

Public Meeting

Page 1

1 ROCKY MOUNTAIN PUMPED STORAGE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
2 FERC RELICENSING (P-2725)
3 JOINT MEETING AND VIRTUAL SITE TOUR

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Moderated by Craig Jones

8

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

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2:01 p.m.

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Remote Proceeding

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Roswell, GA 30075

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Reported by: Deidra Musick Nash

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A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

Craig Jones, Director of Environmental Policy with
Ogelthorpe Power (by videoconference)

Steven Layman, Aquatic Biologist Project Manager for
Kleinschmidt (by videoconference)

Tyler McCaslin, Environment Specialist with Ogelthorpe
Power (by videoconference)

Rick Hayes, Plant Manager for Ogelthorpe Power (by
videoconference)

Wei Zeng, Georgia EPD (by videoconference)

John Faustini, Fish and Wildlife (by videoconference)

Jackson Sibley, GDNR Fisheries Biologist (by
videoconference)

Kelly Kirven, Kleinschmidt (by videoconference)

Jim Hakala, GDNR (by videoconference)

Ben Murray, Rome-Floyd Chamber of Commerce (by
videoconference)

Heather Teilhet, Ogelthorpe Power (by videoconference)

Toni Presnell, Ogelthorpe Power (by videoconference)

Public Meeting

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C O N T E N T S

| | PAGE |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Mr. Craig Jones | 4, 31, 72 |
| Mr. Tyler McCaslin | 17 |
| Mr. Rick Hayes | 19, 29 |
| Mr. Steven Layman | 33, 44 |
| Ms. Kelly Kirven | 56, 67 |

Public Meeting

Page 4

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. JONES: So good afternoon,
3 everyone, and welcome to our Rocky Mountain
4 Relicensing meeting and virtual site tour. I'm Craig
5 Jones and I'm the Director of Environmental Policy
6 with Ogelthorpe Power and I'm going to be your host
7 and facilitator for today's meeting. I do want to say
8 up front that this meeting is being recorded and
9 transcribed for our -- for our records and for our
10 consultation record for FERC.

11 So Jeffrey, if you haven't already done
12 so, would you please start the recording now?

13 So today's joint meeting is being held
14 as part of the federal relicensing process of Rocky
15 Mountain. I know many of you are familiar with that
16 process, some of you are not, some of you are less
17 familiar, so we're going to -- to be able to provide
18 an overview for you today of what that -- what that
19 entails and then really get into the meat of the
20 meeting. The -- but what I do want, a couple of
21 housekeeping things that I do want to address up front
22 and then we'll get rolling into it is that first,
23 everyone as -- as I'm sure you're familiar now
24 is -- is muted and your cameras are turned off upon
25 joining the webcast and I'm going to ask everyone to

1 remain muted while you're not speaking.

2 That being said, because we are looking
3 forward to an interactive meeting today, please take
4 yourself off mute and turn on your camera, if you
5 like, at any time to ask questions or -- or make
6 comments. Because we do -- we definitely do want to
7 have an exchange of -- of information throughout this
8 meeting and -- and a good discussion. You can also
9 raise your hand by using the little, at the bottom of
10 your screen, the little hand signal down there. You
11 can click on that and raise a question and we're
12 having the -- will be monitoring it so we will -- the
13 question. And there will also be specific
14 opportunities where we'll pause the -- pause for
15 discussion during the course of the meeting in
16 particular during the -- the discussion of the
17 resource areas, but really if you've got questions
18 throughout the -- throughout the presentation and
19 meeting today, please do not hesitate to ask. And
20 finally, today's meetings slides and the video will be
21 posted to our relicensing website following the
22 meeting.

23 And Eric, if you haven't done so, would
24 you go ahead and just drop that link into the chat now
25 so that everybody has that?

1 And then Tyler, Steve, Kelly, did
2 I -- did I miss anything?

3 MR. LAYMAN: I don't think so. That's
4 good.

5 MR. JONES: All right. Thank you.

6 So I am going to take control of the
7 slides so that I can advance them. There we go. So
8 here's our agenda for today's meeting.

9 As part of the federal relicensing
10 process that -- that we'll be talking about in a few
11 moments, we are -- we're required to conduct
12 consultation meetings with agencies, tribes, and the
13 public about the project and the effect on the
14 environment. So we began that effort with the filing
15 of our Pre-Application Document which we'll be
16 discussing throughout today's meeting, of course, and
17 today we're continuing with an in-person meeting, sort
18 of, this is the best we can do for now and -- and a
19 virtual site tour. We do plan to -- to maybe have
20 a -- a real site tour at some point in the -- in the
21 near future and we look forward to the opportunity to
22 do that. But today's meeting is to really have an
23 active discussion for the Pre-Application Document.

24 And since interactions are challenging
25 in a virtual forum like this, what I'm going to do is

1 today. We'll then talk briefly about next steps and
2 provide an opportunity for public comment.

3 This meeting is scheduled to run from
4 two to four today, but we don't have a hard stop at
5 four since we want to make sure that we're able to
6 sufficiently address any -- any questions or comments
7 or recommendations for us that -- that come up during
8 the course of today's meeting related to our study
9 proposals. If -- if we have participants from the
10 public on or anyone else for that matter who would
11 like to make public comment but needs to drop off at a
12 specific time, please let us know now if you -- you
13 know that. That would be -- that would be great. Or
14 just drop a note in the chat and we'll pause the
15 meeting at a good time so that you can provide
16 comment.

17 If you prefer, because we are in this
18 virtual forum, you could even drop a public comment in
19 the chat and we'll make sure that that shows up in the
20 public comment section in the transcript. So if
21 that's easier for you and you prefer to do that, that
22 is going to work just fine. We'll talk -- we'll talk
23 a little bit more about this later, but there will
24 also be opportunities to provide written comments
25 after today's meeting. So again, more on that to

1 come.

2 All right. So as far as the diving
3 into and I just -- I guess what I'll do is I'll just
4 pause right there to see if -- if at this point in
5 the -- in the meeting anybody has any -- any questions
6 that we need to clarify or anything along those lines?
7 Great.

8 So first, and the reason that we are
9 here today is that Rocky Mountain is licensed by the
10 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC, more on
11 what that means in -- in a moment. But first, the
12 project license is -- basically includes the -- the
13 terms and conditions for -- for owning and operating
14 the project, including, among other things, how it
15 operates, any dam safety requirements, things like
16 recreation access, measures to protect, mitigate, or
17 enhance the environment, recreation and cultural
18 resources that -- that are affected by project
19 operations. So that's -- that's really what -- what a
20 license is and Rocky Mountain was originally licensed
21 for a term of 50 years to Georgia Power Company in
22 1977.

23 Ogelthorpe -- Ogelthorpe Power
24 subsequently acquired the majority share, about 75
25 percent of that project, from Georgia Power in 1988

Public Meeting

Public Meeting

1 that -- that that, the main point in that is that FERC
2 has jurisdiction over our relicensing process. And
3 including making any -- making decisions on a new
4 license order.

5 FERC can issue a new license for a
6 period from between 30 and 50 years, but current FERC
7 policy is to default to a term of 40 years for a new
8 license order and then make adjustments up or down
9 depending on the case-specific information. In
10 issuing a new license, FERC is required to give equal
11 consideration to power and non-power values. That
12 means, you know, FERC is not -- it's not necessarily a
13 balance, but it's -- but FERC has to take a hard look
14 through the NIPA process and then -- and then look
15 very carefully at both the power and non-power values
16 and -- and consider those equally and come up with a
17 decision on -- on a new license order and -- and
18 through that process, applicants are required to
19 develop information transparently, which is a part of
20 the reason why we're here today, by consulting
21 with -- with agencies and tribes and the public.

22 The relicensing process, it really
23 begins with the filing of -- of a Notice of Intent to
24

1 commission both the NOI and -- and the PAD on December
2 10, 2021, and as I've mentioned, the PAD includes all
3 that -- all that resource information that we're going
4 to be talking a lot about today. Our NOI also
5 included a request to use the traditional licensing
6 process and FERC granted the use of that on January
7 26th twenty -- on January 26th of this year.

8 I'm not going to address the other
9 re-licensing process options that were -- that were
10 out there, but I'm happy to answer any questions about
11 them now, or if you'd like to chat about later. In
12 the next slide, I'll talk a little bit more about a
13 high level what the -- what the traditional licensing
14 process looks like. So I'll just pause right there to
15 see if there are any -- any questions about any of the
16 project history that I've covered to this point or
17 the -- the high-level FERC relicensing process that
18 I've -- I've just -- just only touched on.

19 Okay. Moving on to the next slide,
20 then. There we go, okay, good.

21 So I'm not going to spend a lot of time
22 on -- on this slide either and the process, but I do
23 just want to give you a sense more for what it entails
24 over the next or the coming several years.

25 Relicensing is a -- it's a long-term process, several

1 years in the making because we do have to pull
2 together a lot of environmental information, technical
3 information associated with the license application,
4 so I do want to just highlight some things and where
5 we're currently at in the process. Generally
6 speaking, there are three stages of formal
7 consultation where we provide information and we hold
8 meetings like this to discuss that information and
9 then ask for -- for comments and have a dialogue
10 about -- about these issues.

11 As you can -- as you can see by the
12 bold text, we're currently in the first stage of
13 consultation and holding our joint meeting. As we've
14 been discussing, this stage is focused on identifying
15 information about the project and the effect in the
16 environment and especially gaps in the information
17 that will help inform the relicensing studies and
18 ultimately FERC's decision on -- on what to include in
19 a new license order. So really, all this is intended
20 to provide information that the FERC needs in order to
21 make licensing decision. And then following today's
22 joint meeting, there -- there will be a 60-day period
23 for filing written comments and Eric has dropped in
24 the information for how to do that in the chat. You
25 can either send a hard copy to FERC to the secretary

Public Meeting

1 of the commission, or you can go online and -- and
2 file online.

3 And then we also ask that when you do
4 that, that you go ahead and copy us and you can
5 copy -- you can send that directly to me, my address
6 is in the chat box, too. You can also just send an
7 e-mail with a -- with a PDF of the -- of the -- of any
8 comments that you -- that you provide. So Tyler's
9 going -- Tyler McCaslin is going to provide more
10 detail on -- on some of these specific dates that
11 we'll get into momentarily. So anyway, that's the
12 first stage of consultation. That's where we're at
13 today.

14 The second stage of consultation, we
15 will be conducting the studies that we are proposing
16 to do and -- and those studies will form the basis for
17 the environmental information that -- that will be
18 included in the draft license application. And then
19 we'll distribute the Draft License Application for
20 another round of reviewing comments and -- and there's
21 also a joint meeting associated with that to attempt
22 to resolve any disagreements to the extent that there
23

Public Meeting

1 license term looks like. That is just coincidentally
2 or just incidentally, I'll just mention that -- that
3 that is one of the reasons that FERC granted the use
4 of the traditional licensing process is because
5 with -- with this project, the -- the scope of the
6

1 consultation that are required by the regulations.
2 I'll be talking about some additional opportunities
3 to -- to informally engage in consultation that we
4 believe is an important part of the process and which
5 I'll touch on when we -- when we talk about the next
6 steps toward the -- toward the end of the meeting and
7 in this presentation.

8 So now Tyler, I'm going to turn this
9 over to you for -- for time-wise. But there -- there
10 they are and I just -- I also just want to just pause
11 there too to see if there are any questions
12 about -- about the re-licensing process that I
13 can -- that I can answer at this time.

14 Okay. Tyler, go ahead.

15 MR. MCCASLIN: Well, good afternoon,
16 everyone. My name is Tyler McCaslin and I am an
17 Environmental Specialist with Ogelthorpe Power. I've
18 been assisting these relicensing efforts throughout
19 the process.

20 We're going to cover our high-level
21 schedule and major project milestones. So as you all
22 know, we kicked off the relicensing process on
23 December 10th last year with our filing of the Notice
24 of Intent, Pre-Application Document, and request to
25 use the TLP with FERC. FERC issued their notice of

1 commencement and approval of our request to use the
2 TLP on January 26th. So with our joint meeting today,
3 there is a 60-day period for stakeholders to comment
4 on the proposed studies that you will be hearing about
5 later in the presentation. These studies will be
6 performed throughout this year over -- over a variety
7 of seasons depending on the resource area, and we're
8 anticipating completing these studies and compiling
9 all the study reports by fall of 2023. We're
10 expecting to have a Draft License Application around
11 February of 2024 and from there, there is a 90-day
12 period for stakeholder comments and the filing
13 deadline for the Final License Application with FERC
14 will be December 31, 2024, which is two years prior to
15 the license expiration date.

16 MR. JONES: And -- thanks, Tyler.

17 So now, as Rick gets control of
18 the -- the presentation, I'll just queue him up for an
19 overview of the project operations.

20 Rick, are you ready? If we advance
21 just a few slides. We'll get -- there we go. Back at
22 the start.

23 MR. HAYES: There you go, unmute me,
24 there we are. I've unmuted myself.

25 MR. JONES: Okay. Rick --

Public Meeting

Page 19

1 MR. HAYES: I was a little lost there
2 but that's -- I got it.

3 MR. JONES: Okay. Great.

4 MR. HAYES: I'm Rick Hayes -- my name
5 is Rick Hayes, I work for Ogelthorpe Power
6 Corporation. I am the Plant Manager at the Rocky
7 Mountain Pump Storage Hydroelectric Plant. I'm here
8 to kind of give you a kind of a project overview as to
9 what Rocky is all about and -- and what we do here.

10 So we have an install capacity of 904
11 megawatts. As Craig said, back in 2005 we did a -- a
12 license amendment to increase our capacity. We ended
13 up doing our ten-year overhauls which is part of our
14 plan to maintain Rocky Mountain. And at that time, we
15 replaced the water wheels, which we call the -- our
16 runners with more modern designed runners which gave
17 us the increase in performance power, pumping -- our
18 pumping flow and so forth and so on. So we took that
19 opportunity, finished those up in 2011 and have been
20 at that 904 megawatts plant -- plant capacity since.

21 Normal operation for a pump storage
22 plant, we pump nights and weekends, basically
23 generating the day, generate on weekends as needed.
24 We do daily load following to meet peak demand. We
25 have spinning and supplemental reserves as another one

1 of the benefits we provide to the system. I have a
2 slide here in a little while, or a couple slides here
3 in a little while, that kind of show you our low
4 profile.

5 To say we just pump at night and
6 generate during the day hasn't been typically exactly
7 how we've operated. We operate to maintain peak
8 efficiency at some of our other generating facilities
9 that we're partners with, nuclear and coal, so
10 that's -- that's kind of how it's been. We have, most
11 recently, seen us pump during the day to support solar
12 generation where we would have excess solar generation
13 they've turned to pumps at Rocky on, pumped water up
14 the hill. You'll find that there is no better battery
15 to store solar generation than a pump storage plant.
16 Clean, renewable, pump it up and then save it as water
17 stored at a higher elevation and then let it pass
18 through the turbines and generate electricity.

19 We have a minimum flow requirement.
20 Heath Creek flows into our property, enters into Aux
21 Pool 2 which most people may know as -- as Heath Lake.
22 Heath Lake then spills into our Lower Reservoir and
23 that Lower Reservoir is contained mainly down at our
24 Main Dam, and from our Main Dam, we have to -- we are
25 required 24/7, 365 days a year, to pass 1.2 cubic feet

Public Meeting

1 per second down Heath Creek. So Heath Creek sees

1 storage for recreation and for drought reserves. So
2 if we had to, we could, you know, take water from
3 either one of the Auxiliary Pools. You may know them
4 as Antioch Lake East and West and then Heath Lake. We
5 can take water from them and pass them into the Lower
6 Reservoir to make up water for evaporation.

7 In the 25-26 years that we've been
8 operating the plant, we have never had to do that. We
9 have managed our water in a manner that we have not
10 had to take any of that water from those two -- two
11 ponds to make up any kind of volume for generation.
12 It's -- those are accessible to the public. We have
13 camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, mountain
14 biking, boating, and fishing. And I will say that
15 I've heard many people say that it's one of the best
16 fishing areas in Georgia if not the Southeast if not
17 the country. We have quite a few large bass caught,
18 it's a very popular place in the area.

19 This gives you a profile of what the
20 water passage or the tunnel that runs from the Upper
21 Reservoir down to the Powerhouse looks like. It
22 starts off at a intake structure 140 feet wide by 25
23 feet tall. It runs down a vertical tunnel about 35
24 feet in diameter, makes a turn, comes down through the
25 mountain about a mile, and then it bifurcates, goes

1 down to Unit 1 and then that bifurcate -- the other
2 bifurcation bifurcates again and goes down to Units 2
3 and 3. We have three units here at Rocky.

4 This is a kind of a 3D rendering of a
5 typical pump turbine. You can see the draft tubes in
6 red. As you come up, you see the turbine -- pump
7 turbine itself. And up through the motor generator at
8 the top.

9 All right. So we talked about, you
10 know, how we generate and how we pump. If you look at
11 this, this is a typical August month. Unit operation
12 red is pump, green is generate. As you can see, we're
13 generating at night when demand is low. We are then
14 turning it around in the morning after that and we're
15 starting to pick up load and generate mode, hitting
16 the peak about five o'clock. What happens we start to
17 see a lot more air conditioning load, industrial loads
18 pick up and so forth, and then you can see it that it
19 tails off towards the end around eleven -- ten,
20 eleven, twelve o'clock at night and then we start the
21 cycle again, pump -- back to pumping to recharge the
22 reservoir, Upper Reservoir.

23 Here you see a December and as you can
24 see, there are times in December where we generate
25 at -- or we pump at night, we hit that morning peak,

Public Meeting

1 start to see people get up, get ready for work, go to
2 work, so forth and so on, but we don't have that air
3 conditioning running in the middle of the day and so
4 in order to keep, as I said, there are nuclear and
5 fossil plants at peak efficiency, they'll take us and
6 pump that water back up. Also, recharging up the
7 reservoir to make it ready for any peak demands that
8 we might see in the afternoon. You can see about five

1 MR. JONES: Great. Thanks, Rick. And
2 so as -- as Tyler is queuing up the -- our virtual
3 site tour, I just want to make another plug and
4 another announcement on that that we are going to send
5 out a notice to our distribution list and for those of
6 you who are -- are joining us today for the -- for the
7 first time and haven't been on our distribution list,
8 we're also going to include you on that invitation as
9 well so that we can -- so that we can do a -- a real,
10 on the ground tour in the -- in the near future. So
11 be on the lookout for that.

12 Tyler, are you -- are you ready?
13 Great.

14 (Video played.)

15 MR. JONES: And then are we
16 going -- Tyler, are we going back to Rick to wrap up?
17 Just while we're -- while we're transitioning slides,
18 I do want to mention also that if anybody had
19 any -- any audio or video trouble seeing that video,
20 we are going to have it posted, like I mentioned
21 earlier, on our website so you'll be able to see the
22 full video, and I do just want to give a shoutout to
23 our corporate communications team we've got.
24 That's -- that was well done.

25 MR. MCCASLIN: Well, we do have three

1 questions in chat so --

2 MR. JONES: Okay.

3 MR. MCCASLIN: -- I think they were
4 mostly addressed to Rick. So if you'd like to unmute,
5 Rick, would you like me to read out the questions
6 aloud?

7 MR. HAYES: Yeah, that'd be, that'd be
8 great, Tyler.

9 MR. MCCASLIN: All right. So from Wei
10 Zeng, Georgia EPD, the first question is: What is the
11 drainage area draining into the lower pool? And the
12 second question is: Has solar energy generation
13 changed the pattern with which you generate and pump?

14 MR. HAYES: So -- so the first one,
15 I -- I really don't have the exact answer for the
16 drainage area into -- into the Lower Reservoir or the
17 Project, so I'll have to get back to you on that as
18 far as exactly what it is. As far as the solar
19 question, yes, we have seen some -- some impact from
20 solar generation whereas they've taken -- when the sun
21 is shining, we've been pumping. So we have seen some
22 of that solar capacity come this way so that we
23 can -- so that we can store that solar energy in the
24 form of the water to higher or upper elevations and
25 then use it later in the day. So yes, we have seen

Public Meeting

1 some impact from the increased solar capacity on
2 system.

3 MR. MCCASLIN: All right. Next
4 question from John Faustini with Fish and Wildlife:
5 What are the primary sources of power used for pumping
6 and how do these vary seasonally?

7 MR. HAYES: The -- the primary sources
8 for pumping, once again, we are seeing some -- some
9 impact from solar generation, but our primary sources
10 for generating are -- are nuclear and -- and fossil.
11 So that's -- that's where we get most of our pumping
12 power from is our nuclear and fossil co-owned plants
13 and that's -- that's, you know, I'd say by being able
14 to pump, that keeps them up at their best efficiency
15 point generation, it doesn't have them throttling back
1 are seeing some -- some

Public Meeting

1 you'll see more pumping during the day to store that
2 solar capacity as more of that comes on and -- and
3 more generation at night when the sun isn't shining.
4 So that's -- that's Rick's opinion as to what he
5 thinks is going to happen over the course of -- as
6

1 watershed issues and the -- that the larger -- the
2 larger context of the area when he gets into his
3 presentation. So, okay, go ahead and wrap up Rick and
4 then we'll -- we'll --

5 MR. HAYES: Okay. All right. I guess
6 I just -- the project, okay, take control. Got it,
7 okay.

8 So just more of the project overview.
9 Our -- our property is -- is about 5,000 acres within
10 our FERC project boundary. 3700 of that acreage is
11 available to the public for recreation. We have a
12 visitor center, we have three boat launches, two on
13 Antioch Lake which -- one on East and one on West and
14 one out of Heath Lake. We have a beach for swimming
15 on Antioch Lake West. It's right there with our
16 campgrounds.

17 We have a very nice campground there
18 with -- with a hookup, our electrical and water
19 hookups there. Some tent sites. You can canoe,
20 boating, or fishing is allowed. Idle speed only is
21 our -- is our rule. Picnic areas.

22 We do allow hunting in season, archery
23 mainly on most of that, but we do have some firearm
24 hunting for water fowl in season and fishing is
25 allowed on both -- both of the Auxiliary Pools or

March 16, 2022

1 thing to do. Okay. So yeah, you can go ahead and go
2 to the next slide, too, now.

3 So on the -- so as we talked
4 about -- getting into it, we talked about the
5 Pre-Application Document, the contents of that, the
6 natural resource areas and our proposed studies. I
7 just want to just -- just foreshadow some of that
8 where -- where that PAD we're about to talk about, it
9 includes, you know, information about our current
10 proposed operations and that's what we filed in
11 December. And then -- and then also, it has all the
12 existing information that we can pull together or all
13 the existing information really that was out there on
14 the area and the natural resources and those that are
15 potentially affected by our operations. And really,
16 the intent of doing that is to identify any of the
17 information needs really focused on identifying any
18 gaps, not necessarily recreating existing information,
19 but identifying any gaps in information and then
20 that -- that leads into what we proposed for studies.

21 And as I mentioned earlier, there is a
22 substantial amount of existing information and -- and
23 that's large part thanks to the work that DNR -- our
24 partnership with DNR that we've -- we've had going on
25 down there at -- at the project. And then -- and then

1 for as far as -- and then if there are additional
2 study requests in addition to what we propose, there
3 is a process for doing that.

4 And Tyler, if you can go to the next
5 slide and I'll talk about those.

6 The intent of that is really to -- to
7 fill in for any gaps that are in the -- any
8 information in any gaps that -- that may -- that may
9 be there from -- from your review of our agency and
10 public review of our studies. When you do submit if
11 you do submit study requests, there are seven
12 criteria. I just want to throw these up here and I'm
13 not going to talk about these in great detail. For
14 those of you who -- agencies who have done this
15 before, you're familiar with -- with the seven
16 criteria and -- and really, the -- the criteria is
17 really intended to get at connecting the -- the
18 objectives of the study to management goals and -- and
19 if it's a -- if it's a request from the public, then
20 connecting the goals and objectives to the -- any
21 public interest considerations, really to get at,
22 again, any -- if there are any gaps in the information
23 that still need to be filled.

24 And then a critical piece of this is a
25 nexus to the project operations so -- so that the

Public Meeting

1 study -- the relicensing studies are connected
2 logically to the -- to the project. And then -- and
3 then providing the detailed methodology, cost
4 information, timeline that it would take to do the
5 study and it's really -- it is a pretty involved
6 process so -- but these are the -- the criteria that
7 FERC has and I will -- and I'll just pause right there
8 for questions. And if there aren't any, we'll move
9 onto Steve Layman and get into the -- really get into
10 what the natural resource areas of the project.

11 MR. LAYMAN: Okay, great. Thanks,
12 Craig. Okay.

13 Yeah, good afternoon. I'm Steve
14 Layman. I'm an Aquatic Biologist and Project Manager

15

Public Meeting

1 recreation resources and cultural resources. But
2 before we get going, let me begin with some additional
3 orientation and let me be sure that I've got control.
4 There we go. And -- and I'll repeat some things, but
5 it's such an unusual project configuration, I think
6 it's going to be helpful to -- to repeat and show you
7 locations of various water bodies and such.

8 But the Rocky Mountain Project is
9 located in Floyd County about 10 miles northwest of
10 Rome and it's in the Ridge and Valley physiographic
11 province of Northwest Georgia. It's located in the
12 Coosa River basin, specifically the headwaters of
13 Heath Creek and Lavender Creek, which are tributaries
14 to Armuchee Creek. Armuchee Creek flows into the
15 Oostanaula River. The Oostanaula River flows south
16 into Rome and it joins the Etowah River to form the
17 Coosa River. So from Rome, the Coosa River continues
18 west into Alabama at Lake Weiss which is just outside
19 the view of this particular map.

20 This map shows the location of the
21 project in the larger Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River
22 basin, or the ACT River Basin as it's known. The
23 project's the red star and the ACT Basin is shown in
24

1 you can see the Coosa River begins in Northwest
2 Georgia, flows down through Central Alabama and joins
3 the Tallapoosa River near Montgomery, and that forms
4 the Alabama River which flows down toward Mobile. The
5 Coosa River comprises about 45 percent of the ACT
6 River Basin.

7 The Oostanaula River which is located
8 in Northwest Georgia comprises about 21 percent of the
9 Coosa River, and here I think we have an answer for
10 Wei about the drainage area at the project. At Heath
11 Creek, just downstream of the project dam at the USGS
12 Gauge has a drainage area of 16.6 square miles, and
13 that's about 0.8 percent of the watershed area of the
14 Oostanaula River. Also downstream of the project in
15 Alabama on the Coosa and Alabama Rivers, there are
16 nine mainstem -- nine mainstem dams.

17 The Rocky Mountain Project encompasses
18 5,000 acres of land and water. The project boundary
19 extends downstream about three-tenths of a mile on
20 Heath Creek and you can see the red dot on the upper
21 right portion at the downstream end of the project
22 boundary and that's the USGS Stream Gauge which
23 monitors discharge from the project. It's used to
24 monitor discharge from the project.

25 The Lower Reservoir and the Auxiliary

Public Meeting

1 Pools are located on Heath Creek and its small
2 tributaries on the north and west sides of Rock
3 Mountain. And the Upper Reservoir is located on top
4 of Rock Mountain on the drainage divide between Heath
5 Creek and Rock Mountain Creek which drains east
6 towards Lavender Creek.

7 Now, let's take a little closer look at
8 the water resources at the project, and again, let's
9 look at an image of the area, this time a Google Earth
10 aerial photograph. And what becomes readily apparent
11 from -- from this image is -- is how the land use
12 around the project is dominated by forests. Some
13 agricultural lands along the north and northwest side
14 of the project. And then the recreation areas around
15 the Auxiliary Pools and the project itself.

16 Auxiliary Pool 1 as -- as Rick
17 referenced, is referred to as Antioch Lake. You can
18 see that on the upper portion of this map. Antioch
19 Lake East and Antioch Lake West. Georgia DNR ma Tf Rls1089ent

Public Meeting

1 east-northeast towards Little Armuchee Creek for about
2 5 miles and then you can see Rock Mountain Creek in
3 the center. It originates along the base of Rock
4 Mountain and it flows east towards Lavender Creek.

5 Georgia's water quality standards have
6 been established to protect the beneficial uses of
7 waterways and this slide lists -- lists the beneficial
8 uses of the project waters. We'll start with the
9 Lower Reservoir and the Upper Reservoir. Their
10 designated use is for fishing, but as Rick pointed
11 out, they're not available for public use but for
12 water quality purposes. They -- they're held to the
13 fishing water quality standard.

14 Public fishing opportunities are
15 provided by Antioch Lake and Heath Lake and they are
16 classified for recreation including swimming, boating,
17

Public Meeting

Public Meeting

1 quality monitoring for five years after project
2 operations began, so this monitoring was conducted
3 at -- at these seven stations shown with the large
4 blue dots in 1996 to 2002. And the table indicates
5 the types of measurements that were done at each
6 station and -- and in what years so the field
7 measurements column includes in situ or measurements
8

1 Other sources of existing water quality
2 information summarized in the PAD include Georgia DNR
3 monitoring data. Two -- two data sets in particular.
4 They're vertical profile measurements from the
5 Auxiliary Pools that have been collected in many years
6 between 2003 and 2018 and these are vertical profile
7 measurements of water temperature and dissolved oxygen
8 in every foot of depth throughout the water column.
9 The two plots on the right are just examples from the
10 many that are shown in the PAD just to give you an
11 idea of the quality of data that are available. So
12 dissolved oxygen's plotted on the left side of those
13 figures and temperature on the right side of those
14 figures for about a six -- six-month period from April
15 to October.

16 Another source of available water
17 quality data for Heath Creek downstream of the project
18 that were collected by Georgia EPD in 2001 and 2012
19 and those are available online on the GOMAS Water
20 Quality Sampling Network that the Georgia EPD
21 maintains. They assessed 14 water quality parameters
22 in the laboratory, and those results are also
23 summarized in the PAD. And those data are very
24 consistent with Ogelthorpe's findings for -- for Heath
25 Creek, which generally indicate overall good water

Public Meeting

1 quality with the exception of fecal coliform.

2 As Rick mentioned, Article 34 of the
3 license requires the project to release a continuous
4 minimum flow of 1.2 cubic feet per second to Heath
5 Creek. Also part of that license article, Ogelthorpe
6 Power conducted a field study of the minimum flow in
7 1996, so they examined the effects of four different
8 release scenarios ranging from 0.6 cfs to 8.3 cfs and
9 part of that study is summarized in the PAD and they
10 measured physical habitat with those various flows,
11 they sampled the fishery, they continuously monitored
12 dissolved oxygen and water temperature, and they
13 compared those data with Lavender Creek which was used
14 as a reference site. The study found that the 1.2 cfs
15 release maintained DO levels, that's dissolved oxygen,
16 about 5.5 milligrams per liter, and they were similar
17 to the levels measured in Lavender Creek. The minimum
18 instantaneous requirements for dissolved oxygen in
19 Heath Creek is 4 milligrams per liter, for comparison,
20 and a daily average of 5. So the study concluded that
21

Public Meeting

1 Reservoir, so they remain well mixed so that Station

2

1 see if anybody has any questions or comments about
2 water resources or the proposed water quality
3 assessment. You'll also have opportunities to
4 comment, you know, after we're finished this overall
5 presentation. And I can't see the chat so if -- let
6 me know if any questions come up.

7 MR. MCCASLIN: Nothing in chat right
8 now, Steve.

9 MR. LAYMAN: All right. Well, let me
10 move on and you'll have plenty of opportunity if -- if
11 something comes up. But let me move on to fish and
12 aquatic resources.

13 And Antioch and Heath Lake, which
14 hopefully you're getting familiar now with those as
15 the Auxiliary Pools, they're managed by the Georgia
16 Department of Natural Resources as part of the Rocky
17 Mountain PFA. Together, those lakes total about 600
18 acres and Georgia DNR intensively manage
19 these -- these lakes to provide quality public fishing
20 opportunities and they conduct annual electrofishing
21 and gill netting surveys of the lakes to monitor the
22 populations. The PAD summarizes what's a substantial
23 amount of existing information and data for these
24 lakes that comes from -- from their annual reports
25 that date back to the early 2000s. As Rick mentioned,

1 to evaluate the fish community health and they used
2 Georgia EPD's fish community biomonitoring protocols
3 or standard operating procedures and that -- that
4 includes conducting backpack electrofishing to survey
5 the fish community. They did their sampling about 2.5
6 miles downstream of the Main Dam at the big -- no, not
7 Big Texas Valley, but the Texas Valley Road crossing.
8 It's one of the few road crossings over that reach.

9 They applied the Index of Biotic
10 Integrity, or IBI, which is a -- a multi-metric
11 approach for -- for comparing fish community
12 attributes with the least disturbed reference
13 conditions for the ecoregion. So as shown in this
14 figure on the right, they found the -- that the IBI
15 yielded scores indicating good overall biotic
16 integrity based on the fish community in both sampling
17 events. Based on the sampling that's been conducted
18 today, we're not aware of any federally or state
19 listed fish species that have been known to occur in
20 Heath Creek or -- Heath Creek or been collected
21 recently. And there are no diadromous fish species
22 that are known to occur in Heath Creek.

23 Diadromous fish species are those
24 species that migrate between fresh water and salt
25 water to spawn or to complete their life cycle. There

Public Meeting

1 are striped bass that have been stopped into Weiss
2 Lake downstream and they do reproduce in the
3 Oostanaula River, at least there's some evidence of
4 their spawning. But they're not known to get up into
5 the tributary system of Armuchee Creek or Heath Creek
6 at least, not -- not that small of a -- a system.

Public Meeting

1 right. We have updated this table from the PAD to
2 reflect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comments
3 and we'll carry forward this list and continue to
4 update it as needed in the proposed study plan,
5 through the study reporting, and the license
6 application.

7 So Ogelthorpe Power proposes to conduct
8 an Aquatic Resources Study to characterize the
9 existing communities of fish and mussels in Heath
10 Creek. And -- and this study would update the fish
11 community sampling from 2002 and would fill the gap in
12 recent survey efforts for freshwater mussels in Heath
13 Creek. So the study objectives would be to
14 characterize existing communities of fish and mussels
15 in Heath Creek and then in the license application,
16 analyze the effects of continued project operation on
17 aquatic habitat downstream. The study area is circled
18 in blue. That's the approximately 5-mile reach of
19 Heath Creek before it enters Little Armuchee Creek.

20 And the key study elements would be the
21 fish community survey. That would involve two
22 representative locations on Heath Creek. We would
23 propose sampling at the same site that was used by
24 the -- the DNR Stream Team bacV191919yw Am Txals

Public Meeting

1 Aquatic Resources Study. Similar to water resources,
2 the study plan would be finalized after we receive
3 comments. The fish community survey and the mussel
4 survey would be conducted this year between June and
5 September. Study report prepared by January of 2023,
6 and that would be filed with the Draft License
7 Application for stakeholder review by early 2024.

8 So I'll pause here again and open it up
9 for any questions or comments about aquatic resources
10 and the proposed study. Okay. Hearing none --

11 MR. JONES: There is a -- yep, there's
12 a question in chat, Steve.

13 MR. LAYMAN: Okay.

14 MR. JONES: And it's -- this is from
15 Jackson Sibley: Where will stakeholders be able to
16 access the study timelines once they are finalized?
17 So that's a -- that's a good question, Jackson.
18 Steve, if you don't mind maybe I'll take that.

19 MR. LAYMAN: Yeah.

20 MR. JONES: So that's -- gosh,
21 that's -- that's a good question. So what we're going
22 to do is once we -- there will be that -- that 60-day
23 comment period. I'm going to talk a little bit more
24 about next steps when we get into -- or the end of the
25 presentation. But once we -- once we are able to

1 finalize those study plans, we will definitely make
2 those work with the agencies on -- on finalizing and
3 getting feedback on those methodologies and
4 then -- and then once we -- once we get that dialed
5 in, then we'll have a good sense of -- of
6 when -- exactly when they start and the timeframes.

7 I think these are probably pretty good,
8 but we'll -- we'll provide more information as
9 we -- as we get closer to that point of beginning
10 on -- on that. So we will -- that's part of how we're
11 going to informally consult. We'll definitely reach
12 out and touch bases on -- on where we stand with
13 timing.

14 MR. LAYMAN: Okay. Thanks, Craig. Any
15 others?

16 Okay. I'll move onto Wildlife,
17 Botanical, and Wetland Resources. As characterized in
18 the PAD, the terrestrial vegetation and wildlife of
19 the project are representative of the Ridge and Valley
20 province of Northwest Georgia. Now, the predominant
21 forest types include pine-oak forests in the areas
22 surrounding Auxiliary Pools, chestnut oak forests with
23 pines on the slopes around Rock Mountain, and
24 oak-hickory forests on the southwest side of Rock
25 Mountain. Notable occurrences of wildlife species

1 within the project boundary include one active bald
2 eagle nesting territory and the green salamander, a
3 Georgia rare species, is known to occur among the
4 boulders and cliffs on the slopes of Rock Mountain.

5 Georgia DNR conducted a vegetative
6 survey of the wooded uplands of the project in Summer
7 2012 as part of the Terrestrial Management Plan for
8 the project. This figure on the left shows the
9 numerous vegetative survey points that they used
10 throughout the project area and the figure on the
11 right shows their mapping of the three dominant upland
12 vegetative community types. The green corresponds to
13 the pine-oak forest, the orange circle corresponds to
14 the chestnut oak forest that encircles Rock Mountain
15 on the slopes, and in the red corresponds to the
16 oak-hickory forest on the southwest side of -- of Rock
17 Mountain. So there's a substantial amount of existing
18 information about the dominant vegetative community
19 types.

20 All right. Let's advance. There we
21 go. Wetlands within the project boundary include
22 freshwater forested/shrub wetlands totaling at least
23 6.75 acres. In the PAD, we -- we reference national
24 wetland inventory information which tends to be dated
25 so there -- there may in fact be more wetland acreage

Public Meeting

1 than that which would be part of our proposed study
2 approach. But they are small, shallow wetlands
3 dominated by trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation.

4 There's also about 29 acres of stream
5 habitat total within the project boundary. They're
6 characterized by narrow floodplains with deposits of
7 sand and clay. And then there are littoral habitats
8 which are shallow water habitats that are shallow
9 enough where light penetrates the bottom and there's a
10 potential for aquatic vegetation to grow. It's quite
11

Public Meeting

1 the spring and summer and likely occurs in the project
2 area. The PAD also lists numerous other state-listed
3 species, including 21 plants, the aforementioned green
4 salamander, two species of map turtle, and the bald
5 eagle which I also mentioned has an active nesting
6 territory within the project boundary.

7 Ogelthorpe Power proposes a terrestrial
8 and wetland resources survey with the objectives of
9 describing these existing terrestrial wildlife and
10 botanical resources, as well as floodplain, wetlands,
11 riparian, and littoral habitats. Identifying
12 potentially suitable habitats for rare, threatened,
13 and endangered species, or so-called RTE species, of
14 plants and wildlife. And then identifying invasive
15 species within the project boundary. So the study
16 area would include the project boundary around the
17 17

1 area. The purpose of those surveys would be to
2 characterize available habitats and identify
3 representative plant and animal species. Also to
4 identify any unique or sensitive habitats that may
5 harbor rare plant or animal species and to identify
6 large occurrences of invasive species.

7 Another key element would be to prepare
8 a map of the project boundary delineating the
9 principal vegetative community types including
10 wetlands and getting a better update on how many
11 wetlands and their locations and types in the project
12 boundary. And that would be based on beginning with
13 DNR's vegetation surveys, other sources, and
14 ground-truthing of aerial photography. And the
15 proposed schedule for the terrestrial and wetland
16 resources survey would be conducting the field surveys
17 primarily in April through September of 2022. April
18 2023 if needed if we couldn't get started soon enough
19 to catch some of those early -- earlier blooming
20 plants. Preparing a study report by June 2023, and
21 then filing that report with the DLA in early 2024.

22 So I'll -- I'll open it up here, again,
23 one more time for any questions or comments about the
24 terrestrial wetland resources study plan.

25 MR. JONES: And looks like

1 you're -- you're good to go. There' nothing in the
2 chat right now.

3 MR. LAYMAN: All right. Thanks, and
4 I'll hand it over now to Kelly Kirven who -- she will
5 cover the next two resource areas.

6 Take it away, Kelly.

7 MS. KIRVEN: Thanks, Steve. Okay.
8 Make sure I've got control here, all right.

9 Hi guys, good afternoon. As Steve
10 mentioned, I'm Kelly Kirven with Kleinschmidt. I'm
11 going to be reviewing the recreation resources
12 available at the project and then the cultural
13 resources at the project. So we will start.

14 So there are, as mentioned previously,
15 there are approximately 5,000 acres of land and water
16 that are within the Rocky Mountain project boundary of
17 which 3700 of those acres are available for the public
18 for recreational activities. Mostly within the Rocky
19 Mountain Public Fishing Area or PFA. The Rocky
20 Mountain PFA includes two main recreation areas at the
21 Auxiliary Pool 1 as we mentioned, Antioch Lake, and
22 one main recreation area at Auxiliary Pool 2 or Heath
23 Lake.

24 There is no recreation activities
25 available at the Upper and Lower Reservoirs and the

1 again, a trailhead with parking and -- and trails.
2 And then we have a figure here that kind of shows
3 where some of the hiking and biking trails are located
4 at the project.

5 I'm also going to mention that hunting
6 is allowed at the project during state-designated
7 hunting seasons. The use of firearms is allowed
8 within the project boundary during water fowl hunting
9 seasons in designated areas. Bow hunting is also
10 allowed in designated archery seasons for deer, small
11 game, turkey, for bears and such.

12 So we're going to move on here. As we
13 mentioned, you know, Georgia DNR manages and operates
14 the recreation facilities at the project. They also
15 collect recreation use data through a variety of
16 methods. They also have attendance records and so
17 here we've got some of the attendance records that
18 Georgia DNR have provided to us from 2015 through 2021
19 and so this is where, and we'll talk about it a little
20 bit more, but, you know, we'll -- we will lean pretty
21 heavily on the use information that Georgia DNR
22 collects at the recreation sites as part of the
23 recreation assessment. And you can see, it sees a
24 pretty -- pretty significant amount of use at -- at
25 the project.

1 Okay. So proposed study plan, the main
2 study objectives are to characterize the existing
3 facilities and use through existing information, as I
4 mentioned, that Georgia DNR currently collects. Also
5 through recreation user groups and some limited field
6 activities. The study area will include the Rocky
7 Mountain Public Fishing Area.

8 And key elements will include a review
9 and analysis of existing information. We do have the
10 2015 Form 80 information, although the Form 80 has
11 been discontinued by FERC. We do have the -- the data
12 from 2015 and will likely incorporate that, along with
13 a more up-to-date recent data collected by Georgia
14 DNR. We also plan to have small user group interview
15 to target various -- various groups, hunters and
16 fishermen, to get feedback from -- from them. And
17 we'll also make sure that, you know, recreation at the
18 project will analyze its consistency with the
19 Rome-Floyd County Comprehensive Plan.

20 Here we have just kind of a general
21 schedule for the study. Finalize the -- the study
22 plan in the May to June timeframe. Begin data
23 compilation in June of this year, conduct those user
24 group interviews sometime in the July to November
25 timeframe. Analyze data into early 2023 and then

Public Meeting

Page 62

1 1 was -- that was my question if was there going to be a
2 2 condition assessment and --

3 3 MS. KIRVEN: Yes, sir.

4 4 MR. HAKALA: -- would it also include
5 5 aspects of the infrastructure associated with those
6 6 facilities, such as the sewer system associated with
7 7 each one?

8 8 MS. KIRVEN: Sure. And so -- and I
9 9 imagine that's probably geared towards the -- the
10 10 camping and -- and the restroom facilities. That's
11 11 something that will --probably does need to be
12 12 included and I will mention that, you know, we do plan
13 13 to work pretty closely with you guys, with DNR, to
14 14 make sure that we cover all aspects since, you know,
15 15 DNR's managing the facilities, you guys are so close
16 16 to everything. We will make sure and cover all
17 17 of -- all of those items and if there's anything that
18 18 DNR knows of that needs, you know, extra attention, we
19 19 can make sure and include that.

20 20 MR. HAKALA: Okay. Great, great.

21 21 MR. HAYES: Hey, Jim it's -- Jim, it's
22 22 Rick Hayes, here.

23 23 MR. HAKALA: Yeah, Rick.

24 24 MR. HAYES: Just to let you know that
25 25 we do have some capital projects we're working on,

1 particularly for the dump station. Also have reached
2 out and Dennis Shiley has provided us some replacement
3 of -- of the outhouse pit toilets, so we're
4 working -- and so we're looking at what we need to do
5 as far as some, you know, capital replacements out
6 there at that -- at that facility right now. So
7 that's --.

8 MR. HAKALA: Okay. Well, this -- it
9 sounds like this will -- this will fall in there and
10 help that along. Thanks for -- thanks for the update
11 on that.

12 The other question I have was, you
13 know, characterizing the recreational use at the
14 facility and it looked like it was going to be a
15 review of existing information, but then also contact
16 with recreational user groups and specifically in
17 the -- in the key study elements, you were talking
18 about reaching out to fishing, hunting, and boating
19 clubs.

20 MS. KIRVEN: Yes.

21 MR. HAKALA: I would say that there's
22 obviously a lot of people that fish, some that hunt,
23 and a lot of people that boat out there, but there's,
24 in terms of clubs, pretty -- pretty limited. I mean,
25 there's --

Public Meeting

Page 64

1 MS. KIRVEN: Okay.

2 MR. HAKALA: -- some fishing groups
3 that have -- have tournaments out there. If -- if
4 those type of things are limited, are -- are you going
5 to try to basically survey everybody that's coming in
6 there to get a representative sample of the -- of the
7 folks that are -- that are visiting out there?

8 MS. KIRVEN: Sure.

9 MR. HAKALA: Go ahead.

10 MS. KIRVEN: Yeah, yeah, no, I was just
11 going to say I think at this time, we haven't proposed
12 to survey the -- the general public, but that is a
13 good point if there's not these user groups that we
14 can easily get to or that just don't, you know, don't
15 use the area. You know, it is something to consider
16 to -- to kind of gather the information that we would
17 need. So I would say, you know, at this point,
18 it's -- it's not what we've proposed, but it is
19 something to consider for sure.

20 MR. HAKALA: Okay. I think -- I think
21 it would be good to, you know, to -- to get a, you
22 know, comprehensive recreational use and -- and, you
23 know, satisfaction survey.

24 MS. KIRVEN: Yep.

25 MR. HAKALA: Maybe one that follows

1 suit to the -- the data we collected in 2006 and 2007.

2 MS. KIRVEN: Okay.

3 MR. HAKALA: Which -- which I
4 believe -- believe you had. I think it's -- I think
5 it's -- it's important to find out, I mean, 2006 or
6 2007's quite a -- quite a long time ago and -- and,
7 you know, there's a possibility that the user base has
8 shifted, you know, what are they coming to the
9 facility for and -- and, you know, how can we best
10 meet, you know, changing demands on -- on who's
11 visiting the facility.

12 MS. KIRVEN: Right.

13 MR. HAKALA: Make it the best
14 experience possible, so I, you know, that's something
15 that -- that we would definitely be interested in.

16 MS. KIRVEN: Absolutely.

17 MR. SIBLEY: Yeah, hey, Kelly, this is
18 Jackson Sibley with Georgia DNR here. Yeah, to that
19 note, we do have all the -- the data sheets and all
20 that stuff from the 2006 survey as well. If there's
21 going to be a chance for all of us, I guess like you
22 mentioned, to get together and sort of iron out the
23 details of -- of what the survey might look like,
24 yeah, just -- just reach out to us. We definitely
25 have some things that we'd like to discuss and --

Public Meeting

Page 66

1 MS. KIRVEN: Absolutely.

2 MR. SIBLEY: -- yeah, we might be able
3 to help each other out in that regard.

4 MS. KIRVEN: Perfect, yeah, that sounds
5 great. And that's -- I think that's really kind of
6 the idea, you know, we've proposed some things, but we
7 definitely want to collaborate with DNR to make sure
8 that we're capturing information that is useful to
9 Oglethorpe, but also DNR as the managers of the
10 facility, so, absolutely.

11 MR. JONES: And I'll just -- this is
12 Craig Jones with Oglethorpe. I'll just jump in there
13 too and -- and I agree, yeah. Part of this, you know,
14 if there are things that we can just iron out in a
15 discussion of the -- the methodologies, then -- then
16 great. If it's a -- if it's a completely new study,
17 then, you know, that's something that -- that, you
18 know, we certainly want to consider and getting
19 together and chatting through what that looks like, I
20 think would be very productive so we're -- we're very
21 open to that and, you know, this gets at -- and the
22 point that I'll make later, but as we -- as we
23 finalize our methodologies, we do want to work
24 with -- especially with the agencies and get your
25 feedback to make sure that we are hitting the

Public Meeting

1 methodology correctly and -- and tweaking that as
2 we -- as we need to, so that's something that -- that
3 we will -- that is forthcoming.

4 MR. SIBLEY: Okay. Yeah, well feel
5 free to reach out to us directly. We'll -- we'll
6 definitely be available for that conversation.

1 archaeological resources, and historic architectural
2 resources and -- that have been documented in the
3 project area since 1972. Also in 1997, Garrow and
4 Associates revised the existing Rocky Mountain Project
5 Cultural Resource Management Plan and the plan lists
6 six archaeological properties and one removed standing
7 structure and -- and -- for -- that was removed for
8 continued preservation. So you'll see we've got some
9 of -- we've got all of those listed here on the
10 screen, along with their National Register of Historic
11 Places eligibility.

12 The -- as I mentioned and I'm going to
13 go to the next slide and then I might pop back to this
14 one, but -- and it might take a minute to load so
15 if -- if your screen is blank, it's coming. But
16 the -- so the -- the resource that I mentioned, the
17 Cordle Store, in 1997, and this is an image of
18 the -- the store here, it was relocated from its
19 historic location at Big Texas Valley Road and Old
20 Fouche Gap Road, I might have mispronounced that,
21 Fouche Gap, to a site near the project's visitor
22 center. So if you go out to the visitor center at the
23 recreation area there, you'll see the store. It was
24 relocated just to -- so that it could be more
25 monitored constantly and protected from any vandalism,

1 and then there's a nice little write-up you can see,
2 pointing, you guys can't see that. So we'll see this
3 little sign here, and so this is just an up-close
4 picture of some of the information that's included on
5 it.

6 So I'm just going to pop back one here.
7 So just kind of revisiting these properties that were
8 listed in 1997. In 2020, TRC Environmental
9 Corporation conducted an archaeological monitoring at
10 the project with a goal of locating and visually
11 assessing the current condition of the sites that were
12 previously recommended for preservation and
13 monitoring.

14 During that monitoring, all of the
15 sites were located and shown to be well-maintained and
16 protected. So the Cordle Store, as we mentioned here,
17 was actually in -- in the 2020 review. Since the
18 store has been relocated, the original site has lost
19 its integrity and so therefore, it's recommended to
20 not be -- that actual site to not be monitored
21 anymore. The Cordle Store will, of course, still be
22 monitored as it's located near the visitor's center.

23 And then also the -- this -- the
24 Clarence Montgomery Farm, the -- TRC is recommending
25 an archaeological survey to define the boundaries of

1 this site and to determine whether or not it should be
2 eligible for the NRHP. So until that happens,
3 Ogelthorpe will continue to -- to monitor the area.
4 So that's where we are for cultural, and I'm just
5 going to skip on down to the proposed study plan.

6 So the objectives are to identify and
7 summarize the known historic properties, that's going
8 to be through a literature search and a site file
9 review. There will also be an element for conducting
10 field survey to identify any newly qualified historic
11 structures and those are also structures that may not
12 qualify at this time, but during the course of a new
13 license, so within the next 40 to 50 years and such
14 things as the powerhouse and -- and other project
15 features. And they'll also determine their NRHP
16 eligibility.

17 Then another component of the study
18 will be that archaeological survey that we mentioned
19 for the site to identify the site boundaries and
20 determine whether or not it's eligible. And then also
21 evaluate the potential for any effects of continued
22 project operations. The study area will include the
23 Area of Potential Effect, which will be determined in
24 consultation with SHPO. And then key study elements
25 include consultation with the Georgia HPD and FERC

1 MR. HAYES: Well, you gave it a good
2 try. Fouche.

3 MS. KIRVEN: Thanks.

4 MR. JONES: All right. Thanks, Kelly.
5 I don't see any -- I don't see any questions in the
6 chat.

7 MS. KIRVEN: Thanks.

8 MR. JONES: So Tyler, if you can put
9 the -- put the controls over to me, oh, well, you can
10 just put the slide, too. So thanks. The next steps,
11 so we'll just go from here.

12 The next steps in the relicensing
13 process. We talked a little bit about that during the
14 exchange that we had on the -- the recreation studies,
15 but as I mentioned earlier, there is a 60-day comment
16 period after this meeting and that takes us out to May
17 15. Once we have those comments on the -- on the
18 proposed studies and if there are any -- you recommend
19 any additional recommended studies then -- then we'll
20 consider them and then we're going to respond to those
21 individual comment letters to make -- so basically, we
22 can close the loop on -- on that exchange.

23 And -- but as we discussed, as I
24 mentioned earlier and -- and as, you know, Jackson
25 our -- and Jim our -- our little discussion just a

Public Meeting

1 little bit ago, it may make sense to have a follow-up
2 meeting after this meeting. So if that's something
3 that -- that you would like to do that would be
4 helpful, then -- then definitely please reach out to
5 us and we can, you know, and we'll do the same thing
6 to make sure that -- that we can have the discussions.
7 And like I said earlier that -- that there are formal
8 stages of consultation and again, they're summarized
9 here and it's a little limited if we just stick to
10 that and we don't intend to just stick to that, so we
11 intend to be very -- very transparent in how we go
12 through this process and -- and work with -- work with
13 you all.

14 In terms of the future, then,
15 going -- going out into the -- into the study phase,
16 we'll -- we'll reach out, again, to -- like I
17 mentioned, to get input on methodologies and make sure
18 that everything is -- that we get, you know, that we
19 have a -- a good exchange of information on that. And
20 then once we -- once we do the studies and are able to
21 develop draft study reports, then we're going to want
22 to get agency input on that as well. So we'll be
23 reaching out around those times and -- and I'm sure

1 those -- those draft study reports and they will
2 include the findings. And then based on those
3 informal discussions, we'll finalize the study reports
4 and that will be -- form the foundation for our draft
5 license application that we file.

6 So that's -- that is -- that really is
7 essentially the -- the relicensing process and a
8 very -- very high-level look at what the -- the future
9 looks like. And so I think that the -- I think the
10 next thing that we have on the agenda is public
11 comment. But before we get to that, I -- I do just
12 want to pause again and -- and see if there are
13 any -- any additional questions that we can answer at
14 this time. Or comments before, you know, from before
15 making formal public comment.

16 Okay. Great. So what we'll do, then,
17 is -- is we will provide an opportunity for -- for
18 really, and this is not just, I mean, if agencies
19 would like to make comment here too, that's great.
20 You're certainly welcome to. If -- if we have anybody
21 from the public who would like to make comment, just
22 ask that you just go ahead and -- and take yourself
23 off mute and state your name and -- and affiliation if
24 it's something other than -- than just member of the
25 public so that we can have that for the transcript and

1 we will go ahead and take public comment now if there
2 is anybody that would like to.

3 MR. MURRAY: Hi, Craig. I would like
4 to make a public comment.

5 MR. JONES: Great.

6 MR. MURRAY: My name is -- yeah, my
7 name is Ben Murray. I'm with the Rome-Floyd Chamber
8 of Commerce. I would like to just add that, you know,
9 obviously Ogelthorpe Power and Rocky Mountain Pump
10 Storage Hydro facility are very valuable corporate
11 citizens of Floyd County and the greater Rome area.
12 They really are a part of the critical infrastructure
13 of Georgia's electric grid, they are a reliable piece
14 of our county tax base, and in 2021, Ogelthorpe Power
15 Corporation paid over three million in property taxes
16 to Floyd County so -- and they also offer our citizens
17 and visitors with recreational opportunities, good
18 paying jobs, and it's all right here in our community,
19 so we fully support this relicensing project and we
20 fully support the hydro -- the pump storage hydro
21 facility and anything we can do, we're glad to help.

22 MR. JONES: Thank you, Ben.

23 I'll pause for just a few minutes to
24 see -- or maybe a few seconds. A few minutes might be
25 too long. I'll pause for a few seconds to -- to see

1 if there is anybody else who would like to -- to make
2 public comment. Again, while -- while we're waiting
3 for if there's anybody else that is going to take
4 themselves off mute while we're waiting. I do just
5 want to reiterate that there -- that there is an
6 opportunity for -- for written comment and -- and the
7 information was dropped in the chat earlier and if you
8 have -- there it is again, thank you, Eric. And if
9 you have any questions about how that mechanically is
10 done, as well, please just reach out to -- to me and
11 we will make sure that you have that information.

12 All right. So I will -- I will go
13 ahead and -- and move to -- to close out this meeting
14 and I just want to, one, thank you for -- for your
15 interest in this -- in this project. As, you know,
16 it's -- this is -- this is a great project and -- and
17 it's -- it's something that is -- that it really
18 provides some -- some good -- it's a good resource for
19 the community. It's a great opportunity to -- to keep
20 this -- this rolling and we look forward to our future
21 process and good working relationships with everyone.
22 So we very much look forward to the process and
23 continuing this project.

24 So with that, I will close this meeting
25 and thank you and we will be in touch.

1 Yes? You're welcome and -- and we're
2 happy to make a -- make a transcript available once we
3 have that to -- to anybody who -- who requests that so
4 let me know if -- if that's something that you would
5 like to have. Shoot me an e-mail afterwards. That's
6 great.

7 Okay. Great. Thank you, Deidra. All
8 right, I think that's it so we will conclude and thank
9 you, again.

10 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
11 3:51 p.m.)

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I, DEIDRA MUSICK NASH, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

DEIDRA MUSICK NASH
Notary Public in and for the
State of Georgia

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| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 0 | 20 42:25 62:20 | 3 | 7 |
| 0.6 41:8 0.8 35:13 | 2000s 44:25 2001 40:18 45:25 2002 39:4 43:11 | 3 23:3 62:3 30 12:6 30075 1:13 | 7 62:7 72 3:3 75 9:24 |
| 1 | 45:25 48:11,24 | 31 3:3 10:24 11:2 | 8 |
| 1 23:1 36:16 42:11 56:21 57:14,19,25 62:1 1.2 20:25 21:2 41:4,14,21 10 13:2 34:9 62:10 10,000 21:7,10,13 10th 17:23 11 47:10 62:11 12 62:12 120 21:5 13 39:11 62:13 14 40:21 62:14 140 22:22 15 30:13 62:15 72:17 16 1:8 43:2 62:16 16.6 35:12 17 3:4 62:17 18 62:18 19 3:5 62:19 19,000 21:22 1972 67:17,22 68:3 1977 9:22 1988 9:25 1995 10:6 38:21 1996 39:4 41:7 43:11 67:17 1997 67:19,23 68:3 68:17 69:8 71:4 | 2003 40:6 2005 10:18 19:11 2006 65:1,5,20 2007 65:1 2007's 65:6 2011 19:19 2012 40:18 52:7 2015 39:24 59:18 60:10,12 2018 40:6 45:6 2020 39:24 69:8,17 2021 13:2 59:18 75:14 2022 1:8 42:2 55:17 71:11,13 2023 18:9 43:21,22 50:5 55:18,20 60:25 61:1 71:15 2024 11:3 18:11,14 43:24 50:7 55:21 61:2 71:17 2026 10:24 11:7 21 35:8 54:3 62:21 21090 78:16 22 53:15 62:22 23 62:23 24 62:24 24/7 20:25 25 22:22 62:25 25-26 22:7 26406 79:13 26th 13:7,7 18:2 2725 1:2 29 3:5 53:4,12 2:01 1:9 | 11:7 18:14 38:24 33 3:6 53:11 34 41:2 35 22:23 45:22 365 20:25 3700 29:10 56:17 3:51 77:11 3d 23:4 | 8 39:15 62:8 8.3 41:8 80 60:10,10 |
| 2 | | 4 | 9 |
| 2 20:21 23:2 36:23 42:11 53:17 56:22 57:11 62:2 2.5 46:5 | | 4 3:3 41:19 62:4 40 12:7 70:13 44 3:6 45 35:5 | 9 62:9 90 18:11 904 19:10,20 |
| | | 5 | a |
| | | 5 37:2 41:20 48:18 53:12,15 62:5 5,000 29:9 35:18 56:15 5.5 41:16 50 9:21 10:25 12:6 70:13 51 21:17 42:24 5133017 1:19 56 3:7 5800 21:25 | ability 78:10 79:7 able 4:17 8:5 10:14 11:8 25:21 27:13 28:25 50:15 50:25 66:2 73:20 absence 49:11 absolutely 61:6 65:16 66:1,10 67:12 abundance 49:12 access 9:16 50:16 accessible 21:15 21:23 22:12 accurate 27:25 78:9 79:5 acquired 9:24 acre 21:7,10,13,22 21:25 28:13 acreage 29:10 52:25 acres 28:15,16,21 29:9 35:18 44:18 52:23 53:4 56:15 56:17 act 16:23 34:22,23 34:24 35:5 |
| | | 6 | |
| | | 6 62:6 6.75 52:23 60 14:22 18:3 50:22 72:15 600 28:15,21 44:17 67 3:7 | |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>action 78:12,16 79:8,12</p> <p>active 6:23 21:7,8 52:1 54:5</p> <p>activities 56:18,24 60:6</p> <p>actual 69:20</p> <p>add 75:8</p> <p>addition 32:2</p> <p>additional 17:2 32:1 34:2 42:1 72:19 74:13</p> <p>address 4:21 8:6 13:8 15:5 28:25</p> <p>addressed 11:16 26:4</p> <p>addressing 33:21</p> <p>adjustments 12:8</p> <p>advance 6:7 18:20 30:24 52:20</p> <p>aerial 36:10 55:14</p> <p>affiliation 7:1,7 74:23</p> <p>mentioned 54:3</p> <p>afternoon 4:2 17:15 24:8,17 33:13 56:9</p> <p>agencies 6:12 12:21 32:14 51:2 66:24 74:18</p> <p>agency 32:9 73:22</p> <p>agenda 6:8 74:10</p> <p>ago 65:6 73:1</p> <p>agree 66:13</p> <p>agreeing 16:15</p> <p>agreement 10:7</p> <p>agricultural 36:13 38:4</p> <p>ahead 5:24 15:4 17:14 29:3 31:1</p> | <p>64:9 74:22 75:1 76:13</p> <p>air 23:17 24:2</p> <p>alabama 34:18,21 34:25 35:2,4,15,15</p> <p>allow 29:22</p> <p>allowed 29:20,25 59:6,7,10</p> <p>allows 10:19 30:4</p> <p>aloud 26:6</p> <p>amended 10:17</p> <p>amendment 19:12</p> <p>amenities 57:10 58:4 61:21</p> <p>amount 10:20 31:22 38:20 44:23 52:17 59:24</p> <p>analysis 60:9</p> <p>analyze 42:6,14 48:16 60:18,25</p> <p>analyzed 39:10</p> <p>animal 55:3,5</p> <p>announcement 25:4</p> <p>annual 11:8 44:20 44:24 45:6,10</p> <p>answer 13:10 17:13 24:24,25 26:15 35:9 74:13</p> <p>anticipate 27:19</p> <p>anticipating 18:8</p> <p>antioch 22:4 29:13 29:15 30:1 36:17 36:18,19 37:15 39:20 42:20 44:13 45:4,8,13 53:14 56:21 57:15,19,25 58:5,9</p> <p>anybody 7:15 9:5 25:18 44:1 74:20 75:2 76:1,3 77:3</p> | <p>anymore 69:21</p> <p>anyway 15:11</p> <p>ape 71:8</p> <p>apparent 36:10</p> <p>appeared 39:16</p> <p>applicants 12:18</p> <p>application 6:15 6:23 7:22 10:15 11:2,3,12 12:25 14:3 15:18,19 16:19 17:24 18:10 18:13 28:13 31:5 33:17 42:9 43:23 48:6,15 50:7 71:16 74:5</p> <p>applied 46:9</p> <p>apply 49:4</p> <p>appreciate 10:15 10:16</p> <p>approach 46:11 49:22 53:2</p> <p>appropriate 49:10</p> <p>approval 18:1</p> <p>approximately 21:6 43:24 48:18 56:15</p> <p>april 40:14 43:21 55:17,17</p> <p>aquatic 2:5 33:14 33:24 44:12 47:8 47:11 48:8,17 50:1,9 53:10</p> <p>archaeological 67:25 68:1,6 69:9 69:25 70:18 71:12</p> <p>archery 29:22 59:10 61:6</p> <p>architectural 68:1</p> <p>area 18:7 22:18 26:11,16 28:22 29:2 31:14 35:10</p> | <p>35:12,13 36:9 37:18 42:5,10 45:13 48:17 52:10 54:2,16 55:1 56:19,22 57:12,22 58:5,6,6,10,13,13 58:15 60:6,7 64:15 68:3,23 70:3,22,23 75:11</p> <p>areas 5:17 7:21 21:20 22:16 29:21 31:6 33:10,19,22 36:14 51:21 53:16 54:24 56:5,20 57:17 59:9</p> <p>armuchee 34:14 34:14 37:1 45:20 47:5,23 48:19</p> <p>article 38:24 41:2 41:5</p> <p>aspects 10:1 62:5 62:14</p> <p>assessed 40:21</p> <p>assessing 49:11 69:11</p> <p>assessment 37:22 43:17 44:3 59:23 62:2</p> <p>assets 27:17</p> <p>assisting 17:18</p> <p>associated 10:9 14:3 15:21 16:7 57:1 58:4 62:5,6</p> <p>associates 67:19 68:4</p> <p>asterisk 47:25</p> <p>attainability 37:22</p> <p>attempt 15:21</p> <p>attendance 59:16 59:17</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>attendees 2:2 attending 7:4 attention 62:18 attorney 78:14 79:10 attributes 46:12 audio 25:19 78:8 79:4 august 23:11 45:25 authority 11:20 automatically 11:7 aux 20:20 auxiliary 21:24 22:3 29:25 35:25 36:15,16,23 40:5 42:11,11 44:15 51:22 53:11 54:17 56:21,22 57:11,14 57:19,25 available 24:13 29:11 37:11 40:11 40:16,19 47:14 49:10 55:2 56:12 56:17,25 67:6 77:2 average 41:20 aware 46:18</p> | <p>bald 52:1 54:4 base 37:3 65:7 75:14 based 45:20 46:16 46:17 49:21 55:12 74:2 bases 51:12 basic 11:13 basically 9:12 10:19 11:9,25 19:22 21:9 64:5 72:21 basin 34:12,22,22 34:23,24,25 35:6 basis 15:16 bass 22:17 30:13 45:2,8,17 47:1 bathhouse 30:8 58:12 bats 53:23 battery 20:14 beach 29:14 30:9 57:20,20 58:11,12 bears 59:11 bed 24:12 began 6:14 10:5 38:21 39:2 beginning 51:9 55:12 begins 12:23 16:18 35:1 believe 7:11 17:4 28:15 65:4,4 ben 2:17 75:7,22 beneath 36:21 beneficial 37:6,7 benefits 20:1 best 6:18 22:15 27:14 65:9,13 78:10 79:6</p> | <p>better 20:14 55:10 bifurcate 23:1 bifurcates 22:25 23:2 bifurcation 23:2 big 46:6,7 68:19 biking 22:14 30:15 57:13 59:3 biochemical 39:12 43:13 biologist 2:5,13 33:14 biomass 45:11 biomonitoring 46:2 49:3 biotic 46:9,15 49:5 bit 8:23 13:12 24:17 50:23 58:25 59:20 72:13 73:1 black 45:2 blank 68:15 blooming 55:19 blue 39:4 48:18 boat 29:12 54:22 57:12,16 58:7,14 58:20,22 63:23 boating 22:14 29:20 37:16 58:13 63:18 bodies 34:7 body 37:25 bold 14:12 botanical 33:24 51:17 54:10 bottom 5:9 36:23 43:9 47:25 53:9 boulders 52:4 boundaries 69:25 70:19 boundary 10:10 29:10 35:18,22</p> | <p>42:13,17 47:14 49:1 52:1,21 53:5 54:6,15,16 55:8,12 56:16 59:8 bow 59:9 box 15:6 break 7:16 brief 7:18 briefly 8:1 butchering 71:22 butterfly 53:21,25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c</p> <p>c 2:1 3:1 4:1 call 19:15 called 54:13 camera 5:4 cameras 4:24 campers 57:21 campground 29:17 campgrounds 29:16 camping 22:13 30:15 57:22 58:16 58:16,17 62:10 candidate 53:18 53:21 canoe 29:19 capable 38:12 capacity 10:18 19:10,12,20 26:22 27:1 28:2 capital 62:25 63:5 capture 7:8 capturing 66:8 carefully 12:15 carry 48:3 case 12:9 catch 30:10 45:7 55:19</p> |
| b | | | |
| <p>back 18:21 19:11 21:10,10,11 23:21 24:6 25:16 26:17 27:15 28:18 39:18 44:25 48:24 68:13 69:6 backpack 46:4 49:7 bacteria 39:13 balance 12:13</p> | | | |

Public Meeting

catching 30:13
45:16
category 16:13
catfish 30:12 45:3
caught 22:17 30:5
center 29:12 30:7
37:3 57:16 68:22
68:22 69:22
central 35:2
certainly 66:18
74:20
certificate 78:1
79:1
certify 78:4 79:2
cfs 21:2 41:8,8,14
41:21
challenging 6:24
chamber 2:17
75:7
chance 65:21

Public Meeting

conducting 15:15
 46:4 54:20 55:16
 70:9
conductivity 39:9
configuration 34:5
confirm 28:18
conflict 16:7
connected 33:1
 36:21
connecting 32:17
 32:20
conservation
 49:17
consider 12:16
 64:15,19 66:18
 72:20
consideration
 12:11
considerations
 32:21
considered 30:2
 53:22
consistency 60:18
consistent 40:24
constant 21:2
constantly 68:25
consult 49:24
 51:11
consultation 4:10
 6:12 10:4 14:7,13
 15:12,14 16:18
 17:1,3 49:16
 70:24,25 71:1
 73:8
consulting 12:20
contact 63:15
contained 20:23
contents 31:5
context 29:2
continue 10:25
 11:9 48:3 70:3
continued 48:16
 68:8 70:21
continues 34:17
 36:25
continuing 6:17
 76:23
continuous 21:5
 41:3
continuously
 41:11
contract 49:14
control 6:6 18:17
 29:6 34:3 56:8
controls 72:9
conversation 67:6
cook 24:9,19
coosa 34:12,17,17
 34:21 35:1,5,9,15
copy 14:25 15:4,5
cordle 68:17 69:16
 69:21
corporate 25:23
 75:10
corporation 19:6
 69:9 75:15
correct 28:20
correctly 67:1
corresponds 52:12
 52:13,15
cost 33:3
counsel 78:11,14
 79:7,10
country 22:17
county 34:9 60:19
 67:21 75:11,14,16
couple 4:20 20:2
 57:7
course 5:15 6:16
 8:8 28:5 69:21
 70:12
courtesy 58:15,22
cover 17:20 33:18
 33:23,25 56:5
 62:14,16
covered 13:16
 33:20
covers 28:8,16
craig 1:7 2:3 3:3
 4:4 19:11 28:20
 33:12 51:14 66:12
 67:10 75:3
crappie 45:2
creek 20:20 21:1,1
 34:13,13,14,14
 35:11,20 36:1,5,5
 36:6,25 37:1,2,4
 37:20 38:2,8,10,15
 38:18 39:15 40:17
 40:25 41:5,13,17
 41:19,23 42:12,21
 43:4,6 45:18,20,22
 45:25 46:20,20,22
 47:5,5,16,23,24
 48:10,13,15,19,19
 48:22 49:9,21
 54:18
criteria 32:12,16
 32:16 33:6
critical 32:24
 47:17 75:12
crossing 46:7
crossings 46:8
crucial 45:12
cubic 20:25 41:4
cultural 9:17 34:1
 56:12 67:16,17,20
 68:5 70:4 71:3,18
current 12:6 31:9
 37:22 69:11
currently 14:5,12
 60:4
cycle 23:21 46:25
d
d 4:1
daily 19:24 38:1
 41:20 42:23
dam 9:15 20:24,24
 21:6,20 35:11
 37:20 39:21 42:12
 42:22 45:18 46:6
dams 21:19 35:16
darters 45:24
data 38:20,22 40:3
 40:3,11,17,23
 41:13,25 42:2,6,15
 43:19 44:23 59:15
 60:11,13,22,25
 65:1,19
date 18:15 44:25
 60:13
dated 52:24
dates 15:10
day 14:22 18:3,11
 19:23 20:6,11
 21:2 24:3 26:25
 28:1 50:22 58:6
 72:15
days

Public Meeting

definitely 5:6 51:1

51:11 65:15,24

66:7 67:6 73:4

deidra 1:18 77:7

78:2,17

delineating 55:8

deliver 10:19

demand 19:24

23:13 39:13 43:13

demands 24:7

65:10

Public Meeting

electrical 29:18
electricity 20:18
21:9
electrofishing
44:20 45:7 46:4
49:7
element 55:7 70:9
elements 42:13
48:20 54:19 60:8
63:17 70:24
elevated 37:24
elevation 20:17
21:16
elevations 26:24
eleven 23:19,20
24:11
eligibility 68:11
70:16
eligible 70:2,20
emergent 53:3

Public Meeting

74:3

finalized 50:2,16

finalizing 51:2

finally 5:20 16:23

38:8

financially 78:15

79:11

find 15:24 16:14

20:14 65:5

findings 11:12,14

40:24 74:2

fine 8:22

finished 19:19

44:4

firearm 29:23

firearms 59:7

first 4:22 9:8,11

14:12 15:12 25:7

26:10,14 30:3

Public Meeting

hunters 60:15 **includes** 9:12 13:2
hunting 29:22,24 31:9 39:7
 59:5,7,8,9 63:18
hydro 75:10,20,20
hydroelectric 1:1
 19:7
hydropower 11:21
 i
ibi 46:10,14
idea 21:4 40:11
 66:6
identified 38:2
 47:20
identify 11:15
 31:16 55:2,4,5
 61:20 70:6,10,19
 71:7
identifying 14:14
 31:17,19 54:11,14
idle 29:20
image 36:9,11
 57:10,14,23,24
 58:20,21 68:17
imagine 62:9
impact 26:19 27:1
 27:9
important 17:4
 53:14 65:5
impoundments
 45:8
improved 61:23
incidentally 16:2
include 11:12
 14:18 25:8 40:2
 42:10,20 43:10
 51:21 52:1,21
 54:16 60:6,8
 61:20 62:4,19
 70:22,25 74:2
included 13:5
 15:18 62:12 69:4

Public Meeting

kept 30:20 47:22 52:3 53:24
key 33:19 42:13 70:7
 48:20 54:19 55:7
 60:8 63:17 70:24
kicked 17:22
kind 19:8,8 20:3
 20:10 21:3 22:11
 23:4 24:21,21
 57:8 59:2 60:20
 61:22 64:16 66:5
 69:7
kirven 2:15 3:7
 33:18 56:4,7,10
 61:10,14,19 62:3,8
 63:20 64:1,8,10,24
 65:2,12,16 66:1,4
 67:8,12 71:21
 72:3,7
kleinschmidt 2:6
 2:15 33:15 56:10
knew 71:22,24
know 4:15 7:9,16
 8:12,13 10:22
 12:12 15:23 16:13
 17:22 20:21 22:2
 22:3 23:10 24:10
 27:13 31:9 44:4,6
 49:21 57:12 59:13
 59:20 60:17 62:12
 62:14,18,24 63:5
 63:13 64:14,15,17
 64:21,22,23 65:7,8
 65:9,10,14 66:6,13
 66:17,18,21 71:7
 72:24 73:5,18
 74:14 75:8 76:15
 77:4
knowledge 78:10
 79:6
known 34:22
 46:19,22 47:4,13

47:22 52:3 53:24
 70:7
knows 62:18
l
laboratory 39:11
 40:22
lack 38:11 47:14
lady 30:12
lake 20:21,22 22:4
 22:4 29:13,14,15
 30:1,1,1,2 34:18
 36:17,19,19,24
 37:15,15 39:20
 42:21,21 44:13
 45:4,9,9,14,14
 47:2 53:12,13,14
 56:21,23 57:11,15
 57:19,25 58:5,9,19
 61:6
lakes 44:17,19,21
 44:24 45:1
land 35:18 36:11
 56:15
lands 36:13
lane 58:7,19
large 22:17 31:23
 39:3 45:17 55:6
 58:16
largemouth 30:13
 45:2,7,17
larger 29:1,2 30:5
 30:5 34:21 49:20
launch 58:20
launches 29:12
lavender 34:13
 36:6 37:4 38:10
 41:13,17
layman 2:5 3:6 6:3
 33:9,11,14 44:9
 50:13,19 51:14
 56:3

leads 31:20
leaking 38:5
lean 59:20
left 36:24 40:12
 45:5 52:8
length 38:22
letters 72:21
level 13:13,17
 17:20 33:19 74:8
levels 41:15,17
license 9:12,20
 10:17,25 11:2,5,6
 11:9,11,12,17,20
 12:4,5,8,10,17,24
 14:3,19 15:18,19
 16:1,16,19 18:10
 18:13,15 19:12
 33:17 38:25 41:3
 41:5 42:8 43:23
 48:5,15 50:6
 70:13 71:16 74:5
licensed 9:9,20
licenses 11:8
licensing 10:2 13:5
 13:9,13 14:21
 16:4,12 17:12
life 46:25
light 53:9
limited 45:15 60:5
 63:24 64:4 73:9
lines 9:6
link 5:24
list 2:2 25:5,7 48:3
listed 42:4 43:12
 46:19 47:7,9,18
 53:18,20 54:2
 68:9 69:8
listing 47:12 53:22
lists 37:7,7 54:2
 67:24 68:5

liter 41:16,19
literature 70:8
 71:10
little 5:9,10 8:23
 13:12 19:1 20:2,3
 24:17 36:7 37:1
 45:20 48:19 50:23
 58:25 59:19 69:1
 69:3 72:13,25
 73:1,9
littoral 53:7 54:11
live 49:13
livestock 38:4
load 19:24 23:15
 23:17 38:1 68:14
loads 23:17
located 34:9,11
 35:7 36:1,3 57:10
 57:13,16,22 58:1
 59:3 61:21 69:15
 69:22
locating 69:10
location 34:20
 68:19
locations 34:7
 48:22 49:18 55:11
logically 33:2
long 13:25 45:6
 65:6 75:25
look 6:21 12:13,14
 23:10 36:7

39:25 42:10,
42:25 43:2 54
56:25 58:2

m

mail 15:7 17:5

main 1:1 20:

20:7 21:4,10

27:6 37:

4:

46:

60:

main

35:1

maint

20:7

maint

69:1

in

1:

15:

m

1:

27:16

lot

20:65

Public Meeting

mountain 1:1 4:3
4:15 7:19 9:9,20
19:7,14 22:13,25
24:22 34:8 35:17
36:3,4,5 37:2,4,17
38:8,15,18 39:15
42:5 43:4 44:17
51:23,25 52:4,14
52:17 56:16,19,20
60:7 67:21 68:4
75:9

move 21:10 33:8
44:10,11 51:16
57:24 59:12 67:13
67:15 71:13 76:13

moving 13:19
58:18

multi 46:10

murray 2:17 75:3
75:6,7

musick 1:18 78:2
78:17

mussel 49:8,15
50:3

mussels 47:11,15
47:19,22 48:9,12
48:14

mute 5:4 74:23
76:4

muted 4:24 5:1

n

n 2:1 3:1,1 4:1

name 7:1,7 17:16
19:4 74:23 75:6,7

names 7:13

narrow 53:6

nash 1:18

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>operated 20:7 operates 9:15 57:4 59:13 operating 9:13 10:6 11:1 22:8 46:3 49:4,4 operation 19:21 23:11 27:20 38:21 39:17 42:7 43:7 48:16 operations 7:20 9:19 10:2 18:19 31:10,15 32:25 38:7 39:2 57:3 70:22 opinion 27:24 28:4 opportunities 5:14 8:24 16:25 17:2 37:14 44:3,20 73:25 75:17 opportunity 6:21 7:24 8:2 19:19 44:10 74:17 76:6 76:19 options 13:9 orange 52:13 order 11:5,6,17 12:4,8,17 14:19,20 24:4 organic 43:14 orient 57:8 orientation 34:3 original 69:18 originally 9:20 originates 37:3 ostrander 79:2,15 outcome 78:16 79:12 outhouse 63:3 outlet 38:14,14 43:5</p> | <p>outlined 42:3 outside 34:18 overall 38:23 40:25 44:4 46:15 overhauls 19:13 overly 10:21 overview 4:18 7:19,21 18:19 19:8 29:8 owned 27:12 owning 9:13 oxygen 38:17 39:9 39:13 40:7 41:12 41:15,18 43:13 oxygen's 40:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">p</p> <hr/> <p>p 1:2 2:1,1 4:1 p.m. 1:9 77:11 pad 13:1,2 31:8 33:20 38:23 40:2 40:10,23 41:9 42:3 44:22 47:21 48:1 51:18 52:23 54:2 page 3:2 paid 75:15 parameters 39:11 40:21 42:19 43:9 43:12 parking 58:6,13 58:19 59:1 part 4:14 6:9 12:19 17:4 19:13 27:24 31:23 37:17 38:9 39:17 41:5,9 44:16 51:10 52:7 53:1 59:22 66:13 75:12 participants 8:9 particular 5:16 34:19 40:3</p> | <p>particularly 63:1 parties 78:12,14 79:8,11 partners 20:9 partnership 10:16 31:24 pass 20:17,25 22:5 passage 22:20 passing 21:13 pattern 26:13 27:20 pause 5:14,14 8:14 9:4 10:11 13:14 17:10 33:7 43:25 50:8 74:12 75:23 75:25 paying 75:18 pdf 15:7 peak 19:24 20:7 23:16,25 24:5,7,16 pedestrian 54:23 penetrates 53:9 people 20:21 22:15 24:1,9,18 63:22,23 percent 9:25 35:5 35:8,13 53:11,13 53:15,17 perfect 66:4 performance 19:17 performed 18:6 period 12:6 14:22 18:3,12 40:14 50:23 72:16 person 6:17 pfa 37:18 44:17 56:19,20 ph 39:9 phase 73:15</p> | <p>phone 7:10,11,15 phosphorous 43:15 photograph 36:10 photography 55:14 physical 41:10 physiographic 34:10 pick 23:15,18 picnic 29:21 57:12 57:17 58:6,13,15 picnicking 22:13 picture 30:11 58:23 69:4 piece 27:18 32:24 75:13 pine 51:21 52:13 pin 51:23 pit 63:3 place 15:25 16:15 22:18 30:19 places 68:11 plan 6:19 19:14 43:17 48:4 50:2 52:7 55:24 60:1 60:14,19,22 62:12 68:5,5 70:5 71:3,5 71:9 plans 33:21 51:1 61:13 plant 2:9 19:6,7,20 19:20,22 20:15 22:8 55:3,5 plants 24:5 27:12 53:20 54:3,14 55:20 played 25:14 please 4:12 5:3,19 7:7,13,15 8:12 73:4 76:10</p> |
|--|---|---|--|

Public Meeting

relationships 76:21
relative 49:12 78:13 79:10
release 21:20,20 41:3,8,15
reliable 75:13
relicensing 1:2 4:4 4:14 5:21 6:9 7:20
relocated 68:18,24 69:18
remain 5:1 43:1
remote 1:12
removed 68:6,7
rendering 23:4
renewable 20:16
renewables 27:22 28:6
repeat 34:4,6
replaced 19:15
replacement 63:2
replacements 63:5
report 43:22 45:6 50:5 55:20,21 61:1 71:14,15
reported 1:18
reporting 48:5
reports 18:9 44:24 73:21 74:1,3
representative 43:3 48:22 51:19 55:3 64:6
represented 39:22
representing 49:10
reproduce 47:2
reproduction 38:12
request 13:5 17:24 18:1 32:19
requests 32:2,11 77:3
required 6:11 11:1 12:10,18 16:22
requirement 20:19
requirements 9:15 41:18

20:25e40013 Tf 1.00.263.15(reproduction)302.538.5T /F1 0013 Tf 220.1625 495.85

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>running 24:3 runs 22:20,23</p> | <p>secretary 14:25 section 8:20 49:17</p> | <p>sheets 65:19 shelter 58:7</p> | <p>69:18,20 70:1,8,19 70:19</p> |
| <p>s</p> | <p>see 7:4 9:4 13:15</p> | <p>shifted 65:8</p> | <p>sites 29:19 57:22</p> |
| <p>s 2:1 3:1 4:1 safety 9:15 57:1 salamander 52:2 54:4 salt 46:24 sample 64:6 sampled 41:11 45:25 samples 39:10 sampling 39:23 40:20 42:2,16,19 43:4,6,8,19,21 45:21 46:5,16,17 47:14 48:11,23 49:6,22 sampling's 42:22 sand 53:7 58:12 satisfaction 64:23 save 20:16 scenarios 41:8 schedule 17:21 43:16 49:25 55:15 60:21 71:6 scheduled 8:3 scope 16:5 scores 46:15 screen 5:10 68:10 68:15 search 49:9 70:8 season 29:22,24 seasonally 27:6 seasons 18:7 59:7 59:9,10 second 15:14 21:1 26:12 41:4 48:25 secondary 38:9,11 seconds 75:24,25</p> | <p>14:11 17:11 23:5 23:6,12,17,18,23 23:24 24:1,8,8,15 24:22 25:21 27:25 28:1 30:9 35:1,20 36:18 37:2 44:1,5 57:11,15,20,21,24 57:25 59:23 61:5 68:8,23 69:1,2,2 72:5,5 74:12 75:24,25 seeing 25:19 27:8 seek 12:24 seen 20:11 26:19 26:21,25 sees 21:1 59:23 segment 33:18 send 14:25 15:5,6 25:4 sense 13:23 51:5 73:1 sensitive 55:4 separately 36:20 september 50:5 55:17 septic 38:5 service 47:21 48:2 49:17 set 41:25 sets 40:3 seven 32:11,15 39:3 seventeen 47:7 sewer 62:6 shallow 53:2,8,8 53:16 share 9:24</p> | <p>shiley 63:2 shining 26:21 28:3 shock 30:14 shoot 77:5 shoreline 21:15,23 shorelines 54:22 57:1 shortly 10:6 shoutout 25:22 show 20:3 34:6 shown 34:23 39:3 40:10 43:9 46:13 69:15 shows 8:19 34:20 42:18 45:6 52:8 52:11 59:2 shpo 70:24 shrub 52:22 shrubs 53:3 sibley 2:13 50:15 65:17,18 66:2 67:4,9 side 36:13 40:12 40:13 51:24 52:16 sides 36:2 sign 69:3 signal 5:10 signature 78:16 79:13 significant 59:24 similar 39:22 41:16 50:1 71:6 simplified 10:21 single 58:19 sir 61:10 62:3 site 1:3 4:4 6:19,20 7:21 25:3 41:14 48:23 49:13 68:21</p> | <p>situ 39:7 situated 10:10 six 40:14,14 43:12 53:20 68:6 size 49:13 skills 78:10 79:6 skip 70:5 slide 13:12,19,22 20:2 21:3 31:2 32:5 37:7 42:18 68:13 72:10 slides 5:20 6:7 18:21 20:2 25:17 30:24 slopes 51:23 52:4 52:15 small 16:9 30:13 36:1 47:6 53:2 59:10 60:14 smaller 39:24 snails 47:11,15,20 solar 20:11,12,15 26:12,18,20,22,23 27:1,9,22 28:2,6 sold 11:23 solids 39:12 soon 55:18 sort 6:17 49:22 65:22 sorts 57:13,17 sounds 63:9 66:4 source 40:16 sources 27:5,7,9 27:17 37:25 38:3 38:6 40:1 55:13 south 34:15</p> |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>southeast 22:16 southwest 34:24 51:24 52:16 spawn 46:25 spawning 47:4 speak 7:6 speaking 5:1 14:6 specialist 2:7 17:17 species 45:22 46:19,21,23,24 47:8,19,22 49:12 51:25 52:3 53:19 53:22,23,23 54:3,4 54:13,13,15 55:3,5 55:6 specific 5:13 8:12 12:9 15:10 specifically 34:12 63:16 specimens 49:13 speed 29:20 spend 13:21 spills 20:22 spinning 19:25 spring 54:1,20 square 35:12 stage 14:12,14 15:12,14 16:17 stages 14:6 73:8 stakeholder 18:12 43:24 50:7 71:16 stakeholders 18:3 50:15 stand 51:12 standard 37:13 46:3 49:3 standards 37:5 standing 68:6 star 34:23</p> | <p>start 4:12 18:22 23:16,20 24:1,9,9 24:10,11,12,19,19 37:8 51:6 56:13 started 55:18 starting 23:15 starts 22:22 state 46:18 47:7 54:2 59:6 74:23 78:19 station 39:6,15,16 43:1,9 48:25 57:21 63:1 stations 39:3,19,23 39:25 42:17,19,19 statute 11:20 step 71:7 stephanie 79:2,15 steps 8:1 17:6 50:24 72:10,12 steve 6:1 28:24 30:25 33:9,13 44:8 50:12,18 56:7,9 steven 2:5 3:6 stick 73:9,10 stock 38:13 stop 8:4 stopped 47:1 storage 1:1 19:7 19:21 20:15 21:7 21:8,22 22:1 57:3 75:10,20 store 20:15 26:23 28:1 68:17,18,23 69:16,18,21 stored 20:17 stream 35:22 45:19,24 48:24 53:4</p> | <p>streams 38:10 striped 47:1 structure 22:22 68:7 structures 21:19 70:11,11 studies 11:13,15 14:17 15:15,16 18:4,5,8 31:6,20 32:10 33:1,16 67:18,19,21 72:14 72:18,19 73:20 study 7:23 8:8 18:9 32:2,11,18 33:1,5,20 41:6,9 41:14,20 42:5,10 42:13 43:17,22 48:4,5,8,10,13,17 48:20 49:2,15 50:1,2,5,10,16 51:1 53:1 54:15 54:19 55:20,24 60:1,2,6,21,21 61:1,13,16 63:17 66:16 70:5,17,22 70:24 71:2,9,14,15 73:15,21 74:1,3 stuff 65:20 sub 45:8 submit 32:10,11 subsequently 9:24 subset 39:24 substantial 31:22 38:20 44:22 52:17 substantially 42:24 suckers 45:24 sufficient 41:21 sufficiently 8:6 suit 65:1</p> | <p>suitable 54:12 summarize 70:7 summarized 38:22 40:2,23 41:9 67:19 73:8 summarizes 44:22 summer 52:6 54:1 54:21 61:1 71:11 sun 26:20 28:3 sunfishes 45:2,23 supplement 42:15 supplemental 19:25 support 20:11 45:1 75:19,20 supporting 37:23 38:13 supports 45:22 sure 4:23 8:5,19 28:17 34:3 56:8 60:17 61:14,19 62:8,14,16,19 64:8 64:19 66:7,25 73:6,17,23 76:11 surface 28:16,16 38:14 surrounding 51:22 survey 46:4 48:12 48:21 49:8,19,20 50:3,4 52:6,9 54:8 54:20 55:16 64:5 64:12,23 65:20,23 69:25 70:10,18 71:12,12 surveys 44:21 54:23 55:1,13,16 suspended 39:12 swimming 22:13 29:14 37:16 58:11</p> |
|--|---|--|---|

sworn 78:5 47:18 77:8
synthesis 67:22,24 **tends** 52:24 **thinks** 28:5 **top** 23:8 36:3
system 20:1 27:2 **tent** 29:19 **third** 16:17 57:23
 47:5,6 62:6 **tenth** 35:19 **thought** 16:24 **total** 21:25 38:1
systems 38:5 **term** 9:21 10:25 **threatened** 47:19 39:12 44:17 53:5
t 12:7 13:25 16:1 **three** 14:6 23:3 **totaling** 52:22
 16:16 45:6 **thru** 25:25 29:12 35:19 **touch** 17:5 51:12
t 3:1,1 **terms** 9:13 11:10 52:11 75:15 76:25
table 39:4 48:1 **terrestrial** 51:18 **throttling** 27:15 **touched** 13:18
tails 23:19 24:16 **throw** 32:12 **tour** 1:3 4:4 6:19
take 5:3 6:6 12:13 **timber** 53:13,17 **trailing** 6:20 7:21 25:3,100/F1 0013 T
 22:2,5,10 24:5 **time** 5:5 8:12,15 **tournaments** 64:3
 29:6 33:4 36:7 **timelines** 50:16 **traditional** 13:5
 50:18 56:6 68:14 **timeframe** 43:20 13:13 16:4,12
 74:22 75:1 76:3 **times** 23:24 73:23 **trailers** 58:14
taken 26:20 58:23 **timeframes** 51:6 **trailhead** 59:1
 78:3,12 79:9 **timelines** 50:16 **trails** 57:13 59:1,3
 72:16 **timelines** 50:16 **transcribed** 4:9
takes 72:16 **timelines** 50:16 **transcriber** 79:1
talk 8:1,22,22 **timelines** 50:16 **transcript** 7:3,6,8
 13:12 17:5 31:8 **timelines** 50:16 8:20 74:25 77:2
 32:5,13 50:23 **timelines** 50:16 79:3,5
 59:19 73:25 **timelines** 50:16 **transcriptionist**
talked 23:9 31:3,4 **timelines** 50:16 78:8
 72:13 **timelines** 50:16 **transitioning**
talking 6:10 13:4 **timelines** 50:16 25:17
 17:2 63:17 **timelines** 50:16 **transparent** 73:11
tall 22:23 **timelines** 50:16 **transparently**
tallapoosa 34:21 **timelines** 50:16 12:19
 35:3 **timelines** 50:16 **trc** 69:8,24
target 60:15 **timelines** 50:16 **treats** 16:11
tax 75:14 **timelines** 50:16 **trees** 53:3
taxes 75:15 **timelines** 50:16 **trend** 45:7
team 25:23 45:25 **timelines** 50:16 **tribes** 6:12 12:21
 48:24 **timelines** 50:16 **tributaries** 34:13
technical 14:2 **timelines** 50:16 36:2
 67:22 **timelines** 50:16 **tributary** 47:5
teilhet 2:19 7:10 **timelines** 50:16 **trophy** 30:2 45:16
temperature 38:16 39:9 40:7 **timelines** 50:16 **trouble** 25:19
 40:13 41:12 **timelines** 50:16 **trout** 38:9,11,12
ten 19:13 23:19 **timelines** 50:16 38:13,13
 24:11 30:3 45:15

Public Meeting

true 78:9 79:5
truthing 55:14
try 64:5 72:2
trying 21:12
tubes 23:5
tunnel 22:20,23
turbidity 39:11
turbine 23:5,6,7
turbines 20:18
turkey 59:11
turn 5:4 17:8
 22:24
turned 4:24 20:13
turning 23:14
turtle 54:4
tv 24:10,20
tweaking 67:1
twelve 23:20
twenty 13:7
two 8:4 18:14
 21:24 22:10,10
 24:18 29:12 40:3
 40:3,9 45:8 48:21
 53:23 54:4 56:5
 56:20 57:18
tyler 2:7 3:4 6:1
 7:12 15:9 17:8,14
 17:16 18:16 25:2
 25:12,16 26:8
 28:11 30:23 32:4
 72:8
tyler's 15:8
type 64:4
types 39:5 49:23
 51:21 52:12,19
 55:9,11
typewriting 78:7
typical 23:5,11
 24:14,21
typically 20:6

u

u.s. 47:20 48:2
 53:25
ultimately 14:18
 71:2
unaffected 39:17
 43:7
understanding
 28:21
unique 55:4
unit 23:1,11
units 23:2,3
unmute 18:23

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>we've 7:14 14:13 20:7 22:7 25:23 26:21 28:12 31:24 31:24 43:18 57:3 57:18,20 58:11 59:17 64:18 66:6 68:8,9 wear 21:12 webcast 4:25 website 5:21 25:21 wednesday 1:8 weekends 19:22 19:23 wei 2:11 26:9 28:12 35:10 weiss 34:18 47:1 welcome 4:3 74:20 77:1 went 71:24 west 22:4 29:13,15 30:1 34:18 36:2 36:19 39:20 57:14 57:15,19,19 58:9 wetland 33:25 51:17 52:24,25 54:8 55:15,24 wetlands 52:21,22 53:2 54:10 55:10 55:11 wheels 19:15 wide 22:22 widespread 53:25 wildlife 2:12 10:8 27:4 30:9 33:24 38:3 47:20 48:2 49:16,17 51:16,18 51:25 53:14 54:9 54:14 wise 17:9 witness 78:4</p> | <p>wooded 52:6 words 11:18,24 work 8:22 19:5 24:1,2 31:23 51:2 62:13 66:23 73:12 73:12 working 10:12,16 62:25 63:4 76:21 wrap 25:16 29:3 write 69:1 written 8:24 14:23 76:6 wrong 10:23 71:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">y</p> <hr/> <p>yeah 26:7 28:11 28:24 31:1 33:13 50:19 61:25 62:23 64:10,10 65:17,18 65:24 66:2,4,13 67:4 75:6 year 10:25 13:7 17:23 18:6 19:13 20:25 38:13 42:16 43:20 45:14 50:4 60:23 71:14 years 9:21 10:17 12:6,7 13:24 14:1 18:14 22:7 27:21 39:1,6 40:5 70:13 yep 50:11 64:24 yielded 46:15 young 30:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">z</p> <hr/> <p>zeng 2:11 26:10</p> |
|--|--|