# GREEN LAKE WATER POWER CO. GREEN LAKE PROJECT (FERC No. 7189) RELICENSING UPDATED STUDY REPORT MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022, 10:00 AM

### VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ATTENDEES:** Nick Palso, FERC

Bill Connelly, FERC Kathy Howatt, MDEP Jeanne DiFranco, MDEP

Oliver Cox, USFWS & GLNFH

Gregory Burr, MDIFW

Bert Kleinschmidt, Green Lake Water Power (GLWP)

Caroline Kleinschmidt, GLWP

**Attachments:** 20220224-GLWP-USR-Meeting-Summary.pdf

20220224-GLWP-USR-Meeting-Presentation.pdf

20220209-Green-Lake-Project-USR.pdf

20210317-GLWP-Macroinvertebrates-Report.pdf

GLWP filed the Updated Study Report (USR) with the FERC on February 9, 2022, as part of relicensing the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 7189). The filing was in accordance with the regulations of FERC's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) (18 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 5) and with the Project's Process Plan and Schedule. The USR includes the results of the Benthic Macroinvertebrate (BMI) study which is the only study that was not completed prior to the filing of the Initial Study Report (ISR) (February 9, 2021).

This summary document presents the proceedings of the meeting held on February 17, 2022 to discuss the 2021 study results and status. A copy of the meeting presentation is included. Also attached are the Updated Study Report and the Macroinvertebrate Report for Site 1 (filed in March 2021 as a Supplement to the ISR). These made up the bulk of the presentation. In accordance with the Process Plan and Schedule contained in FERC's Scoping Document 2 (SD2), this meeting summary must be filed with the FERC no later than March 4, 2022.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bert Kleinschmidt (GLWP) welcomed those attending the USR meeting and reviewed general meeting logistics. Bert noted that the presentation would include the results of the Benthic Macroinvertebrate (BMI) study, followed by a discussion with any questions or comments.

### UPDATED STUDY REPORT REVIEW

This conference call/meeting was to discuss the Updated Study Report (USR). The USR includes the results of the Benthic Macroinvertebrate (BMI) study which is the only study that was not completed prior to the filing of the Initial Study Report (ISR) (February 9, 2021).

GLWP pointed out, near the beginning of the meeting, that the description for Site 3 was incorrect in the report for Site 1 that was filed in March 2021, that description has been fixed in the USR

It was also pointed out by GLWP at the beginning of the meeting that the summer of 2020 was very dry.

The following is a summary of the discussions and questions asked during the meeting.

# 1-1) <u>Downstream Benthic Macroinvertebrate Study</u>

- Oliver Cox (USFWS) Suggested the language used to describe the outfall locations at the Hatchery should be amended to clearly identify the filter treatment discharge from the sewage treatment discharge.
  - Kathy Howatt (MDEP) Says she will confer with others at MDEP and let GLWP know what is needed by MDEP for the record.
- Jeanne DiFranco (MDEP) Described how DEP makes the determination using their statistical model using the Linear Discriminant Model. The model returns solely based on the biological data (the bugs) whether or not the community is predicted to meet a particular water quality classification and it gives a probability. Then they can have some flexibility to use best professional judgement to raise the finding, which was done with sites 2 and 3, to Class C the habitat looks like it's periodically inundated, which could have some impact, so it was a little bit atypical in that respect.
  - Oliver Cox (USFWS) Jeanne mentioned that site 3 was periodically inundated by Graham Lake, it's probably the inverse of that, it's almost always in Graham Lake, usually inundated. He thought it [the model] was just for streams and rivers.
  - o Jeanne DiFranco (MDEP) the model is just for streams and rivers but we had the opportunity to do the sampling because water levels were low and the habitat was appropriate during the summer when it was sampled so the lake was not inundating that site at the time that samplers were in so we wanted to see what we could find out.
  - Oliver Cox (USFWS) in the report it said that it was a Lentic site that was inundated so that's where it gives him a little pause on drawing conclusions from those samples.
  - o Jeanne DiFranco (MDEP) It was inundated prior to samplers being placed but during the entire 28 day period that the samplers were in place it was not, neither site was inundated and MDEP looked at photos and it looks like typical habitat where we would sample streams using the model so that gives us the best that we could get under this scenario because the water levels were low and we were able to at least go out and sample it.
- Bill Connelly (FERC) Asked if it's possible to get elevations of the 2 sites so they could be compared to the Graham Lake elevation during the sampling period.
  - o Bert Kleinschmidt (GLWP) Suggested looking at the field sheets for water depth and water flow.
  - o Bill Connelly (FERC) wants the data from prior to the study so he can look at bug potential colonization. If a lot of insects lay their eggs maybe in the Spring, and Graham Lake is higher during that period, it may be possible that you'd have a different community laying eggs there. He will take a look at the field sheets.

The meeting ended at 11:04am