

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

2 MS. SUGHRUE: We're going to get started since
3 it's five after nine so, my name is Karen Sughrue. I am
4 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC, for
5 short. I am the Project Coordinator for the relicensing of
6 the Barker's Mill Hydroelectric Project.

7 [Slide presentation] This is our agenda for this
8 morning. We're just going to have some brief introductions.
9 I'll go through a couple housekeeping items. We'll have an
10 overview of the project given by Lewis Loon.. We'll talk
11 about the purpose of scoping. We'll talk about the resource
12 issues that FERC staff has currently identified. And then
13 we'll talk about the schedule for putting out FERC's
14 environmental assessment document. And then we'll go over
15 a couple examples of the types of information that we're
16 requesting from the public and from agencies. And then I'll
17 tell you how to access FERC's online resources for
18 submitting comments, and then we'll close with final
19 comments or questions.

20 Getting back to introductions, we have two
21 additional FERC staff here this morning and I'll go ahead
22 and let them introduce themselves.

23 MR. TUST: Good morning. My name is Michael
24 Tust, I'm a fish biologist with FERC, and I'll be handling
25 water quality and fish related issues.

1 MR. WILCOX: I'm Ken Wilcox, I'm a recreation
2 planner, and I'll be handling recreation aesthetics,
3 cultural issues, and socioeconomics, et cetera.

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20 For submitting written comments if you choose to
21 do it that way, we do have our mailing address and it's also
22 in our scoping document. But one of the important things is
23 to make sure you identify on that first page that this is,
24 that the comments are to be directed to the Barker's Mill
25 Hydroelectric Project. Please use the project number, 2808.

1 So, a little bit about the Federal Energy
2 Regulatory Commission. We are a federal agency that
3 regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil,
4 and electricity. And we also address licensing and
5 inspecting of private, municipal and state hydroelectric
6 projects. The staff here today is from the Office of Energy
7 Projects and specifically within the Division of Hydropower
8 Licensing. We are all located in our headquarters office in
9 D.C., but we do have five regional offices: in New York,
10 Atlanta, Chicago, Portland, and San Francisco.

11 So, now I'll hand it over to Mr. Loon to give
12 the project overview.

13 MR. LOON: Thank you, Karen. Looks like the
14 crowd hasn't changed much. The only newcomer we have here
15 is Kathy, so this is for you.

16 I think you're quite familiar with the site. So
17 here we have a picture of the Lower Barker Hydro Project,
18 looking upstream at the dam. Right side of the falls you
19 can see the outlet gates used for dewatering the project and
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22 above, we have the canal. An underground penstock going
23 down to the 1.5 megawatt powerhouse. Down below, here's a
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22 Whitewater are currently under consideration for whitewater
23 releases. Developing some sort of flow gauging system. And
24 finally, recreation improvements and maintenance on the
25 project going forward.

1 I believe that's all we have.

2 MS. SUGHRUE: All right. So now we'll talk a
3 little bit about the purpose of scoping.

4 MS. SUGHRUE: Yes, sure.

5 MR. TUST: Lewis, This is Mike Tust, FERC. I
6 just have a question about, like, I wanted to make sure that
7 for your operations, currently, you're run-of-river,
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24 MR. TUST: Thanks.

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17 are run-of-river facilities so we have no storm release way
18 of maintaining the flow down below.

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21 FERC's regulations, also the National Environmental Policy
22 Act, or NEPA, and other applicable laws which require
23 evaluation of environmental effects of licensing or
24 re-licensing hydropower projects. The scoping is
25 basically, it's a part of NEPA and it's used to identify

1 issues and concerns to be addressed in NEPA documents, such
2 as our Environmental Assessment that we'll be putting out.
3 Also, with the input from federal, state, and local
4 agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations and
5 the public. So, we'll be discussing the existing
6 environmental conditions, potential information needs, and
7 resource issues.

8 The resource issues that we've currently
9 identified are aquatic, terrestrial, threatened and
10 endangered species, recreation and aesthetics, cultural, and
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17 Effects of continued project operations and
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8 For threatened and endangered species, we have the
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18 for fishing and boating.

19 For cultural resources, we have the effects of
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21 resources and historic properties including Barker's Mill
22 Dam and other potential properties eligible for inclusion in
23 the National Register of Historic Places.

24 For developmental resources we have the effects
25 of proposed environmental measures and associated costs on

1 energy generation and the cost of project power.

2 For cumulative effects, we have identified
3 diadromous fisheries. And for our geographic scope for that
4 we identified from the Little Androscoggin river from the
5 Marcal Hydroelectric Project downstream to the confluence
6 with the mainstem of the Androscoggin River. And then from
7 the mainstem confluence downstream to the Brunswick
8 Hydroelectric Project. I believe it's over 35 miles.

9 MR. LOON: Yes, 36.

10 MS. SUGHRUE: On temporal scope, we will look 30
11 to 50 years into the future, concentrating on the effects of
12 the resource on reasonably foreseeable future actions.
13 Here's our preliminary EA preparation schedule. So here in
14 August we're having our scoping meetings. Then depending on
15 the comments that come in on this scoping document, we may
16 revise it and issue a second scoping document, which will be
17 our scoping document 2. And as I pointed out last night,
18 the comments are due at the end of September; so if we issue
19 a scoping document 2 it might not be until a little bit
20 later to getting into October. So this may shift, the
21 overall schedule may shift a little bit; but this is what
22 we're tentatively planning.

23 And as you can see there's additional periods in
24 the process for comments to come in. Just be aware of that.
25 The types of information that we're looking to gain during

1 the scoping process are listed in section 5 of our scoping
2 document. But just to give you a good examples to think
3 about: Significant environmental issues that should be
4 addressed in the E A. And information in our data to
5 describe past and present conditions of the project area,
6 resource plans, and future proposals in the project area,
7 and additional comprehensive plans. Our comprehensive plan
8 list is currently in section 8 of the scoping document. So
9 if there's any that we've missed or folks believe should be
10 included, please submit those. . And again, this process is
11 just to get local information to us to help us with our
12 environmental assessment.

13 So, for submitting comments or getting access to
14 the project files you can go to FERC's website at
15 www.ferc.gov . And then over here in the bottom left corner
16 that little circle is where our comment resources are.
17 eFiling is basically when you want to submit your comments
18 electronically and if they are on the lengthy side, you
19 probably will want to choose eFiling quick comments as
20 another alternatives, that's just for shorter, brief
21 comments. The reason is there's a character limit in using
22 that location. eSubscription is, I think, a good tool if
23 someone is interested in getting updates on the project.
24 You can subscribe and submit your email, and then any time
25 anything new is filed to the project record, you'll get an

1 email notification, so that way you don't have to keep
2 periodically going back into the pile and checking to see,
3 you know, if something new has been filed; you'll just
4 automatically get that notice. But if you do want to just,
5 if you don't want to subscribe and you just want to look at
6 the project file you should always search eLibrary and you
7 would use that Docket No. P-2808. If you need help or
8 assistance with any of these online resources we have an
9 email address here and a telephone number which is always
10 available on the website as well.

11 And that's pretty much all I had so I will open
12 it up now for any additional comments or questions, concerns
13 that people have, additional information that you want to
14 let us know about.

15 Doesn't seem like we have anything so that's it.
16 The information is there. Please take home a scoping
17 document and submit your comments if you're interested, and
18 I guess with that, that is the end of our meeting this
19 morning. Thank you all for coming and participating.

20 [Whereupon at 9:25 a.m., the scoping meeting
21 concluded.]

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1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

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

6 Name of Proceeding: Barker's Mill Hydroelectric
7 Project

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17 Docket No.: 2808-017

18 Place: Auburn, Maine

19 Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017

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

24 Daniel Hawkins

25 Official Reporter

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



SIGN-IN SHEET

Barker's Mill Hydroelectric Project Scoping Meeting

August 30, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch

14 Great Falls Plaza, Auburn, Maine 04210

	Name	Affiliation	Making a Public Comment? (Y/N)
1	Michael Tust	FERC	
2	Karen Sughrue	FERC	
3	Matt Ayotte	Kruger Energy	
4	Eric Cousens	City of Auburn	
5	Andy Qua	Kleinschmidt	N
6	SHERRI LOON	KRUGER	
7	Lewis LOON	KRUGER	
8	ROBERT NASPOK	AMERICAN WATERWORKS	
9	Kathy Howatt	MEDEP	N
10	Rewin Mendih	NPS	N
11	Ken Wilcox	FERC	
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

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KEI (Maine) Power Management

(III) LLC

Docket No. 2808-017

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BARKER'S MILL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Hilton Garden Inn

14 Falls Avenue

Auburn, Maine

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

The morning scoping meeting, pursuant to notice,
convened at 9 a.m, before a Staff Panel:

KAREN SUGHRUE, Project Coordinator, FERC

MICHAEL TUST, Fish Biologist, FERC

KEN WILCOX, FERC

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

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3 it's five after nine so, my name is Karen Sughrue. I am
4 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC, for
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4 automatically get that notice. But if you do want to just,
5 if you don't want to subscribe and you just want to look at
6 the project file you should always search eLibrary and you
7 would use that Docket No. P-2808. If you need help or
8 assistance with any of these online resources we have an
9 email address here and a telephone number which is always
10 available on the website as well.

11 And that's pretty much all I had so I will open
12 it up now for any additional comments or questions,
concerns
13 that people have, additional information that you want to
14 let us know about.

15 Doesn't seem like we have anything so that's it.
16 The information is there. Please take home a scoping
17 document and submit your comments if you're interested, and
18 I guess with that, that is the end of our meeting this
19 morning. Thank you all for coming and participating.

20 [Whereupon at 9:25 a.m., the scoping meeting
21 concluded.]

1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

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

6 Name of Proceeding: Barker's Mill Hydroelectric
7 Project

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17 Docket No.: 2808-017

18 Place: Auburn, Maine

19 Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017

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

24 Daniel Hawkins

25 Official Reporter

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