Wildlife.

24 I just wanted to express my appreciation to
25 Okanogan PUD and their staff, that they have been

1 really good to work with, they're good communicators,
2 they encourage communication and an open dialogue on
3 all of these issues. And it's been good working with
4 them, and I appreciate their hard work and look
5 forward to continuing to work with them.

6 MS. RODMAN: Great. Anybody else?
7 Going once. Going twice. Going three times. Okay.
8 I'm going to adjourn the meeting, then. Thank you
9 very much.

10

11

(3:10 p.m.)

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24

1 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
2) ss.
3 County of Benton)
4

5 I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify
6 that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the
7 caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified
8 Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public for Washington;
9 that at said time and place I reported in stenotype
10 all testimony adduced and proceedings had in the
11 foregoing matter; that thereafter my notes were
12 reduced to typewriting and that the foregoing
13 transcript consisting of 51 typewritten pages is a
14 true and correct transcript of all such testimony
15 adduced and proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

16 Witness my hand at Kennewick, Washington,
17 on this _____ day of January, 2009.

18
19
20 _____
21 William J. Bridges
22 CSR NO. 2421
23 Certified Shorthand Reporter
24 Notary Public for Washington
25 My commission expires: 11-1-11