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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects

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Rumford Falls Hydro, LLC Project No. 2333-091 -
Maine
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RUMFORD FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Rumford Municipal Building
145 Congress Street
Rumford, Maine 04276

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

The evening public scoping meeting, pursuant to
notice, convened at 6:00 p.m.

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

2 MR. HANSEN: All right. Great. Well, first of
3 all, welcome, thanks for coming on this snowy evening. Can
4 you hear me through the microphone?

5 Oh. Okay. Fine. If you can't hear anything I
6 say please ask me to speak up or into the microphone. But
7 welcome, thanks for coming on a snowy night. We appreciate
8 it. This is the scoping, a scoping meeting for the Rumford
9 Falls Hydroelectric Project relicensing. That project has
10 FERC number P-2333. That's an important number if you're
11 interested in this project and you're interested in the
12 relicensing. So, it's on every single document that has to
13 do with this project, but if you're not aware of that number
14 you might want to jot it down.

15 So, first things first we'll do introductions.
16 My name is Ryan Hansen. I work for the Federal Energy
17 Regulatory Commission. I'm a fisheries biologist by
18 training. I'm also the relicensing coordinator on the FERC
19 side for the Rumford Falls Hydro project. I have some of my
20 colleagues who are a part of my team who are going to be
21 helping us through this process, so I'm going to let them go
22 ahead and introduce themselves.

23 MR. FEINBURG: Hi, I'm Jeremy Feinburg.
24 Terrestrial resources.

25 MS. LEASURE-EARNHARDT: Hi, I'm Amber Leasure-

1 Earnhardt and I'm the Attorney Advisor for the project.

2 MS. BROFMAN: Hello, I'm Ingrid Brofman. I'll be
3 looking at the recreational use and aesthetics for the
4 project.

5 MR. HANSEN: All right. So, we're going to start
6 with a couple housekeeping items. Then we're going to turn
7 it over to Brookfield, who's the company that owns Rumford
8 Falls Hydro. They're going to give us a presentation about
9 the project, kind of the layout of it and the operations.
10 It's very, very helpful. We'll talk about why we're here
11 tonight, the purpose of our scoping meeting. We'll talk
12 about resource issues that we have currently identified as
13 those that we think are important to analyze. We'll go over
14 the schedule for the upcoming relicensing actions that are
15 going to be forthcoming. We'll talk about the types of
16 information we are hoping to obtain. We'll go over FERC's
17 online resources and then we always have time at the end for
18 comments and questions.

19 It's a small group here tonight so
20 at any point if you have comments or questions, just raise
21 your hand. We don't need to set aside a specific time.
22 It's just, kind of, an open floor policy. One thing I do
23 have to ask though is that if you have a question, I do
24 request that you come up to the podium and speak into the
25 microphone for a couple reasons. One of the main reasons is

1 so everybody can hear, but the other reason is that this
2 meeting is public record and it's, this is Dan here, he's
3 our court reporter and he is transcribing this entire
4 meeting for us, and if folks come up to there to the podium
5 to ask questions, it's much easier for him to get the
6 appropriate, or the correct question in the record so it's
7 really helpful.

8 If you have a comment or a question and you come
9 up here, I ask you also before you speak to state your name
10 and your affiliation. That's so Dan can attribute the
11 question or comment to the correct person. So, if you come
12 up four or five times-- I apologize if it's annoying --but
13 please do it every time. Just so Dan always knows who it is
14 that's talking and it's a difficult job so please, if you
15 don't mind doing that. We have a sign-in sheet on that
16 folding table by the Poinsettia. If you haven't signed it,
17 please do. It's really helpful for us to know who came
18 since this is a public meeting. It's helpful for Dan also
19 so he can get everybody's name correct.

20 All right. So, we're here tonight soliciting
21 what we call oral testimony on this project, but we're also
22 asking right now for written comments and those are going to
23 be due, to be filed with us by January 25th of next year.
24 So, we're going to go over the upcoming schedule later in
25 the presentation but I just wanted to go ahead and state

1 that at the start and I'll state it again at the end.
2 January 25th is one deadline that we have here for comments
3 on this part of the process. So, keep that date in mind
4 please.

5 The Commission strongly encourages that you eFile
6 everything with us. It's a really easy thing to do and I'll
7 get to that at the end as well. But if for some reason you
8 really prefer to mail us a letter, we certainly will accept
9 that. That is our mailing address there on the screen and
10 it's not all that easy to read; so if you would like it,
11 please see me afterwards and I can give it to you. But
12 eFiling is much easier and much quicker.

13 All right. So, who is FERC? If you've never
14 worked with us you probably have no reason to know who we
15 are. But the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is a
16 commission of normally five people that are appointed by the
17 President. And underneath that commission there is a large
18 staff that help make recommendations for their decisions.
19 And what we do, we regulate the interstate transmission of
20 natural gas, oil, and electricity. We also do things like
21 energy market regulation and we also do the licensing of
22 non-federal hydropower projects. So those are projects that
23 are not owned by the federal government but by a
24 municipality or a company or citizens or whatnot which is
25 the case here with the Rumford Falls Project which is owned

1 by Brookfield Renewable.

2 So, I work in the Office of Energy Projects in,
3 which is a part of FERC. And in particular, I work in the
4 Division of Hydropower Licensing. And that's what we're
5 discussing this evening, the proposed relicensing of this
6 project, that is why I am here and my colleagues as well.
7 We have two other divisions that become important in the
8 FERC process once the license is issued. We have the
9 Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance and
10 those are the folks that will ensure that a licensee will
11 abide by the terms of the license. So, that's very
12 important. Then we have the Division of Dam Safety and
13 Inspections who come out at least once every five years to
14 inspect our projects to make certain that they're safe.
15 When I say our projects, please understand they're not our
16 projects, they're owned by, you know, companies and
17 municipalities however we call them ours as we help do the
18 regulations, so. We have five regional offices, but all of
19 the licensing staff for the most part are based out of D.C..
20 So, that's where we're all here from tonight.

21 All right. Now we've got about five slides that
22 Brookfield has put together that will really help us
23 understand what they're proposing and how the project
24 operates so I'm going to turn it over. Is it going to be
25 Randy or oh, we're going to let Luke talk first.

1 MR. ANDERSON: Yes --

2 MR. HANSEN: Yes. So, I'm going to introduce
3 Luke here and let him

4 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Luke Anderson. I'm new
5 to Brookfield and new to this project, so I just wanted to
6 first thank everybody for coming out and hanging in there on
7 a snowy night. Because I'm new to this project I want to
8 make sure we have some continuity on kicking off this
9 meeting; and Randy Dorman, my colleague, is going to come up
10 and go over the project description and the slides and such.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. DORMAN: So, good evening, everyone. As Luke
13 said, I'm Randy Dorman with Brookfield. And I'll do a quick
14 overview of the project facilities and operations.

15 And so this first slide is a general map of the
16 region. As you all know, we're in Rumford, here in Oxford
17 County. This project is one of the larger ones in our
18 Northeast fleet at a little shy of 45 megawatts, and so
19 that's divided into about 30 megawatts at the Upper Station
20 and then 15 megawatts at the Lower Station; and so combined,
21 this is a fairly large asset for our Northeast Region.

22 We're not proposing as a part of this relicensing
23 any changes to the project boundary, project facilities, or
24 project operations. Our proposal, as of today, is to
25 continue operating the project as-is. So, next slide.

1 And so this is a overview of the Upper Station,
2 so lower right-hand corner this would be the Androscoggin
3 River is flowing into the picture from that direction.
4 We've got in your lower right-hand corner there is the upper
5 dam which is shunting the flows over to river left which is
6 where the gatehouse is. The gatehouse controls the flows
7 that are then going into the powerhouse. To the right is
8 the bypassed reach, sometimes just called the bypass.
9 That's the natural river channel, that's where the river ran
10 down Rumford Falls before the project was constructed. Next
11 slide, Ryan,

12

13 please.

14 So, this is the Lower Development and this is a
15 little more complicated. Not all of our projects have quite
16 as many structures here so I'll walk through this. Again,
17 if we start, if we, kind of, just follow the river's course
18 in the lower right-hand corner that's the base of the falls
19 that's coming in. Than we have Middle Dam which in this
20 case is now shunting the flow over to river-right. If you
21 follow the picture up, kind of the left-hand side that's the
22 natural river channel. That's the bypassed reach of this
23 section. If we go back up to Middle Dam we then have a
24 headgate structure in front of the canal which is running up
25 the right-hand side of this slide. And so that canal

1 structure, that's all a man-made feature which ends in our
2 project intakes. From the intakes the water is then moved
3 over to the powerhouse where we generate electricity and
4 then it returns to the river in that channel vicinity. Next
5 slide, please.

6 So, just a quick overview of our project
7 operations. Androscoggin River, if you didn't know, is a
8 highly regulated river, and the rules for this regulation
9 were actually established back in 1909. There was a pretty
10 large agreement between both the owners of the storages up
11 at the headwaters and a lot of downstream owners, many of
12 the paper mills, many other hydro owners, all kind of came
13 together in what is now called the Androscoggin River
14 Company Headwater Benefits Agreement and this basically
15 established how those storages would be operated to control
16 the river.

17 Executive summary for that is to basically reduce
18 flows during the spring and fall when we've got more water
19 than we can use. And to increase flows in summer and
20 portions of the winter when we have, we would naturally have
21 less flows than we would desire. The ultimate goal here is
22 to provide a steadier level of flow year round. Part of
23 that is for electricity generation, but also a lot of that
24 is for municipal intakes and industrial intakes. That's
25 sort of the genesis behind this agreement.

1 A couple of license articles we'll talk about.
2 Article 401 is this sets operation as run-of-river. This is
3 a special term of art for hydroelectric projects, basically
4 inflow equals outflow. And our priority here when we
5 operate is to try to stabilize that head pond so it isn't
6 going up and down. So, that's Article 401.

7 Article 402 is our minimum flows. So, under low
8 flow conditions we release a minimum of 1 CFS from the upper
9 project and 21 CFS-- that's cubic feet per second -- from
10 Middle Dam. And again, because the river is so heavily
11 regulated, we have less low flow events than we would under
12 a totally unregulated type of river. The last bullet
13 addresses a couple of just high flow operating conditions.
14 So, under high flows, at the Upper Development, outside of
15 the winter, the Obermeyer section. Obermeyer is a type of,
16 sometimes it's called a rubber dam or inflatable dam, this
17 is basically just a section that we can raise or lower.

18 So, under high flow conditions, outside of
19 winter, that Obermeyer section is dropped to crest level.
20 Crest being the top of the dam. And additional flow is then
21 directed into the bypass reach under high flow conditions up
22 at the Upper Development. The Lower Development, when we
23 have flows in excess of the lower station turbine capacity,
24 those get spilled over Middle Dam and into the bypass reach.

25

1 So, this next slide is a slide of recreation
2 facilities in the general vicinity, and this covers a couple
3 of different categories. So, some of these recreation items
4 are non-project features that aren't owned by Brookfield.
5 They aren't included in the project description. But they
6 may be within the project boundary. A few of these features
7 are owned by Brookfield but they aren't formal recreation
8 facilities at this time. They might be used by some people
9 for recreation but they aren't, quote unquote, official
10 recreation sites describing the project license. And then
11 some of these features are, in fact, official recreation
12 features that are owned by Brookfield in the project
13 description, and so this schematic pretty much has all three
14 of those types of features here.

15 So, this is just a last slide on community
16 involvement. Brookfield tries to maintain local presence at
17 all our facilities and tries to remain engaged in the
18 community; so we give to charitable causes and we encourage
19 our local employees to engage in volunteerism. We do things
20 like - what's pictured here is a tour of school kids of the
21 powerhouse that I think occurred back in the fall.

22 So, I think, Ryan, that's the end of our
23 presentation. Any kind of questions about operations or
24 facilities or? Ingrid?

25 MS. BROFMAN: No, I'm good. Thank you.

1 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Randy. Very helpful.

2 So those of you who have not gone through this
3 process before, you're probably wondering why we're here.
4 Well, what we're doing is we are fulfilling part of the law,
5 the National Environmental Policy Act. This was an act that
6 stated that any action that the government takes that could
7 affect the health of the human environment needs to be
8 analyzed prior to permitting that, to see what those
9 effects may be. So, that's the law and it's also part of
10 FERC's regulations to do this.

11 So, scoping is a part of that process. We call
12 it the NEPA process. NEPA is short for the National
13 Environmental Policy Act. And basically, it's the process
14 by which we analyze the effects of a government action in an
15 environmental analysis document. It can be an environmental
16 assessment or an environmental impact statement depending on
17 the project, and those are terms of art that you don't need
18 to really know unless you're interested, and I'm certainly
19 happy to explain the difference maybe afterwards if you want
20 to know about that.

21 Anyhow, so we take a look at the information we
22 have on hand and when we get a proposal to relicense a
23 project. So, Rumford Falls Hydro sent in a pre-application
24 document to us. And this is, kind of, a compendium of all
25 the information that they currently have on the project area

1 as well as what they are, at this time, proposing to do
2 during the terms of a new license. So, we took a look at
3 that and a number of things jumped out and we said, 'Well,
4 it's pretty easy to tell. We think we probably need to look
5 at this, and this, and this, and this in our environmental
6 document. In our environmental analysis -- environmental
7 assessment.

8 But since we're, you know, sitting at my desk in
9 D.C. we really need to come out and see the project and talk
10 to the people on the ground who are familiar with it that
11 can help us find the proper scope of what our analysis
12 should be. So, we had a meeting today at 1 p.m. that was
13 aimed mostly at resource agencies, and that was very
14 successful. Tonight we may have some agency folks as well,
15 I'm not sure; but it's the evening meeting is normally more
16 folks from the public who have an interest. And we're
17 interested in hearing from everybody. State agencies,
18 Native American Tribes, NGOs, the public, everybody who has
19 an interest in the project.

20 So, tonight we're going to discuss the existing
21 environmental conditions. We can get into potential
22 information needs possibly, and we'll definitely discuss the
23 resource issues as we see them at this time. So, we, in
24 going through the pre-application document and the proposal
25 that Rumford Falls Hydro has provided, these are the groups

1 of resource issues that we have identified as being
2 important. And we're going to go through these each, one-
3 by-one, on separate slides and what is contained underneath
4 each of those subheadings.

5 If you've seen our Scoping Document 1, is what we
6 call it, you'll notice these are all listed in Section 4.2.
7 If you don't have that document, it's available on ferc.gov
8 and I can help you figure out how to find that. It's kind
9 of the road map for what we're doing tonight. So, what
10 we're going to do is we're going to go through each of these
11 resource areas and we're going to explain the effects that
12 we foresee will be important to look at in our environmental
13 assessment. And then we're going to solicit input from
14 anyone who is here, if they have anything that they can tell
15 us about what we've identified. Have we captured everything
16 that you think we need to look at? Have we missed the mark
17 and said that something is important that isn't important?
18 Any information that can help us understand the importance
19 of the resources, what the resources are, what the possible
20 effects can be on the community. These are the things that
21 we really want to know, so that's why we're here.

22 So, as I said, we'll go through one-by-one. The
23 first is geologic and soil resources. And at this time we
24 have preliminarily identified that in our environmental
25 assessment that we're going to write, we're going to look at

1 the effects of project operation and maintenance on
2 shoreline erosion in the Upper Dam impoundment. So, that's
3 the upper head pond above the first dam in this, in the
4 complex. And that's the only thing we identified at this
5 time as far as soil or geologic issues.

6 Are there any geologic or soil resource issues
7 that you all are aware of that you may want us to take a
8 look at in our environmental assessment? With that I'll
9 open the floor and see if anyone has anything to add.

10 All right. Fair enough. We'll move on to the
11 next one. These are the issues that we've identified for
12 aquatic resources that we think that are important that we
13 want to look at. Effects of the project operation and
14 maintenance on water quality. Specifically, dissolved
15 oxygen and temperature in the river. Those are of great
16 importance to aquatic biota, so we take a look at that
17 usually. Effects of project operation and maintenance on
18 aquatic habitat. Both the distribution and suitability of
19 that habitat in the project area. So, we're going to take a
20 look at that and that's habitat for fish, the forage base
21 for fish, you know, be it insects or whatnot, anything that
22 isn't an aquatic organism I think that could be affected
23 that is of importance we plan looking at there.

24 We're going to look at the effects of project
25 operation and maintenance on essential fish habitat for the

1 Atlantic Salmon. And essential fish habitat, if you don't
2 know what it is, it's determined by the National Marine
3 Fisheries Service and it's specific habitats that are
4 critical to the survival of certain species and they have
5 identified, I'm not sure the exact boundary, but I think it
6 may be all the way to the falls. The Androscoggin River is
7 an essential fish habitat for Atlantic Salmon that are
8 federally endangered. So, we're going to definitely look at
9 the effects of the project on Atlantic Salmon habitat.

10 And then the effects of project operation and
11 maintenance on impingement, entrainment, and survival or
12 mortality in the river. If you don't know what these terms
13 mean, I understand. They're not often used in regular life.
14 Impingement is when water being sucked into a project goes
15 through some sort of screen or rack or gate that's there to
16 exclude, usually trash, but sometimes fish. But if the
17 approach velocity, if the amount of speed going into that
18 rack is too intense, it will suck fish right into it and
19 they will get stuck there and that oftentimes leads to death
20 or injury. So, we want to look at impingement.

21 Oftentimes, fish can slip through these racks or
22 these screens and then go through the turbine and get spit
23 out on the other side, and that's what we call entrainment.
24 So, we're going to be looking at entrainment and how both
25 impingement, possible impingement and possible entrainment

1 at this project could affect the survival of the populations
2 here in the river. So, for aquatic resources, that's what
3 we've looked at or what we plan on looking at; we think
4 these are important things to analyze.

5 So, now I'd like to open the floor to anyone has
6 anything additional on aquatic resources that they think
7 would be helpful for us at this time.

8 Thank you.

9 So, we're going to be looking also at project
10 effects on terrestrial resources or land-based resources,
11 animals in particular. We're going to look at the effects
12 of the project transmission lines and any possibility of
13 electrocution or collision hazard for birds. We'll look at
14 the effects of project operation and maintenance on
15 riparian, littoral, and forest and shrub wetland habitats
16 and the wildlife that use those habitats. Riparian and
17 littoral are just kind of fancy terms for vegetation along
18 the side of a river. So, it's really not much more
19 difficult than that.

20 And then we'll be looking at the effects of
21 project operation and maintenance on any nesting Bald
22 Eagles. And state-designated wildlife habitats which
23 include deer wintering areas and inland waterfowl and wading
24 bird habitat. So those are all things that
25 jumped out at us that we think we should take a look at. Do

1 we have any comments about these or anything additional
2 under the terrestrial side that we might want to discuss
3 while we have everyone here? This is great. We must have
4 done a good job.

5 So, with any federal action we'll have to look at
6 the effect on threatened and endangered species. In this
7 case, we have the federal threatened Long-Eared Bat and then
8 the federally endangered Atlantic Salmon. In particular the
9 Gulf of Maine distinct population segment, which is a
10 specific genetic group of fish that use this area and the
11 rivers from the Gulf of Maine for their spawning, so, it's
12 federally endangered and we definitely need to take a look
13 at if the project could effect those fish in any way.

14 We're not aware of any further threatened or
15 endangered species in the area, either on the state or
16 federal level. If anybody is aware of any others that you
17 think we should also include or just species of great
18 importance to the community as well, we certainly would like
19 to hear about any of that. So, if anyone has anything, we
20 would love to hear it.

21 Excellent. Thank you.

22 We're going to be looking at the effects of the
23 project operation and maintenance on recreational resources.
24 In particular, the effects of the project on recreational
25 use here in the area. And that will include the adequacy of

1 existing recreational access and the facilities that are
2 currently present to meet the recreational needs of the
3 area. We're also going to take a look at the need, the need
4 to and the feasibility of rehabilitating the reopening the
5 viewing area of Rumford Falls which is at the Upper
6 Development that's currently fenced off as well as the
7 Rumford Falls Trail which is as well.

8 So those are a couple things under recreation
9 that we think are important to look at. They're fairly
10 broad so a lot of things can fall under there. So, if there
11 are any specific recreational issues that are of importance
12 that you folks would like us to know about, we would love to
13 hear about that right now.

14 MR. PAPIANO: Good evening. Name is Todd
15 Papiano. Signed in under a couple of different hats tonight
16 on this beautiful snowy evening. Registered name guide
17 since 1991. I'm a physical educator at the high school here
18 in town. And I'm a member of PACT, which is the Penacook
19 Area Community Trails, so we're a trail-building
20 organization in the area.

21 What was my opening? I'm not asking for the moon
22 but I'd like to tell you about the last time I was there.
23 This area is so rich in historical if you've had a chance
24 to cruise around Rumford, downstairs is a huge bust of
25 Huey Chisolm, and he designed this area for the mill

1 employees as a walking community; and back when there was
2 like 20,000 people here people walked and there's beautiful
3 walkways from the Brick Park. There's extended walkways
4 that go up around the Falls on both sides. There's some
5 beautiful stone turrets that overlook the river, and there
6 were gaslights and you just picture a romantic evening
7 stroll after dinner on the island up to the turrets, there's
8 seating benches there, it's just a beautiful place.

9 When I first moved here, some of this was all
10 still in effect and open to the public. When you get a
11 chance to do your tour around, specifically on the Route 2
12 side, there's an area called the picnic grounds; and when I
13 first moved here I went and had lunch there several times
14 and it's a green grassy lawn that had picnic tables, and
15 just past the picnic tables, there's a retaining wall that
16 if you were to walk up to the wall, it's quite breathtaking
17 as it drops right down to the rapids. You're lucky to be
18 here at a time when we've got probably a medium to high flow
19 over this grand falls, and it is something special to stand
20 nearby and above the falls and feel the pound of the river
21 in your chest. You, it's audible, and it's palatable, and
22 it is emotional.

23 And it's something that, as you move away from
24 the falls, you don't quite get; but anywhere near the falls
25 on either side, that, that interface with that river, that

1 grand falls is dramatic and you'll never forget it. I think
2 a lot is going to be talked about. The south side trail
3 that PACT has been trying to open up, but I didn't want to
4 not draw attention to a historical -- and when we use the
5 term authorized and unauthorized recreational usage, I
6 think, I'm not sure the last date this was reviewed and
7 relicensed, but there were things that occurred and happened
8 that were just part of how the design of this area was. So,
9 whether we use a term that was an authorized thing or an
10 unauthorized thing, it was a thing. It was a historical use
11 of the area.

12 So, maybe I'm asking for the moon, but I enjoyed
13 as coming to this area, being able to interface with the
14 river. From a physical education standpoint, I do a
15 commuter bike unit, and part of our route used to be up the
16 graded, and it used to be a rail line, a spur from the Upper
17 Mill above the falls, down this graded, and when we say
18 graded, it was railroad graded, and I first realized that
19 that's what that used to be when I was on my bike peddling
20 up that hill, and I realized I didn't need to shift. I was
21 like, hmm, because when you're on the Route 2 side, it's
22 abrupt and you have to shift, but on that graded path, I'm
23 like, I didn't have to shift. That's amazing.

24 I'd often stop with my class up on the upper
25 reaches, and it was a nice spot to talk about a few things

1 about the shifting, about did you notice that you didn't
2 have to shift or if you were in the wrong gear you might
3 have had to shift -- so it was a great spot to just gather
4 and in the springtime when we had that flow, kids that lived
5 around here might not have been to that particular spot and
6 it was quite dramatic and it was, kind of, a cool place, to
7 like, end up for our ride before we had to return to school,
8 so.

9 It is my goal and my hope that we can somehow
10 return to a time when it's a more approachable situation for
11 folks, because as we learned that we're going to have to
12 rely more on recreation within our economy, sharing that
13 resource would be a major asset to the economics and I know
14 some folks here talk about the hotel and the folks coming
15 here, and I think I've said enough. Thank you.

16 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. That's very helpful.
17 Does anyone else have some recreation comments?

18 Yes, sir. Please.

19 MR. PERKINS: Hi, my name is Gabe Perkins and I'm
20 from Pebble just up the river, and I am Executive Director
21 of Mahoosuc Pathways. Todd was so excited about PACT, or
22 the
23 Penacook Area Community Trails. This is a subcommittee of
24 Mahoosuc Pathways, and we've been working with PACT for the
25 last year or so to develop trails based on economy and

1 infrastructure here in this region, and we've had some
2 success with that and DUFL, and doing that here with the
3 municipality and with private landowners we opened a half
4 mile trail. Actually, you've got to update your map; it
5 says ATV trail up in the upper corner. There's a mountain
6 bike trail there now which is very exciting.

7 There's going to be a lot more of them, we think,
8 and I think there are two things about what's needed from
9 the planning phase. One, I wasn't sure if it was geologic
10 but there's a rock on the Rumford Falls Trail that has been
11 a bone of contention for a few years and either we could
12 ignore the geological impact of that rock or try to remove
13 it to allow that trail to come back rather than have been
14 there historically.

15 The other thing that we're really key on from the
16 Mahoosuc Pathway standpoint is a plan, right? So, this is
17 perfect. We really are looking for a recreation plan for
18 this region. We have a broad vision of connected trails
19 around the community here but articulating a plan will help
20 us secure funding, work with the landowners, and talk more
21 about this as we go forward. So, I think it's really
22 important to try to find a solution to the trail, the
23 Rumford Falls Trail, and develop a recreation plan, and
24 thanks.

25 MR. HANSEN: Anyone else have recreation-related

1 comments at this time? Great. Thank you for both of those.
2 It's really helpful.

3 In our environmental assessment we will be
4 looking at the effects of project operation and maintenance
5 on cultural resources. In particular, properties that are
6 included in or eligible for listing on the National Register
7 of Historic Properties historic places.

8 Are there any issues on the cultural side? This
9 can be either historic properties, you know, old historic
10 buildings, or prehistory, you know, archaeological issues
11 that anyone is aware of that we should probably take a good
12 look at in the environmental assessment, or? Do we have any
13 cultural issues at this time that we would like to talk
14 about? All right. Thank you.

15 So, we will be taking also a look at the effects
16 of the project on aesthetic resources in the project area
17 and this covers a number of sub, I guess, areas. Visual,
18 the way the project looks, is important. This could be
19 things like just simply the way the structures look. Things
20 like lighting and issues with lighting that fall under here.
21 Noise. Things that are very noisy or whatnot. These are
22 all aesthetic issues. So, we plan on this is kind of a
23 wide umbrella but anything at the project that effects how
24 someone experiences the area is important for us to know
25 about so, do we have any aesthetic issues in particular that

1 pertain strictly to aesthetic-type things that we want to
2 discuss right now or bring up? Yes, sir.

3 MR. PAPIANO: Todd Papiano, physical educator,
4 Maine Guide, and PACT member. Just from my perspective and
5 traveling around I've been fortunate enough to go across the
6 continent a few times and spend a lot of time in Canada
7 recreating as a whitewater paddler and mountain biker,
8 hiker, and skier so, my impression when I visit some
9 facilities just north of us across the border in Canada,
10 that the look of the facilities is more welcoming from -
11 it's set up like a park, it has beautiful staircases,
12 informational kiosks with historical and other - it's just
13 much more welcoming and it really is aesthetic and adds to
14 the facility.

15 And you can see how historically this was set up
16 like that here and it's sort of changed, we've got, like,
17 some modern, like, chain-link fence and it's not what it
18 was, and it's not what I see in other places. So, it is the
19 heart of our village aesthetically, it's what you see when
20 you come in. Of course, folks see the big mill, the stacks
21 and all that, and that's also part of who we are as a mill
22 town, but my hope is that the aesthetics of this project can
23 return somewhat to the glory of the romantic time that was
24 here before, not too long ago either that it suddenly
25 changed and has a much different look, aesthetics.

1 MR. HANSEN: Thank you very much. Do we have any
2 other aesthetic comments at this time?

3 Excellent, thank you. Now, we'll also be looking
4 at in our environmental analysis, the effects of any
5 proposed or recommended environmental measures on project
6 generation and economics. So, licensing and relicensing a
7 hydro project is a requirement of the Federal Power Act, and
8 in doing so it asks us for, to balance, the public interests
9 of any sort of recommended environmental measure that may be
10 in place with the amount of money that it will cost to put
11 it in place or in the amount of lost generation it could
12 create depending on what the measure is.

13 So, I want to let everybody know that we're going
14 to analyze every recommendation that we get for any
15 suggestion of changes to the project. However, we're also
16 going to put a price tag on all of that and that has to
17 factor into our analysis to decide what is in the public
18 interest most. So, keep in mind that FERC does have to look
19 at the cost of all of this to both the ratepayers and to
20 Brookfield as well.

21 Any comments or questions about that? That's
22 different than the other resources in that it's not, it's
23 not an environmental thing per say; it's really more just
24 explaining FERC's requirement to balance the need for these
25 measures along with making the best public interest

1 decision. All right. Those are the issues
2 we've identified to this point. We are also now soliciting
3 written comments on this project so we're really hoping that
4 if you have anything to say above and beyond what you've
5 said tonight, we would love for you to send us letters,
6 eFile them with the commission. And in those letters
7 there's a number of things that we're looking to, hope to
8 see. In particular, significant environmental issues that
9 should be addressed in our environmental assessment. That's
10 kind of what we've been doing for the past eight slides or
11 whatnot. But if anything else comes up or you just want to
12 reiterate something or restate it or, you know, talk about
13 the importance, please, we would love to get that in your
14 letters.

15 If you have any information or data describing
16 the area that currently we don't have access to. If you
17 look at the pre-application document provided by Brookfield
18 you can see that they have quite a bit of data that they've
19 collected on various things. If you take a look and you
20 know that there's other publicly available data that could
21 be useful to us, we'd love to hear about that.

22 If there are any resource plans or future
23 proposals for the area that we're not aware of that could be
24 effected by the project or could effect the project. We
25 definitely would like to know about those. So, that's

1 important. Comprehensive plans probably doesn't come into
2 play for this meeting, but these are plans that are provided
3 to us by federal and state resource agencies that we have to
4 review to decide if the proposed project is in conflict with
5 any of these plans. If you look at our scoping document, I
6 believe, it's Section 9, we have a list of the current plans
7 that we have on file for the State of Maine, that we think
8 this project, that are applicable to this project and we're
9 going to be reviewing all of those to see if they're in
10 conflict. If you know of any others that we are not aware
11 of we would love for you to submit those to us.

12 And we're also asking for study requests at this
13 time. If you take a look at the pre-application document
14 and also at the Scoping Document 1 we put out, Brookfield is
15 proposing to collect some information that will be useful as
16 we go through this process. You may take a look and decide
17 that, well, that's not enough; we really need more
18 information on, you know, whatever resource you think is
19 important to collect information on. That could be, you
20 know, it could be a water quality study. It could be a
21 study of recreational usage at certain boat launches. It
22 could be any number of things.

23 But if you think that you would like to have
24 Brookfield collect that information, you can request that
25 they do so. To do this the best way is to look at Appendix

1 A of our SD1. FERC's regulations unfortunately require
2 study request to come in this strange format with seven
3 criteria, that you have to explain why your request meets
4 these seven criteria. It's not particularly difficult, but
5 it is, you know, kind of a pain to have to be so regimented
6 about it. But I urge you to take a look at that and think
7 about informational needs that you think are out there. And
8 to submit those requests to us for consideration by January
9 25th of next year.

10 So, the next steps in this process, the
11 relicensing of the project is - it takes a while. Five
12 years is common time frame, and that's usually because
13 before an applicant files a relicensing application there
14 are sometimes maybe two years where we ask them to go
15 collect information on resources in the project area.
16 Sometimes it can be shorter than five years, that's not a
17 hard and fast number by any means. But it can be a lengthy
18 process. They have chosen to use a licensing process that
19 is, that is basically laid out step-by-step with specific
20 dates that have to be met.

21 If you take a look at Appendix B of our SD1
22 you'll see the actions that will be taken, when everything
23 is due and basically through the entire licensing proceeding
24 all the way through, I think, it's least through to the
25 environmental assessment; so that's years down the road.

1 However, for tonight, I wanted to just talk about these next
2 few steps because they all pertain to what we're asking you
3 to provide to us this evening.

4 So, if you have comments on the Notice of Intent
5 or Pre-Application Document that Brookfield has put together
6 for this relicensing, we would like to have those comments
7 by January 25th. If you haven't seen that document it's
8 available on our website. I highly recommend you take a
9 look at it so you know what Brookfield is proposing to do.
10 We also would hope that you will provide us comments on our
11 scoping document by January 25th so that anything that is
12 incorrect, anything that you think needs to be changed,
13 anything you want added, all those comments are very
14 welcome. And then if you have any study requests, you know,
15 if that information that you think that Brookfield needs to
16 collect for us to make an informed decision, we're asking
17 for those by January 25th as well.

18 By March 10th, after we've heard all of the
19 comments that we've received today and we see all the
20 letters that come in by January 25th, its very possible that
21 we may have to edit our Scoping Document 1 and turn it into
22 what we call Scoping Document 2, which is simply the same
23 document but edited to reflect the new issues that we've
24 discovered or any changes that need to be made, so I kind of
25 think of it as the first stab is the Scoping Document 1, the

1 more refined stab, the refined version is the SD2.

2 So, we will issue that by March 10th. By that
3 same day Brookfield or Rumford Falls Hydro will need to
4 submit a proposed study plan to us and that plan will say
5 exactly which studies they are proposing to do and how they
6 plan on doing them. So, there's a good amount of detail
7 usually included, you know: Here's exactly what we want to
8 do, here's where we want to do it, here's why we think this
9 is important. So, they're going to send that in to us for
10 everyone to take a look at. It, that proposed study plan
11 may include some of the requests that had been sent in
12 prior, you know, Brookfield may say, you know, 'This is a
13 great request and we think we agree, we're going to propose
14 to do that.' It may not and they may explain why they don't
15 think it's a good request. But either way, in their study
16 plan they're going to let us know what they think is the
17 appropriate studies to be undertaken at this time.

18 So, we're going to get back together then, April
19 9th, it might be here in town, it could be via phone, it
20 really depends on how many study requests come in and how
21 complicated they get, but chances are we may be up here
22 again in person to discuss all of the studies during a study
23 plan meeting, for April 9th. And that will simply be a
24 meeting where we all get together and we talk about what
25 Brookfield is proposing. All the requests that came in from

1 all the stakeholders, and that does include FERC. We will
2 make requests for studies as well. And we'll talk them
3 through so we understand what everybody, information needs
4 that everybody has and why they are important to them so we
5 can try to understand exactly where everyone's coming from
6 so we can make a better decision.

7 If you have comments on that proposed study plan,
8 those are going to need to be filed by June 8th of next
9 year; which seems like a long way but it will be here in a
10 jiffy, I promise. After June 8th, Brookfield has 30 days
11 then to look at all the comments that have come in and then
12 they may choose to update or revise their study plan. They
13 may choose not to. It may be the exact same as the original
14 proposal. But we'll see. And in that case, they will file
15 that revised study plan by July 8th. And that revised study
16 plan is their last proposal of exactly what they think they
17 should be studying or collecting information on. You may
18 not agree with it. We may not agree with it. We don't
19 know. It's, we'll have to see what happens as we go through
20 this process.

21 But after they do that then you have two further
22 weeks until July 23rd to comment on that revised study plan.
23 And then by August 7th of next year, the Director of the
24 Office of Energy Projects, who is our boss, will make a
25 determination on all of the studies that have been proposed

1 and have been requested. On which ones FERC feels are
2 essential for us to do our job. And those are the ones that
3 we are going to require Brookfield to conduct. And that
4 determination by August 7th will be a letter saying, you
5 know: These are the studies you need to do, here's how you
6 should do them. If they are studies that we don't think
7 they should do, here's why you shouldn't do them and we
8 explain all of our reasoning there.

9 So, those are really the most important upcoming
10 dates for the next half year, but it's a pretty busy time
11 for this relicensing. If you're interested in this project
12 it's a good time to be plugged in.

13 FERC has some very useful online resources.
14 FERC.gov is our main website. From there you can access all
15 of these options here with the bullets. We have what I
16 mentioned for our eFiling system and this is very easy, it's
17 just sign up for a free account. And then anything you want
18 to send to the Commission, you just upload it right there
19 and it immediately goes to the Commission, instantaneously,
20 super fast. It's the best way for us to receive all your
21 letters and your comments.

22 So, if you have anything coming to us we really
23 prefer that you eFile it. If you don't want to and you
24 really want to send a paper copy like I said, you're
25 certainly welcome to, I can give you the address. But I

1 think it's easier for everyone if you eFile. We have a
2 Quick Comment capability. Which is kind of just a text box
3 where you can send the commission a message. Basically,
4 just, you know, whatever you'd like to say. It's less
5 formal than a letter but it's taken just as seriously. It's
6 just kind of an easy way for, in particular, citizens,
7 oftentimes to jump in and give the Commission an idea of
8 what they're thinking; so that's always available for free
9 to use that.

10 If you go to our eLibrary system, this is our
11 online compendium of all of the documents pertaining to all
12 of our projects, so we have a gazillion things on there. If
13 you want to see everything that's been filed on this project
14 or issued about this project you can search eLibrary simply
15 by the project number that we have here, which is P-2333.
16 So, if you go to eLibrary and you search that specific
17 docket, every single document pertaining to this project
18 will come up. Links to them so you can take a look at them
19 all the way back to for, I don't know, 30 years probably.
20 So, that's super useful.

21 And then I highly recommend if you have an
22 interest in the project to go ahead and use our
23 eSubscription service which is through eLibrary, and that
24 is, it's free and easy, all it is a provision - you give us
25 your email address and the docket you're interested in and

1 then every single time somebody files something about this
2 project or the Commission issues something about this
3 project, you're going to get an email with a link in it to
4 that document. So, like I say every time, you're going to
5 get way more email than you ever wanted. But it's the best
6 way not to miss anything so I highly recommend that you just
7 get good at throwing out emails you don't want because
8 you're going to get all the ones in there that you do want.
9 So, if you're interested in this project I highly recommend
10 the eSubscription.

11 If you have problems with any of this stuff we
12 have dedicated staff at FERC who works specifically only on
13 these things. They have an email address there.
14 FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. And there's also a toll-free
15 number there, 866-208-3676; and if you have any issues with
16 any of these things, these are the folks you want to turn to
17 first. Because they're the experts and they can walk you
18 through whatever you need to be helped with. If you have
19 any additional questions about it, you're certainly welcome
20 to call me. I have cards up front so if you'd like a card,
21 come see me afterwards. And any questions you have at any
22 time you're certainly welcome to call me. So, feel free to
23 do that.

24 And that's pretty much it. So, do we have
25 anything here at the end? Any further comments or questions

1 or anything that at this time anyone would like to bring up?

2 We really, really appreciate you all coming out
3 on this snowy night. It's really super helpful, so we
4 appreciate it and I'd like to wish everyone a good evening
5 and I will close the meeting. Thank you.

6 [Whereupon at 7:00 p.m., the evening public
7 scoping session 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:

7 Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project

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14 Docket No.: P-2333-091

15 Place: Rumford, Maine

16 Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019

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

21

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23 Dan Hawkins

24 Official Reporter

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

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Rumford Falls Hydro, LLC Project No. 2333-091 -
Maine

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RUMFORD FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Rumford Municipal Building
145 Congress Street
Rumford, Maine 04276

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

The evening public scoping meeting, pursuant to
notice, convened at 6:00 p.m.

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

2 MR. HANSEN: All right. Great. Well, first of
3 all, welcome, thanks for coming on this snowy evening. Can
4 you hear me through the microphone?

5 Oh. Okay. Fine. If you can't hear anything I
6 say please ask me to speak up or into the microphone. But
7 welcome, thanks for coming on a snowy night. We appreciate
8 it. This is the scoping, a scoping meeting for the Rumford
9 Falls Hydroelectric Project relicensing. That project has
10 FERC number P-2333. That's an important number if you're
11 interested in this project and you're interested in the
12 relicensing. So, it's on every single document that has to
13 do with this project, but if you're not aware of that number
14 you might want to jot it down.

15 So, first things first we'll do introductions.
16 My name is Ryan Hansen. I work for the Federal Energy
17 Regulatory Commission. I'm a fisheries biologist by
18 training. I'm also the relicensing coordinator on the FERC
19 side for the Rumford Falls Hydro project. I have some of my
20 colleagues who are a part of my team who are going to be
21 helping us through this process, so I'm going to let them go
22 ahead and introduce themselves.

23 MR. FEINBURG: Hi, I'm Jeremy Feinburg.
24 Terrestrial resources.

25 MS. LEASURE-EARNHARDT: Hi, I'm Amber Leasure-

1 Earnhardt and I'm the Attorney Advisor for the project.

2 MS. BROFMAN: Hello, I'm Ingrid Brofman. I'll be
3 looking at the recreational use and aesthetics for the
4 project.

5 MR. HANSEN: All right. So, we're going to start
6 with a couple housekeeping items. Then we're going to turn
7 it over to Brookfield, who's the company that owns Rumford
8 Falls Hydro. They're going to give us a presentation about
9 the project, kind of the layout of it and the operations.
10 It's very, very helpful. We'll talk about why we're here
11 tonight, the purpose of our scoping meeting. We'll talk
12 about resource issues that we have currently identified as
13 those that we think are important to analyze. We'll go over
14 the schedule for the upcoming relicensing actions that are
15 going to be forthcoming. We'll talk about the types of
16 information we are hoping to obtain. We'll go over FERC's
17 online resources and then we always have time at the end for
18 comments and questions.

19 It's a small group here tonight so
20 at any point if you have comments or questions, just raise
21 your hand. We don't need to set aside a specific time.
22 It's just, kind of, an open floor policy. One thing I do
23 have to ask though is that if you have a question, I do
24 request that you come up to the podium and speak into the
25 microphone for a couple reasons. One of the main reasons is

1 so everybody can hear, but the other reason is that this
2 meeting is public record and it's, this is Dan here, he's
3 our court reporter and he is transcribing this entire
4 meeting for us, and if folks come up to there to the podium
5 to ask questions, it's much easier for him to get the
6 appropriate, or the correct question in the record so it's
7 really helpful.

8 If you have a comment or a question and you come
9 up here, I ask you also before you speak to state your name
10 and your affiliation. That's so Dan can attribute the
11 question or comment to the correct person. So, if you come
12 up four or five times-- I apologize if it's annoying --but
13 please do it every time. Just so Dan always knows who it is
14 that's talking and it's a difficult job so please, if you
15 don't mind doing that. We have a sign-in sheet on that
16 folding table by the Poinsettia. If you haven't signed it,
17 please do. It's really helpful for us to know who came
18 since this is a public meeting. It's helpful for Dan also
19 so he can get everybody's name correct.

20 All right. So, we're here tonight soliciting
21 what we call oral testimony on this project, but we're also
22 asking right now for written comments and those are going to
23 be due, to be filed with us by January 25th of next year.
24 So, we're going to go over the upcoming schedule later in
25 the presentation but I just wanted to go ahead and state

1 that at the start and I'll state it again at the end.
2 January 25th is one deadline that we have here for comments
3 on this part of the process. So, keep that date in mind
4 please.

5 The Commission strongly encourages that you eFile
6 everything with us. It's a really easy thing to do and I'll
7 get to that at the end as well. But if for some reason you
8 really prefer to mail us a letter, we certainly will accept
9 that. That is our mailing address there on the screen and
10 it's not all that easy to read; so if you would like it,
11 please see me afterwards and I can give it to you. But
12 eFiling is much easier and much quicker.

13 All right. So, who is FERC? If you've never
14 worked with us you probably have no reason to know who we
15 are. But the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is a
16 commission of normally five people that are appointed by the
17 President. And underneath that commission there is a large
18 staff that help make recommendations for their decisions.
19 And what we do, we regulate the interstate transmission of
20 natural gas, oil, and electricity. We also do things like
21 energy market regulation and we also do the licensing of
22 non-federal hydropower projects. So those are projects that
23 are not owned by the federal government but by a
24 municipality or a company or citizens or whatnot which is
25 the case here with the Rumford Falls Project which is owned

1 by Brookfield Renewable.

2 So, I work in the Office of Energy Projects in,
3 which is a part of FERC. And in particular, I work in the
4 Division of Hydropower Licensing. And that's what we're
5 discussing this evening, the proposed relicensing of this
6 project, that is why I am here and my colleagues as well.
7 We have two other divisions that become important in the
8 FERC process once the license is issued. We have the
9 Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance and
10 those are the folks that will ensure that a licensee will
11 abide by the terms of the license. So, that's very
12 important. Then we have the Division of Dam Safety and
13 Inspections who come out at least once every five years to
14 inspect our projects to make certain that they're safe.
15 When I say our projects, please understand they're not our
16 projects, they're owned by, you know, companies and
17 municipalities however we call them ours as we help do the
18 regulations, so. We have five regional offices, but all of
19 the licensing staff for the most part are based out of D.C..
20 So, that's where we're all here from tonight.

21 All right. Now we've got about five slides that
22 Brookfield has put together that will really help us
23 understand what they're proposing and how the project
24 operates so I'm going to turn it over. Is it going to be
25 Randy or oh, we're going to let Luke talk first.

1 MR. ANDERSON: Yes --

2 MR. HANSEN: Yes. So, I'm going to introduce
3 Luke here and let him

4 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Luke Anderson. I'm new
5 to Brookfield and new to this project, so I just wanted to
6 first thank everybody for coming out and hanging in there on
7 a snowy night. Because I'm new to this project I want to
8 make sure we have some continuity on kicking off this
9 meeting; and Randy Dorman, my colleague, is going to come up
10 and go over the project description and the slides and such.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. DORMAN: So, good evening, everyone. As Luke
13 said, I'm Randy Dorman with Brookfield. And I'll do a quick
14 overview of the project facilities and operations.

15 And so this first slide is a general map of the
16 region. As you all know, we're in Rumford, here in Oxford
17 County. This project is one of the larger ones in our
18 Northeast fleet at a little shy of 45 megawatts, and so
19 that's divided into about 30 megawatts at the Upper Station
20 and then 15 megawatts at the Lower Station; and so combined,
21 this is a fairly large asset for our Northeast Region.

22 We're not proposing as a part of this relicensing
23 any changes to the project boundary, project facilities, or
24 project operations. Our proposal, as of today, is to
25 continue operating the project as-is. So, next slide.

1 And so this is a overview of the Upper Station,
2 so lower right-hand corner this would be the Androscoggin
3 River is flowing into the picture from that direction.
4 We've got in your lower right-hand corner there is the upper
5 dam which is shunting the flows over to river left which is
6 where the gatehouse is. The gatehouse controls the flows
7 that are then going into the powerhouse. To the right is
8 the bypassed reach, sometimes just called the bypass.
9 That's the natural river channel, that's where the river ran
10 down Rumford Falls before the project was constructed. Next
11 slide, Ryan,

12
13 please.

14 So, this is the Lower Development and this is a
15 little more complicated. Not all of our projects have quite
16 as many structures here so I'll walk through this. Again,
17 if we start, if we, kind of, just follow the river's course
18 in the lower right-hand corner that's the base of the falls
19 that's coming in. Than we have Middle Dam which in this
20 case is now shunting the flow over to river-right. If you
21 follow the picture up, kind of the left-hand side that's the
22 natural river channel. That's the bypassed reach of this
23 section. If we go back up to Middle Dam we then have a
24 headgate structure in front of the canal which is running up
25 the right-hand side of this slide. And so that canal

1 structure, that's all a man-made feature which ends in our
2 project intakes. From the intakes the water is then moved
3 over to the powerhouse where we generate electricity and
4 then it returns to the river in that channel vicinity. Next
5 slide, please.

6 So, just a quick overview of our project
7 operations. Androscoggin River, if you didn't know, is a
8 highly regulated river, and the rules for this regulation
9 were actually established back in 1909. There was a pretty
10 large agreement between both the owners of the storages up
11 at the headwaters and a lot of downstream owners, many of
12 the paper mills, many other hydro owners, all kind of came
13 together in what is now called the Androscoggin River
14 Company Headwater Benefits Agreement and this basically
15 established how those storages would be operated to control
16 the river.

17 Executive summary for that is to basically reduce
18 flows during the spring and fall when we've got more water
19 than we can use. And to increase flows in summer and
20 portions of the winter when we have, we would naturally have
21 less flows than we would desire. The ultimate goal here is
22 to provide a steadier level of flow year round. Part of
23 that is for electricity generation, but also a lot of that
24 is for municipal intakes and industrial intakes. That's
25 sort of the genesis behind this agreement.

1 A couple of license articles we'll talk about.
2 Article 401 is this sets operation as run-of-river. This is
3 a special term of art for hydroelectric projects, basically
4 inflow equals outflow. And our priority here when we
5 operate is to try to stabilize that head pond so it isn't
6 going up and down. So, that's Article 401.

7 Article 402 is our minimum flows. So, under low
8 flow conditions we release a minimum of 1 CFS from the upper
9 project and 21 CFS-- that's cubic feet per second -- from
10 Middle Dam. And again, because the river is so heavily
11 regulated, we have less low flow events than we would under
12 a totally unregulated type of river. The last bullet
13 addresses a couple of just high flow operating conditions.
14 So, under high flows, at the Upper Development, outside of
15 the winter, the Obermeyer section. Obermeyer is a type of,
16 sometimes it's called a rubber dam or inflatable dam, this
17 is basically just a section that we can raise or lower.

18 So, under high flow conditions, outside of
19 winter, that Obermeyer section is dropped to crest level.
20 Crest being the top of the dam. And additional flow is then
21 directed into the bypass reach under high flow conditions up
22 at the Upper Development. The Lower Development, when we
23 have flows in excess of the lower station turbine capacity,
24 those get spilled over Middle Dam and into the bypass reach.
25

1 So, this next slide is a slide of recreation
2 facilities in the general vicinity, and this covers a couple
3 of different categories. So, some of these recreation items
4 are non-project features that aren't owned by Brookfield.
5 They aren't included in the project description. But they
6 may be within the project boundary. A few of these features
7 are owned by Brookfield but they aren't formal recreation
8 facilities at this time. They might be used by some people
9 for recreation but they aren't, quote unquote, official
10 recreation sites describing the project license. And then
11 some of these features are, in fact, official recreation
12 features that are owned by Brookfield in the project
13 description, and so this schematic pretty much has all three
14 of those types of features here.

15 So, this is just a last slide on community
16 involvement. Brookfield tries to maintain local presence at
17 all our facilities and tries to remain engaged in the
18 community; so we give to charitable causes and we encourage
19 our local employees to engage in volunteerism. We do things
20 like - what's pictured here is a tour of school kids of the
21 powerhouse that I think occurred back in the fall.

22 So, I think, Ryan, that's the end of our
23 presentation. Any kind of questions about operations or
24 facilities or? Ingrid?

25 MS. BROFMAN: No, I'm good. Thank you.

1 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Randy. Very helpful.

2 So those of you who have not gone through this
3 process before, you're probably wondering why we're here.
4 Well, what we're doing is we are fulfilling part of the law,
5 the National Environmental Policy Act. This was an act that
6 stated that any action that the government takes that could
7 affect the health of the human environment needs to be
8 analyzed prior to permitting that, to see what those
9 effects may be. So, that's the law and it's also part of
10 FERC's regulations to do this.

11 So, scoping is a part of that process. We call
12 it the NEPA process. NEPA is short for the National
13 Environmental Policy Act. And basically, it's the process
14 by which we analyze the effects of a government action in an
15 environmental analysis document. It can be an environmental
16 assessment or an environmental impact statement depending on
17 the project, and those are terms of art that you don't need
18 to really know unless you're interested, and I'm certainly
19 happy to explain the difference maybe afterwards if you want
20 to know about that.

21 Anyhow, so we take a look at the information we
22 have on hand and when we get a proposal to relicense a
23 project. So, Rumford Falls Hydro sent in a pre-application
24 document to us. And this is, kind of, a compendium of all
25 the information that they currently have on the project area

1 as well as what they are, at this time, proposing to do
2 during the terms of a new license. So, we took a look at
3 that and a number of things jumped out and we said, 'Well,
4 it's pretty easy to tell. We think we probably need to look
5 at this, and this, and this, and this in our environmental
6 document. In our environmental analysis -- environmental
7 assessment.

8 But since we're, you know, sitting at my desk in
9 D.C. we really need to come out and see the project and talk
10 to the people on the ground who are familiar with it that
11 can help us find the proper scope of what our analysis
12 should be. So, we had a meeting today at 1 p.m. that was
13 aimed mostly at resource agencies, and that was very
14 successful. Tonight we may have some agency folks as well,
15 I'm not sure; but it's the evening meeting is normally more
16 folks from the public who have an interest. And we're
17 interested in hearing from everybody. State agencies,
18 Native American Tribes, NGOs, the public, everybody who has
19 an interest in the project.

20 So, tonight we're going to discuss the existing
21 environmental conditions. We can get into potential
22 information needs possibly, and we'll definitely discuss the
23 resource issues as we see them at this time. So, we, in
24 going through the pre-application document and the proposal
25 that Rumford Falls Hydro has provided, these are the groups

1 of resource issues that we have identified as being
2 important. And we're going to go through these each, one-
3 by-one, on separate slides and what is contained underneath
4 each of those subheadings.

5 If you've seen our Scoping Document 1, is what we
6 call it, you'll notice these are all listed in Section 4.2.
7 If you don't have that document, it's available on ferc.gov
8 and I can help you figure out how to find that. It's kind
9 of the road map for what we're doing tonight. So, what
10 we're going to do is we're going to go through each of these
11 resource areas and we're going to explain the effects that
12 we foresee will be important to look at in our environmental
13 assessment. And then we're going to solicit input from
14 anyone who is here, if they have anything that they can tell
15 us about what we've identified. Have we captured everything
16 that you think we need to look at? Have we missed the mark
17 and said that something is important that isn't important?
18 Any information that can help us understand the importance
19 of the resources, what the resources are, what the possible
20 effects can be on the community. These are the things that
21 we really want to know, so that's why we're here.

22 So, as I said, we'll go through one-by-one. The
23 first is geologic and soil resources. And at this time we
24 have preliminarily identified that in our environmental
25 assessment that we're going to write, we're going to look at

1 the effects of project operation and maintenance on
2 shoreline erosion in the Upper Dam impoundment. So, that's
3 the upper head pond above the first dam in this, in the
4 complex. And that's the only thing we identified at this
5 time as far as soil or geologic issues.

6 Are there any geologic or soil resource issues
7 that you all are aware of that you may want us to take a
8 look at in our environmental assessment? With that I'll
9 open the floor and see if anyone has anything to add.

10 All right. Fair enough. We'll move on to the
11 next one. These are the issues that we've identified for
12 aquatic resources that we think that are important that we
13 want to look at. Effects of the project operation and
14 maintenance on water quality. Specifically, dissolved
15 oxygen and temperature in the river. Those are of great
16 importance to aquatic biota, so we take a look at that
17 usually. Effects of project operation and maintenance on
18 aquatic habitat. Both the distribution and suitability of
19 that habitat in the project area. So, we're going to take a
20 look at that and that's habitat for fish, the forage base
21 for fish, you know, be it insects or whatnot, anything that
22 isn't an aquatic organism I think that could be affected
23 that is of importance we plan looking at there.

24 We're going to look at the effects of project
25 operation and maintenance on essential fish habitat for the

1 Atlantic Salmon. And essential fish habitat, if you don't
2 know what it is, it's determined by the National Marine
3 Fisheries Service and it's specific habitats that are
4 critical to the survival of certain species and they have
5 identified, I'm not sure the exact boundary, but I think it
6 may be all the way to the falls. The Androscoggin River is
7 an essential fish habitat for Atlantic Salmon that are
8 federally endangered. So, we're going to definitely look at
9 the effects of the project on Atlantic Salmon habitat.

10 And then the effects of project operation and
11 maintenance on impingement, entrainment, and survival or
12 mortality in the river. If you don't know what these terms
13 mean, I understand. They're not often used in regular life.
14 Impingement is when water being sucked into a project goes
15 through some sort of screen or rack or gate that's there to
16 exclude, usually trash, but sometimes fish. But if the
17 approach velocity, if the amount of speed going into that
18 rack is too intense, it will suck fish right into it and
19 they will get stuck there and that oftentimes leads to death
20 or injury. So, we want to look at impingement.

21 Oftentimes, fish can slip through these racks or
22 these screens and then go through the turbine and get spit
23 out on the other side, and that's what we call entrainment.
24 So, we're going to be looking at entrainment and how both
25 impingement, possible impingement and possible entrainment

1 at this project could affect the survival of the populations
2 here in the river. So, for aquatic resources, that's what
3 we've looked at or what we plan on looking at; we think
4 these are important things to analyze.

5 So, now I'd like to open the floor to anyone has
6 anything additional on aquatic resources that they think
7 would be helpful for us at this time.

8 Thank you.

9 So, we're going to be looking also at project
10 effects on terrestrial resources or land-based resources,
11 animals in particular. We're going to look at the effects
12 of the project transmission lines and any possibility of
13 electrocution or collision hazard for birds. We'll look at
14 the effects of project operation and maintenance on
15 riparian, littoral, and forest and shrub wetland habitats
16 and the wildlife that use those habitats. Riparian and
17 littoral are just kind of fancy terms for vegetation along
18 the side of a river. So, it's really not much more
19 difficult than that.

20 And then we'll be looking at the effects of
21 project operation and maintenance on any nesting Bald
22 Eagles. And state-designated wildlife habitats which
23 include deer wintering areas and inland waterfowl and wading
24 bird habitat. So those are all things that
25 jumped out at us that we think we should take a look at. Do

1 we have any comments about these or anything additional
2 under the terrestrial side that we might want to discuss
3 while we have everyone here? This is great. We must have
4 done a good job.

5 So, with any federal action we'll have to look at
6 the effect on threatened and endangered species. In this
7 case, we have the federal threatened Long-Eared Bat and then
8 the federally endangered Atlantic Salmon. In particular the
9 Gulf of Maine distinct population segment, which is a
10 specific genetic group of fish that use this area and the
11 rivers from the Gulf of Maine for their spawning, so, it's
12 federally endangered and we definitely need to take a look
13 at if the project could effect those fish in any way.

14 We're not aware of any further threatened or
15 endangered species in the area, either on the state or
16 federal level. If anybody is aware of any others that you
17 think we should also include or just species of great
18 importance to the community as well, we certainly would like
19 to hear about any of that. So, if anyone has anything, we
20 would love to hear it.

21 Excellent. Thank you.

22 We're going to be looking at the effects of the
23 project operation and maintenance on recreational resources.
24 In particular, the effects of the project on recreational
25 use here in the area. And that will include the adequacy of

1 existing recreational access and the facilities that are
2 currently present to meet the recreational needs of the
3 area. We're also going to take a look at the need, the need
4 to and the feasibility of rehabilitating the reopening the
5 viewing area of Rumford Falls which is at the Upper
6 Development that's currently fenced off as well as the
7 Rumford Falls Trail which is as well.

8 So those are a couple things under recreation
9 that we think are important to look at. They're fairly
10 broad so a lot of things can fall under there. So, if there
11 are any specific recreational issues that are of importance
12 that you folks would like us to know about, we would love to
13 hear about that right now.

14 MR. PAPIANO: Good evening. Name is Todd
15 Papiano. Signed in under a couple of different hats tonight
16 on this beautiful snowy evening. Registered name guide
17 since 1991. I'm a physical educator at the high school here
18 in town. And I'm a member of PACT, which is the Penacook
19 Area Community Trails, so we're a trail-building
20 organization in the area.

21 What was my opening? I'm not asking for the moon
22 but I'd like to tell you about the last time I was there.
23 This area is so rich in historical if you've had a chance
24 to cruise around Rumford, downstairs is a huge bust of
25 Huey Chisolm, and he designed this area for the mill

1 employees as a walking community; and back when there was
2 like 20,000 people here people walked and there's beautiful
3 walkways from the Brick Park. There's extended walkways
4 that go up around the Falls on both sides. There's some
5 beautiful stone turrets that overlook the river, and there
6 were gaslights and you just picture a romantic evening
7 stroll after dinner on the island up to the turrets, there's
8 seating benches there, it's just a beautiful place.

9 When I first moved here, some of this was all
10 still in effect and open to the public. When you get a
11 chance to do your tour around, specifically on the Route 2
12 side, there's an area called the picnic grounds; and when I
13 first moved here I went and had lunch there several times
14 and it's a green grassy lawn that had picnic tables, and
15 just past the picnic tables, there's a retaining wall that
16 if you were to walk up to the wall, it's quite breathtaking
17 as it drops right down to the rapids. You're lucky to be
18 here at a time when we've got probably a medium to high flow
19 over this grand falls, and it is something special to stand
20 nearby and above the falls and feel the pound of the river
21 in your chest. You, it's audible, and it's palatable, and
22 it is emotional.

23 And it's something that, as you move away from
24 the falls, you don't quite get; but anywhere near the falls
25 on either side, that, that interface with that river, that

1 grand falls is dramatic and you'll never forget it. I think
2 a lot is going to be talked about. The south side trail
3 that PACT has been trying to open up, but I didn't want to
4 not draw attention to a historical -- and when we use the
5 term authorized and unauthorized recreational usage, I
6 think, I'm not sure the last date this was reviewed and
7 relicensed, but there were things that occurred and happened
8 that were just part of how the design of this area was. So,
9 whether we use a term that was an authorized thing or an
10 unauthorized thing, it was a thing. It was a historical use
11 of the area.

12 So, maybe I'm asking for the moon, but I enjoyed
13 as coming to this area, being able to interface with the
14 river. From a physical education standpoint, I do a
15 commuter bike unit, and part of our route used to be up the
16 graded, and it used to be a rail line, a spur from the Upper
17 Mill above the falls, down this graded, and when we say
18 graded, it was railroad graded, and I first realized that
19 that's what that used to be when I was on my bike peddling
20 up that hill, and I realized I didn't need to shift. I was
21 like, hmm, because when you're on the Route 2 side, it's
22 abrupt and you have to shift, but on that graded path, I'm
23 like, I didn't have to shift. That's amazing.

24 I'd often stop with my class up on the upper
25 reaches, and it was a nice spot to talk about a few things

1 about the shifting, about did you notice that you didn't
2 have to shift or if you were in the wrong gear you might
3 have had to shift -- so it was a great spot to just gather
4 and in the springtime when we had that flow, kids that lived
5 around here might not have been to that particular spot and
6 it was quite dramatic and it was, kind of, a cool place, to
7 like, end up for our ride before we had to return to school,
8 so.

9 It is my goal and my hope that we can somehow
10 return to a time when it's a more approachable situation for
11 folks, because as we learned that we're going to have to
12 rely more on recreation within our economy, sharing that
13 resource would be a major asset to the economics and I know
14 some folks here talk about the hotel and the folks coming
15 here, and I think I've said enough. Thank you.

16 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. That's very helpful.
17 Does anyone else have some recreation comments?

18 Yes, sir. Please.

19 MR. PERKINS: Hi, my name is Gabe Perkins and I'm
20 from Pebble just up the river, and I am Executive Director
21 of Mahoosuc Pathways. Todd was so excited about PACT, or
22 the
23 Penacook Area Community Trails. This is a subcommittee of
24 Mahoosuc Pathways, and we've been working with PACT for the
25 last year or so to develop trails based on economy and

1 infrastructure here in this region, and we've had some
2 success with that and DUFL, and doing that here with the
3 municipality and with private landowners we opened a half
4 mile trail. Actually, you've got to update your map; it
5 says ATV trail up in the upper corner. There's a mountain
6 bike trail there now which is very exciting.

7 There's going to be a lot more of them, we think,
8 and I think there are two things about what's needed from
9 the planning phase. One, I wasn't sure if it was geologic
10 but there's a rock on the Rumford Falls Trail that has been
11 a bone of contention for a few years and either we could
12 ignore the geological impact of that rock or try to remove
13 it to allow that trail to come back rather than have been
14 there historically.

15 The other thing that we're really key on from the
16 Mahoosuc Pathway standpoint is a plan, right? So, this is
17 perfect. We really are looking for a recreation plan for
18 this region. We have a broad vision of connected trails
19 around the community here but articulating a plan will help
20 us secure funding, work with the landowners, and talk more
21 about this as we go forward. So, I think it's really
22 important to try to find a solution to the trail, the
23 Rumford Falls Trail, and develop a recreation plan, and
24 thanks.

25 MR. HANSEN: Anyone else have recreation-related

1 comments at this time? Great. Thank you for both of those.
2 It's really helpful.

3 In our environmental assessment we will be
4 looking at the effects of project operation and maintenance
5 on cultural resources. In particular, properties that are
6 included in or eligible for listing on the National Register
7 of Historic Properties historic places.

8 Are there any issues on the cultural side? This
9 can be either historic properties, you know, old historic
10 buildings, or prehistory, you know, archaeological issues
11 that anyone is aware of that we should probably take a good
12 look at in the environmental assessment, or? Do we have any
13 cultural issues at this time that we would like to talk
14 about? All right. Thank you.

15 So, we will be taking also a look at the effects
16 of the project on aesthetic resources in the project area
17 and this covers a number of sub, I guess, areas. Visual,
18 the way the project looks, is important. This could be
19 things like just simply the way the structures look. Things
20 like lighting and issues with lighting that fall under here.
21 Noise. Things that are very noisy or whatnot. These are
22 all aesthetic issues. So, we plan on this is kind of a
23 wide umbrella but anything at the project that effects how
24 someone experiences the area is important for us to know
25 about so, do we have any aesthetic issues in particular that

1 pertain strictly to aesthetic-type things that we want to
2 discuss right now or bring up? Yes, sir.

3 MR. PAPIANO: Todd Papiano, physical educator,
4 Maine Guide, and PACT member. Just from my perspective and
5 traveling around I've been fortunate enough to go across the
6 continent a few times and spend a lot of time in Canada
7 recreating as a whitewater paddler and mountain biker,
8 hiker, and skier so, my impression when I visit some
9 facilities just north of us across the border in Canada,
10 that the look of the facilities is more welcoming from -
11 it's set up like a park, it has beautiful staircases,
12 informational kiosks with historical and other - it's just
13 much more welcoming and it really is aesthetic and adds to
14 the facility.

15 And you can see how historically this was set up
16 like that here and it's sort of changed, we've got, like,
17 some modern, like, chain-link fence and it's not what it
18 was, and it's not what I see in other places. So, it is the
19 heart of our village aesthetically, it's what you see when
20 you come in. Of course, folks see the big mill, the stacks
21 and all that, and that's also part of who we are as a mill
22 town, but my hope is that the aesthetics of this project can
23 return somewhat to the glory of the romantic time that was
24 here before, not too long ago either that it suddenly
25 changed and has a much different look, aesthetics.

1 MR. HANSEN: Thank you very much. Do we have any
2 other aesthetic comments at this time?

3 Excellent, thank you. Now, we'll also be looking
4 at in our environmental analysis, the effects of any
5 proposed or recommended environmental measures on project
6 generation and economics. So, licensing and relicensing a
7 hydro project is a requirement of the Federal Power Act, and
8 in doing so it asks us for, to balance, the public interests
9 of any sort of recommended environmental measure that may be
10 in place with the amount of money that it will cost to put
11 it in place or in the amount of lost generation it could
12 create depending on what the measure is.

13 So, I want to let everybody know that we're going
14 to analyze every recommendation that we get for any
15 suggestion of changes to the project. However, we're also
16 going to put a price tag on all of that and that has to
17 factor into our analysis to decide what is in the public
18 interest most. So, keep in mind that FERC does have to look
19 at the cost of all of this to both the ratepayers and to
20 Brookfield as well.

21 Any comments or questions about that? That's
22 different than the other resources in that it's not, it's
23 not an environmental thing per say; it's really more just
24 explaining FERC's requirement to balance the need for these
25 measures along with making the best public interest

1 decision. All right. Those are the issues
2 we've identified to this point. We are also now soliciting
3 written comments on this project so we're really hoping that
4 if you have anything to say above and beyond what you've
5 said tonight, we would love for you to send us letters,
6 eFile them with the commission. And in those letters
7 there's a number of things that we're looking to, hope to
8 see. In particular, significant environmental issues that
9 should be addressed in our environmental assessment. That's
10 kind of what we've been doing for the past eight slides or
11 whatnot. But if anything else comes up or you just want to
12 reiterate something or restate it or, you know, talk about
13 the importance, please, we would love to get that in your
14 letters.

15 If you have any information or data describing
16 the area that currently we don't have access to. If you
17 look at the pre-application document provided by Brookfield
18 you can see that they have quite a bit of data that they've
19 collected on various things. If you take a look and you
20 know that there's other publicly available data that could
21 be useful to us, we'd love to hear about that.

22 If there are any resource plans or future
23 proposals for the area that we're not aware of that could be
24 effected by the project or could effect the project. We
25 definitely would like to know about those. So, that's

1 important. Comprehensive plans probably doesn't come into
2 play for this meeting, but these are plans that are provided
3 to us by federal and state resource agencies that we have to
4 review to decide if the proposed project is in conflict with
5 any of these plans. If you look at our scoping document, I
6 believe, it's Section 9, we have a list of the current plans
7 that we have on file for the State of Maine, that we think
8 this project, that are applicable to this project and we're
9 going to be reviewing all of those to see if they're in
10 conflict. If you know of any others that we are not aware
11 of we would love for you to submit those to us.

12 And we're also asking for study requests at this
13 time. If you take a look at the pre-application document
14 and also at the Scoping Document 1 we put out, Brookfield is
15 proposing to collect some information that will be useful as
16 we go through this process. You may take a look and decide
17 that, well, that's not enough; we really need more
18 information on, you know, whatever resource you think is
19 important to collect information on. That could be, you
20 know, it could be a water quality study. It could be a
21 study of recreational usage at certain boat launches. It
22 could be any number of things.

23 But if you think that you would like to have
24 Brookfield collect that information, you can request that
25 they do so. To do this the best way is to look at Appendix

1 A of our SD1. FERC's regulations unfortunately require
2 study request to come in this strange format with seven
3 criteria, that you have to explain why your request meets
4 these seven criteria. It's not particularly difficult, but
5 it is, you know, kind of a pain to have to be so regimented
6 about it. But I urge you to take a look at that and think
7 about informational needs that you think are out there. And
8 to submit those requests to us for consideration by January
9 25th of next year.

10 So, the next steps in this process, the
11 relicensing of the project is - it takes a while. Five
12 years is common time frame, and that's usually because
13 before an applicant files a relicensing application there
14 are sometimes maybe two years where we ask them to go
15 collect information on resources in the project area.
16 Sometimes it can be shorter than five years, that's not a
17 hard and fast number by any means. But it can be a lengthy
18 process. They have chosen to use a licensing process that
19 is, that is basically laid out step-by-step with specific
20 dates that have to be met.

21 If you take a look at Appendix B of our SD1
22 you'll see the actions that will be taken, when everything
23 is due and basically through the entire licensing proceeding
24 all the way through, I think, it's least through to the
25 environmental assessment; so that's years down the road.

1 However, for tonight, I wanted to just talk about these next
2 few steps because they all pertain to what we're asking you
3 to provide to us this evening.

4 So, if you have comments on the Notice of Intent
5 or Pre-Application Document that Brookfield has put together
6 for this relicensing, we would like to have those comments
7 by January 25th. If you haven't seen that document it's
8 available on our website. I highly recommend you take a
9 look at it so you know what Brookfield is proposing to do.
10 We also would hope that you will provide us comments on our
11 scoping document by January 25th so that anything that is
12 incorrect, anything that you think needs to be changed,
13 anything you want added, all those comments are very
14 welcome. And then if you have any study requests, you know,
15 if that information that you think that Brookfield needs to
16 collect for us to make an informed decision, we're asking
17 for those by January 25th as well.

18 By March 10th, after we've heard all of the
19 comments that we've received today and we see all the
20 letters that come in by January 25th, its very possible that
21 we may have to edit our Scoping Document 1 and turn it into
22 what we call Scoping Document 2, which is simply the same
23 document but edited to reflect the new issues that we've
24 discovered or any changes that need to be made, so I kind of
25 think of it as the first stab is the Scoping Document 1, the

1 more refined stab, the refined version is the SD2.

2 So, we will issue that by March 10th. By that
3 same day Brookfield or Rumford Falls Hydro will need to
4 submit a proposed study plan to us and that plan will say
5 exactly which studies they are proposing to do and how they
6 plan on doing them. So, there's a good amount of detail
7 usually included, you know: Here's exactly what we want to
8 do, here's where we want to do it, here's why we think this
9 is important. So, they're going to send that in to us for
10 everyone to take a look at. It, that proposed study plan
11 may include some of the requests that had been sent in
12 prior, you know, Brookfield may say, you know, 'This is a
13 great request and we think we agree, we're going to propose
14 to do that.' It may not and they may explain why they don't
15 think it's a good request. But either way, in their study
16 plan they're going to let us know what they think is the
17 appropriate studies to be undertaken at this time.

18 So, we're going to get back together then, April
19 9th, it might be here in town, it could be via phone, it
20 really depends on how many study requests come in and how
21 complicated they get, but chances are we may be up here
22 again in person to discuss all of the studies during a study
23 plan meeting, for April 9th. And that will simply be a
24 meeting where we all get together and we talk about what
25 Brookfield is proposing. All the requests that came in from

1 all the stakeholders, and that does include FERC. We will
2 make requests for studies as well. And we'll talk them
3 through so we understand what everybody, information needs
4 that everybody has and why they are important to them so we
5 can try to understand exactly where everyone's coming from
6 so we can make a better decision.

7 If you have comments on that proposed study plan,
8 those are going to need to be filed by June 8th of next
9 year; which seems like a long way but it will be here in a
10 jiffy, I promise. After June 8th, Brookfield has 30 days
11 then to look at all the comments that have come in and then
12 they may choose to update or revise their study plan. They
13 may choose not to. It may be the exact same as the original
14 proposal. But we'll see. And in that case, they will file
15 that revised study plan by July 8th. And that revised study
16 plan is their last proposal of exactly what they think they
17 should be studying or collecting information on. You may
18 not agree with it. We may not agree with it. We don't
19 know. It's, we'll have to see what happens as we go through
20 this process.

21 But after they do that then you have two further
22 weeks until July 23rd to comment on that revised study plan.
23 And then by August 7th of next year, the Director of the
24 Office of Energy Projects, who is our boss, will make a
25 determination on all of the studies that have been proposed

1 and have been requested. On which ones FERC feels are
2 essential for us to do our job. And those are the ones that
3 we are going to require Brookfield to conduct. And that
4 determination by August 7th will be a letter saying, you
5 know: These are the studies you need to do, here's how you
6 should do them. If they are studies that we don't think
7 they should do, here's why you shouldn't do them and we
8 explain all of our reasoning there.

9 So, those are really the most important upcoming
10 dates for the next half year, but it's a pretty busy time
11 for this relicensing. If you're interested in this project
12 it's a good time to be plugged in.

13 FERC has some very useful online resources.
14 FERC.gov is our main website. From there you can access all
15 of these options here with the bullets. We have what I
16 mentioned for our eFiling system and this is very easy, it's
17 just sign up for a free account. And then anything you want
18 to send to the Commission, you just upload it right there
19 and it immediately goes to the Commission, instantaneously,
20 super fast. It's the best way for us to receive all your
21 letters and your comments.

22 So, if you have anything coming to us we really
23 prefer that you eFile it. If you don't want to and you
24 really want to send a paper copy like I said, you're
25 certainly welcome to, I can give you the address. But I

1 think it's easier for everyone if you eFile. We have a
2 Quick Comment capability. Which is kind of just a text box
3 where you can send the commission a message. Basically,
4 just, you know, whatever you'd like to say. It's less
5 formal than a letter but it's taken just as seriously. It's
6 just kind of an easy way for, in particular, citizens,
7 oftentimes to jump in and give the Commission an idea of
8 what they're thinking; so that's always available for free
9 to use that.

10 If you go to our eLibrary system, this is our
11 online compendium of all of the documents pertaining to all
12 of our projects, so we have a gazillion things on there. If
13 you want to see everything that's been filed on this project
14 or issued about this project you can search eLibrary simply
15 by the project number that we have here, which is P-2333.
16 So, if you go to eLibrary and you search that specific
17 docket, every single document pertaining to this project
18 will come up. Links to them so you can take a look at them
19 all the way back to for, I don't know, 30 years probably.
20 So, that's super useful.

21 And then I highly recommend if you have an
22 interest in the project to go ahead and use our
23 eSubscription service which is through eLibrary, and that
24 is, it's free and easy, all it is a provision - you give us
25 your email address and the docket you're interested in and

1 then every single time somebody files something about this
2 project or the Commission issues something about this
3 project, you're going to get an email with a link in it to
4 that document. So, like I say every time, you're going to
5 get way more email than you ever wanted. But it's the best
6 way not to miss anything so I highly recommend that you just
7 get good at throwing out emails you don't want because
8 you're going to get all the ones in there that you do want.
9 So, if you're interested in this project I highly recommend
10 the eSubscription.

11 If you have problems with any of this stuff we
12 have dedicated staff at FERC who works specifically only on
13 these things. They have an email address there.
14 FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. And there's also a toll-free
15 number there, 866-208-3676; and if you have any issues with
16 any of these things, these are the folks you want to turn to
17 first. Because they're the experts and they can walk you
18 through whatever you need to be helped with. If you have
19 any additional questions about it, you're certainly welcome
20 to call me. I have cards up front so if you'd like a card,
21 come see me afterwards. And any questions you have at any
22 time you're certainly welcome to call me. So, feel free to
23 do that.

24 And that's pretty much it. So, do we have
25 anything here at the end? Any further comments or questions

1 or anything that at this time anyone would like to bring up?

2 We really, really appreciate you all coming out
3 on this snowy night. It's really super helpful, so we
4 appreciate it and I'd like to wish everyone a good evening
5 and I will close the meeting. Thank you.

6 [Whereupon at 7:00 p.m., the evening public
7 scoping session 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:

7 Rumford Falls Hydroelectric Project

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14 Docket No.: P-2333-091

15 Place: Rumford, Maine

16 Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019

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

21

22

23 Dan Hawkins
24 Official Reporter

25

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