

Public Meeting

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

Moderated by Craig Jones  
Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
2:01 p.m.

Remote Proceeding  
Roswell, GA 30075

Reported by: Deidra Musick Nash  
JOB NO.: 5133017

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## List of Attendees:

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

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

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

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

Wei Zeng, Georgia EPD (by videoconference)

John Faustini, Fish and Wildlife (by videoconference)

Jackson Sibley, GDNR Fisheries Biologist (by  
videoconference)

Kelly Kirven, Kleinschmidt (by videoconference)

Jim Hakala, GDNR (by videoconference)

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

Heather Teilhet, Ogelthorpe Power (by videoconference)

Toni Presnell, Ogelthorpe Power (by videoconference)

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

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

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

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

1 remain muted while you're not speaking.

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

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

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

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

5                   MR. JONES: All right. Thank you.

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

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

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

1 I'm going to ask you to drop your name and affiliation  
2 into the chat rather than just doing a round robin.  
3 That way, we'll have a full record for the transcript  
4 and you all can see who's attending. I'll ask for the  
5 recording -- I will ask for the recording and  
6 transcript that if you do speak during the meeting,  
7 please begin with your name and affiliation so that we  
8 can capture that for the recording and transcript as  
9 well. And I know I've got -- so I've got Heather  
10 Teilhet from -- from Ogelthorpe on the phone and I  
11 believe Toni Presnell is on the phone from Ogelthorpe  
12 as well, so -- so Tyler or -- actually, Eric, would  
13 you please drop their names into the chat so  
14 that -- so we've got that for the record. And then if  
15 there's anybody else on the phone, would you please  
16 break in and -- and let us know?

17 Okay. So hearing none, we'll -- we'll  
18 begin today's presentation with a -- with a brief  
19 history of Rocky Mountain, an overview of the  
20 relicensing process, project operations, a virtual  
21 site tour, an overview of the resource areas that are  
22 described in the Pre-Application Document and how they  
23 informed our relicensing study proposals, which is  
24 really where we'll provide plenty of opportunity to  
25 ask questions and provide any feedback that you have

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

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

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



1     come.

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

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

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

1 and we retain the responsibility for all aspects of  
2 project operations, including licensing which is,  
3 again, why we're -- why we're here today and  
4 we're -- we're going through this consultation process  
5 and this relicensing process. The project began  
6 operating in 1995 and shortly after that, we entered  
7 into an agreement with Georgia Department of Natural  
8 Resources to manage the recreation, fish, and wildlife  
9 resources associated with the project that are all  
10 within -- situated within the project boundary. And I  
11 do want to just pause and just mention that that has  
12 been a really productive and good working relationship  
13 with DNR and it is -- it's one of the reasons why we  
14 were able to have a lot of good information in the  
15 Pre-Application Document so we -- we appreciate that  
16 partnership and appreciate working with GDNR  
17 over -- over all these years. The license was amended  
18 in 2005 to increase the project's capacity. That  
19 allows us to deliver more power, basically, with the  
20 same amount of water.

21 And Rick, if that's overly simplified  
22 or not right, you can, you know, just ask you to clean  
23 that up later if I -- if I got anything wrong.

24 December 31, 2026, is -- marks the end  
25 of our 50-year license term. If we want to continue

1 operating the project, and we do, we are required to  
2 file an application for a new license by December 31,  
3 2024. Once we file that application, FERC will  
4 conduct its own review, review for completeness and an  
5 environmental review, and issue a new license order.  
6 If -- if FERC doesn't issue the new license order by  
7 December 31, 2026, they will automatically issue  
8 annual licenses until -- until they're able to issue a  
9 new license, which basically means that we continue to  
10 operate with the terms and conditions of the existing  
11 license until FERC issues -- issues a new one. The  
12 new license application will include findings from our  
13 relicensing studies, along with basic project  
14 information and -- and those findings for the  
15 relicensing studies will help identify those  
16 project-related effects that will be addressed  
17 in -- in a new license order.

18 All right. So just a few words  
19 about -- about FERC jurisdiction here. FERC has  
20 authority by statute to license and regulate all  
21 non-federal -- all non-federal hydropower projects on  
22 navigable waterways and non-navigable waterways where  
23 there's power in -- the power that's sold in -- in  
24 interstate commerce and that's a lot of words and may  
25 not be very helpful, but basically, what that means is

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

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

22 The relicensing process, it really  
23 begins with the filing of -- of a Notice of Intent to  
24 seek a new license and a development of a  
25 Pre-Application Document. We filed that with the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 The second stage of consultation, we  
15 will be conducting the studies that we are proposing  
16 to do and -- and those studies will form the basis for  
17 the environmental information that -- that will be  
18 included in the draft license application. And then  
19 we'll distribute the Draft License Application for  
20 another round of reviewing comments and -- and there's  
21 also a joint meeting associated with that to attempt  
22 to resolve any disagreements to the extent that there  
23 are any. We may, you know, we may go through this  
24 process and -- and find that we're -- we're in a  
25 pretty good place with respect to what the -- the new

1 license term looks like. That is just coincidentally  
2 or just incidentally, I'll just mention that -- that  
3 that is one of the reasons that FERC granted the use  
4 of the traditional licensing process is because  
5 with -- with this project, the -- the scope of the  
6 issues and complex of the issues and the -- and really  
7 any -- any conflict associated with the issues  
8 was -- was really, if it's -- if it's there, it's very  
9 small and -- and what that means is that we can go  
10 through this process efficiently.

11 So that's how FERC treats the  
12 traditional licensing process and that's why we're in  
13 that category. So you know we may -- we may very well  
14 get to the end of this and find that we're in a -- in  
15 a good place as far as agreeing on -- on what that new  
16 license term looks like.

17 And then as far as the third stage of  
18 consultation, that begins after we file the Final  
19 License application with FERC. That process is  
20 really, it's a FERC driven process and it's focused on  
21 their own review for completeness, as well as the  
22 environmental review that they're required to do under  
23 the National Environment Policy Act. And so finally,  
24 I do want to just end with this thought is that these  
25 are just the minimum opportunities for formal



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

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

14 Okay. Tyler, go ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 MR. JONES: Okay. Rick --

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

3 MR. JONES: Okay. Great.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 per second down Heath Creek. So Heath Creek sees  
2 a -- a constant flow of at least 1.2 cfs every day.

3 So next slide, just to kind of give you  
4 an idea of the main makeup of the project, you have  
5 the Upper Reservoir. It's 120-foot high, continuous  
6 earth, rock-filled dam. We have approximately  
7 10,000-acre-feet of active storage.

8 Active storage is the water that we  
9 actually use to generate electricity and basically, we  
10 move 10,000-acre-feet back and forth, back and forth,  
11 back and forth, and what this -- what this does is  
12 we're trying to wear it out. Haven't done it yet, but  
13 we do get to use that 10,000-acre-feet passing between  
14 the Upper and Lower Reservoir. Reservoir -- the Upper  
15 Reservoir is -- and shoreline is not accessible to the  
16 public because it does fluctuate in elevation or depth  
17 by 51 feet.

18 The Lower Reservoir is a combination of  
19 several dams and structures. The main one is the Main  
20 Dam. It has our -- our release, water release areas  
21 down there. The Lower Reservoir is about  
22 19,000-acre-feet of storage. The reservoir and  
23 shoreline are not accessible to the public.

24 And we have Auxiliary Pools, two of  
25 them. They total about 5800-acre-feet and this is for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 start to see people get up, get ready for work, go to  
2 work, so forth and so on, but we don't have that air  
3 conditioning running in the middle of the day and so  
4 in order to keep, as I said, there are nuclear and  
5 fossil plants at peak efficiency, they'll take us and  
6 pump that water back up. Also, recharging up the  
7 reservoir to make it ready for any peak demands that  
8 we might see in the afternoon. You can see about five  
9 o'clock people start to come home, start to cook  
10 dinner, start to get, you know, watch TV and so forth.  
11 And then about ten, eleven o'clock they start to go  
12 to -- to bed and we start to pump again. As -- as  
13 the -- or the power's available.

14 And this is a typical March for us as  
15 well. Once again, you'll see we have a -- a pump  
16 mostly at night. We have that morning peak that tails  
17 off. We may pump a little bit in the afternoon  
18 between two o'clock and four o'clock and then people  
19 start to head to house and start to cook dinner and  
20 watch TV and all the things they love to do and pump  
21 at night. So that's kind of a -- kind of a typical  
22 profile what you would see at Rocky Mountain and how  
23 we operate.

24 So any questions I can answer? I'll be  
25 glad to answer them.



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

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

14 (Video played.)

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

25 MR. MCCASLIN: Well, we do have three

1 questions in chat so --

2 MR. JONES: Okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 MR. MCCASLIN: And then another piece  
19 to that question: How do you anticipate the power mix  
20 for pumping and the pattern of operation pumping  
21 versus generating to change in the coming years as  
22 more renewables, mainly solar, come online?

23 MR. HAYES: Okay. This is -- this is  
24 Rick's opinion for the most part, but I think it's  
25 going to be accurate. I think what you'll see is

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

8 MR. MCCASLIN: All right. That covers  
9 all the questions in chat unless there are any others  
10 for anyone to chime in.

11 MR. JONES: Yeah, and Tyler  
12 I'll -- I'll jump in here really quick. Wei, we've  
13 got the acre information in our Pre-Application  
14 Document and -- and we will double check on that. I  
15 believe it's 600 acres that -- that the lower pool  
16 covers in just -- in surface -- surface acres so but  
17 we will double check that and make sure that we get  
18 back to you on that and -- and confirm what it is.  
19 So --

20 MR. HAYES: You are correct, Craig.  
21 The Lower Reservoir is 600 acres. My understanding  
22 was what's the, I guess the watershed in the area  
23 for -- for the project, if I'm not mistaken.

24 MR. JONES: Yeah, I think Steve will  
25 have -- be able to address some of the -- the

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

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

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

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

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

1 Heath Lake and Antioch Lake East and West. Heath Lake  
2 is considered our trophy lake. We have that open the  
3 first ten days of every month and it's closed after  
4 that and that allows us to reduce the pressure on the  
5 fish, hopefully larger -- larger fish are caught.

6 We do have restroom facilities at  
7 the -- both at the visitor center. We have some other  
8 restroom facilities. We have a bathhouse. Each house  
9 at the beach. Lots of wildlife to see, lots of fish  
10 to catch.

11 Actually, have a picture of a young  
12 lady who was out fishing for catfish, ended up  
13 catching a 15-pound small -- or largemouth bass.  
14 Quite -- quite a shock to her. A lot of recreation  
15 resources hiking, biking, camping, and it's managed by  
16 Georgia DNR and if you haven't been out here, come on  
17 out.

18 Georgia DNR does a fantastic job  
19 managing this facility. It is a great place to be.  
20 Clean, well done, well kept, well managed. So that's  
21 all I have unless there are any questions.

22 MR. JONES: Great. Thanks, Rick.

23 And Tyler, I think I'll just have you  
24 just advance the slides until we get to hand them over  
25 to -- to Steve. That might be the most efficient

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

13 Yeah, good afternoon. I'm Steve  
14 Layman. I'm an Aquatic Biologist and Project Manager  
15 for Kleinschmidt. We're helping Ogelthorpe Power with  
16 the environmental studies and environmental  
17 documentation for the license application. And in  
18 this segment, Kelly Kirven and I are going to cover at  
19 a high level five of the key resource areas that are  
20 covered in the PAD, as well as the proposed study  
21 plans for addressing information needs for each of  
22 those areas that are proposed by Ogelthorpe Power.

23 So first, I'll cover water resources,  
24 fish and aquatic resources, and wildlife, botanical,  
25 and wetland resources. And then Kelly will cover

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

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

20 This map shows the location of the  
21 project in the larger Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River  
22 basin, or the ACT River Basin as it's known. The  
23 project's the red star and the ACT Basin is shown in  
24 grey here. The ACT Basin drains southwest across  
25 Alabama down to Mobile Basin in the Gulf of Mexico and

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

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

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

25 The Lower Reservoir and the Auxiliary

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

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

16 Auxiliary Pool 1 as -- as Rick  
17 referenced, is referred to as Antioch Lake. You can  
18 see that on the upper portion of this map. Antioch  
19 Lake East and Antioch Lake West. Georgia DNR manages  
20 them separately for fishery purposes, but they are  
21 connected beneath the road that comes in to the  
22 powerhouse.

23 Auxiliary Pool 2 which is in the bottom  
24 left is referred to as Heath Lake. And then Heath  
25 Creek in the upper right continues flowing

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

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

14 Public fishing opportunities are  
15 provided by Antioch Lake and Heath Lake and they are  
16 classified for recreation including swimming, boating,  
17 and fishing. They're part of -- of the Rocky Mountain  
18 Recreation and Public Fishing Area or PFA, and that's  
19 managed by Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

20 Heath Creek downstream of the Main Dam  
21 is classified as fishing, but as you'll note,  
22 Georgia's current water use attainability assessment  
23 has found that it's not supporting its designated use  
24 due to elevated fecal coliform densities in the -- in  
25 the water body and that's due to nonpoint sources.

1 EPD conducted a total maximum daily load evaluation or  
2 a TMDL evaluation for Heath Creek and they identified  
3 the primary sources of fecal coliform being wildlife,  
4 agricultural livestock, and urban development such as  
5 leaking septic systems at residential properties.

6 None of these sources of fecal coliform are related to  
7 project operations, however.

8 And then finally, Rock Mountain Creek  
9 is classified as secondary trout waters. It's part of  
10 the Lavender Creek watershed and streams that are  
11 classified as secondary trout waters lack evidence of  
12 natural reproduction of trout, but they're capable of  
13 supporting trout year-round, stock trout. There is no  
14 outlet, surface outlet, from the Upper Reservoir to  
15 Rock Mountain Creek and so it has minimal effect, if  
16 any, probably none on -- on water temperature or DO  
17 concentration, dissolved oxygen concentration, in Rock  
18 Mountain Creek.

19 Ogelthorpe Power has collected a  
20 substantial amount of water quality data at the  
21 project since -- since it began operation in 1995.  
22 These data are summarized and discussed at length in  
23 the PAD and in general, they indicate overall good  
24 water quality conditions at the project. Article 31  
25 of the license required that Ogelthorpe conduct water

1 quality monitoring for five years after project  
2 operations began, so this monitoring was conducted  
3 at -- at these seven stations shown with the large  
4 blue dots in 1996 to 2002. And the table indicates  
5 the types of measurements that were done at each  
6 station and -- and in what years so the field  
7 measurements column includes in situ or measurements  
8 at the time of being in the field of water  
9 temperature, PH, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity.  
10 Water chemistry samples were also analyzed in the  
11 laboratory for 13 parameters ranging from turbidity  
12 and total suspended solids and hardness to biochemical  
13 oxygen demand, nutrients, and fecal coliform bacteria.

14 Over time, monitoring was discontinued  
15 at Station 8 on Rock Mountain Creek or RM08 because  
16 the water quality at the station appeared to be  
17 unaffected by project operation and that was in part  
18 at the time comparing it back to -- to pre-project  
19 water quality conditions. Over time, stations RM14 on  
20 Antioch Lake West and RM16 on the Lower Reservoir at  
21 the Main Dam were also discontinued because they were  
22 represented or had similar results with other  
23 stations. Water Chemistry sampling was conducted  
24 again from 2015 to 2020 at the smaller subset of  
25 stations, indicating the lower right-hand column.

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

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



1 quality with the exception of fecal coliform.

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

24 Ogelthorpe Power has a robust water  
25 quality data set with monitoring they've done and

1 monitoring by DNR, but they do propose some additional  
2 sampling in 2022 to update these data. So the -- this  
3 is outlined in the PAD. These are the objectives  
4 listed there which are to characterize the existing  
5 water quality in the Rocky Mountain study area and  
6 then to use these data to analyze the effects of  
7 project operation and maintenance and project-related  
8 recreation on water quality in the draft license  
9 application.

10 The study area would include the Lower  
11 Reservoir, Auxiliary Pool 1, Auxiliary Pool 2, and  
12 Heath Creek downstream of the Main Dam within the  
13 project boundary. So the key elements of the study  
14 that is being proposed are to compile and analyze the  
15 existing water quality data and then to supplement  
16 that with one year of monthly water quality sampling  
17 at four historic stations within the project boundary.

18 This slide shows the proposed monthly  
19 sampling stations and parameters. The four stations  
20 would -- would include the Lower Reservoir, Antioch  
21 Lake East, Heath Lake, and Heath Creek downstream of  
22 the Main Dam. Sampling's not proposed for the Upper  
23 Reservoir because it exchanges water daily with the  
24 Lower Reservoir and they fluctuate substantially 51  
25 feet for the Upper Reservoir, 20 feet in the Lower

1 Reservoir, so they remain well mixed so that Station  
2 16, RM16 on the Lower Reservoir is reasonably  
3 representative of the Upper Reservoir as well. Rock  
4 Mountain Creek is not proposed for sampling either,  
5 because there's no outlet from the Upper Reservoir to  
6 that creek and the previous sampling indicated that  
7 the water quality is unaffected by project operation.

8 The proposed water quality sampling  
9 parameters for each station are shown in the bottom  
10 right. They would include the same field measurements  
11 that were conducted in the 1996 to 2002 monitoring  
12 events and then six Water Chemistry parameters listed  
13 here including biochemical oxygen demand and the  
14 various organic and inorganic forms of nitrogen and  
15 phosphorous as nutrients.

16 The schedule for the water quality  
17 assessment would be to finalize the study plan once  
18 we've received your comments by -- by the middle of  
19 May. To begin data compilation and monthly sampling  
20 by the May-June timeframe and complete the one-year of  
21 monthly sampling by April or May of 2023. Prepare a  
22 study report by December 2023 and then that would be  
23 filed with the DLA or the Draft License Application  
24 for stakeholder review approximately February of 2024.

25 So at this point, I'll pause and -- and

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

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

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

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

1 these lakes support popular warm water fisheries for  
2 largemouth bass, sunfishes, black crappie, channel  
3 catfish, and even walleye has become a popular  
4 fishery, I think mainly in Antioch Lake.

5 The figure on the left is from the  
6 annual report for 2018 and it shows the long-term  
7 trend in electrofishing catch rates of the largemouth  
8 bass in the -- in the two sub-impoundments of Antioch  
9 Lake and also in Heath Lake. And Georgia DNR has  
10 found a -- a positive relationship between annual  
11 fertilization rates and the game fish biomass and  
12 fishing quality so it's a crucial component of the  
13 management in the public fishing area. Also, Antioch  
14 Lake is open to fishing year-round while Heath Lake is  
15 limited to the first ten days of every month to  
16 provide a -- a trophy fishing experience for catching  
17 large largemouth bass.

18 Heath Creek downstream of the Main Dam  
19 is a low-gradient, warm water stream. It flows about  
20 five miles to Little Armuchee Creek. Based on fishery  
21 sampling conducted by Ogelthorpe Power and Georgia  
22 DNR, Heath Creek supports about 35 species of fish in  
23 eight families including a variety of sunfishes,  
24 minnows, suckers, and darters. Georgia DNR's Stream  
25 Team sampled Heath Creek in May 2001 and August 2002

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

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

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

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

7               Seventeen federally and/or state listed  
8 aquatic species have the potential to occur in the  
9 project vicinity. They are listed here.

10 They're -- they're five fish, I think about 11  
11 freshwater mussels and snails, and one aquatic insect  
12 that's under review for federal listing. None of  
13 these are presently known to occur within the project  
14 boundary, but there is a lack of available sampling  
15 records for freshwater mussels and snails in Heath  
16 Creek.

17               Critical habitats have been designated  
18 in the Oostanaula River for ten federally listed  
19 threatened and endangered species of mussels and  
20 snails and as identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
21 Service in its comments on the PAD, several rare  
22 species of mussels are known from historic records in  
23 Armuchee Creek watershed, so they do have the  
24 potential to occur in Heath Creek. Those are  
25 indicated by an asterisk on the -- in the bottom

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

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

20 And the key study elements would be the  
21 fish community survey. That would involve two  
22 representative locations on Heath Creek. We would  
23 propose sampling at the same site that was used by  
24 the -- the DNR Stream Team back in 2002 at Texas  
25 Valley Road, and also a second station within the



1 project boundary, around the vicinity of the USGS  
2 Gauge. The -- the study methods would follow EPD's  
3 fish community biomonitoring standard  
4 operating -- operating procedures and we would apply  
5 the Index of Biotic Integrity to evaluate fish  
6 community health. Sampling would be conducted by  
7 backpack electrofishing primarily.

8 Mussel survey would also be conducted  
9 in that reach of Heath Creek using a search design  
10 that's appropriate for representing the available  
11 habitats, assessing presence/absence of native  
12 species, and characterizing relative abundance and  
13 site -- size characteristics of many live specimens  
14 encountered. Ogelthorpe Power would contract with  
15 a -- a mussel expert to further develop the study  
16 design and consultation with DNR's wildlife  
17 conservation section at Fish and Wildlife Service, but  
18 it wouldn't be quite as restrictive in its locations  
19 necessarily as the fish community survey. It might  
20 involve a larger number of -- of survey points down  
21 the creek following a, you know, an occupancy-based  
22 sort of sampling approach, which -- which has been  
23 designed by DNR for other -- other types of projects.  
24 So we would consult on that.

25 Here is the proposed schedule for the

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

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

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

13 MR. LAYMAN: Okay.

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

19 MR. LAYMAN: Yeah.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4             There's also about 29 acres of stream  
5     habitat total within the project boundary. They're  
6     characterized by narrow floodplains with deposits of  
7     sand and clay. And then there are littoral habitats  
8     which are shallow water habitats that are shallow  
9     enough where light penetrates the bottom and there's a  
10    potential for aquatic vegetation to grow. It's quite  
11    prevalent in the Auxiliary Pools. There's 33 percent  
12    that's less than 5 feet deep at Heath Lake, plus 29  
13    percent of the lake is -- has flooded timber, so it  
14    has important wildlife habitat. And then Antioch Lake  
15    about up to 22 percent is less than 5 feet deep to  
16    indicate in general the -- the shallow areas that it  
17    has, but it is only 2 percent with flooded timber.

18            Nine federally listed or candidate  
19    species potentially occur within the project vicinity  
20    as listed here, including six plants, one insect, the  
21    Monarch -- Monarch butterfly which is a candidate  
22    species being considered for possible listing, and  
23    then two species of bats. None of these species are  
24    presently known to occur at the project, although the  
25    Monarch butterfly is widespread in the Eastern U.S. in

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

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

19 The key study elements, then, would be  
20 conducting a field reconnaissance survey in spring or  
21 early summer, at least the primary portions of it, and  
22 that would be conducted by boat along shorelines of  
23 the project waters, as well as by pedestrian surveys  
24 around project recreation areas and  
25 probably -- probably throughout much of the project

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

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

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

25 MR. JONES: And looks like

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

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

6 Take it away, Kelly.

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

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

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

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



1 associated shorelines, mostly due to public safety and  
2 the fluctuation of the reservoirs due to the pump  
3 storage operations. And also, as -- as we've  
4 mentioned, Georgia DNR manages and operates the  
5 project recreation facilities through an existing MOU.  
6 All right.

7 Okay. So here we have a couple of  
8 figures just to kind of orient with the -- the way  
9 that where the project recreation facilities and  
10 amenities are located. So this first image is  
11 Auxiliary Pool 2 or Heath Lake, and you can see where,  
12 you know, the boat ramp, the picnic area, hiking,  
13 biking trails, those sorts of things are located. And  
14 the next image, we have Auxiliary Pool 1 West, or  
15 Antioch Lake West, and you can see where the visitors  
16 center is located, restrooms, hiking, boat ramp,  
17 picnic areas, those sorts of things.

18 Then two more figures. Here we've got  
19 a view of Auxiliary Pool 1 West or Antioch Lake West,  
20 and you can see we've got the beach and the beach  
21 house, campers' station, and you can see where some of  
22 the camping sites are -- are located in that area.  
23 And then we also have an image of -- up in the top of  
24 the image you can see, and I'll move my pointer if you  
25 can see that, Auxiliary Pool 1 East or Antioch Lake

1 East, and then how -- where that's located in  
2 reference to the Lower Reservoir and the Powerhouse.

3 Okay. So next I'm just going to review  
4 some of the amenities that are associated with each  
5 recreation area. So at Antioch Lake East, we have got  
6 the Day Use Facility parking area, picnic area, group  
7 shelter. There's a one-lane concrete boat ramp, a  
8 floating dock, and restrooms.

9 Antioch Lake West, and this is the most  
10 highly developed and most used recreation area at the  
11 project, and that's where we've got the swimming beach  
12 and that has a sand beach, bathhouse, and restrooms.  
13 A picnic area, a boating area with parking for  
14 vehicles and vehicles with trailers, a concrete boat  
15 ramp, courtesy dock, picnic area, again restrooms.  
16 And a pretty large camping facility, group camping and  
17 family camping.

18 Okay. And then moving on to Heath  
19 Lake. There's also parking, a single-lane concrete  
20 boat launch, and I am going to note, so the image here  
21 that we have is -- is actually an old image of  
22 the -- the boat ramp there, the courtesy dock. So  
23 that has been re-done since this picture was taken, so  
24 there -- if you -- if you were to go out there today,  
25 it would look just a little bit different. But once

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 prepare a study report during the summer of 2023 that  
2 will be filed with the DLA around the February 2024  
3 timeframe.

4 So if there are any questions with  
5 recreation, I see there was a comment there on the  
6 archery range at Heath Lake also. Yes, absolutely. I  
7 did forget to mention that one. Thank you.

8 MR. HAKALA: Kelly, this is Jim Hakala  
9 with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

10 MS. KIRVEN: Yes, sir.

11 MR. HAKALA: I wanted to -- I wanted to  
12 ask you a few questions and get some clarification  
13 on -- on some of the proposed study plans here.

14 MS. KIRVEN: Sure.

15 MR. HAKALA: When it's -- when you  
16 indicate the study will characterize the existing  
17 facilities, will that also -- what -- what exactly  
18 will that entail?

19 MS. KIRVEN: Sure. So that will  
20 include an inventory, so we'll identify all of the  
21 amenities that are located and then also potentially I  
22 kind of characterize the condition, so if anything  
23 needs to be updated or improved or anything such as  
24 that.

25 MR. HAKALA: Okay. Yeah, that

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

3 MS. KIRVEN: Yes, sir.

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

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

20 MR. HAKALA: Okay. Great, great.

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

23 MR. HAKALA: Yeah, Rick.

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

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

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

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

20 MS. KIRVEN: Yes.

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

1 MS. KIRVEN: Okay.

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

8 MS. KIRVEN: Sure.

9 MR. HAKALA: Go ahead.

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

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

24 MS. KIRVEN: Yep.

25 MR. HAKALA: Maybe one that follows



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

2 MS. KIRVEN: Okay.

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

12 MS. KIRVEN: Right.

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

16 MS. KIRVEN: Absolutely.

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

1 MS. KIRVEN: Absolutely.

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

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

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

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

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

7 MR. JONES: Great, thank you.

8 MS. KIRVEN: Yes, thank you.

9 MR. SIBLEY: Thank you.

10 MR. HAKALA: Thanks, Craig. Thanks,  
11 Kelly.

12 MS. KIRVEN: Absolutely.

13 All right. So I'm going to move on if  
14 there aren't any other comments on recreation. Okay.

15 All right. So we're going to move into  
16 the cultural resources at the project. So between  
17 1972 and 1996, there was a lot of cultural resource  
18 studies that were completed at the project and in  
19 1997, Garrow and Associates summarized these studies  
20 into one document, which is titled Cultural Resource  
21 Studies at the Rocky Mountain Project, Floyd County,  
22 Georgia, A Technical Synthesis, and that's 1972 to  
23 1997.

24 The synthesis lists numerous  
25 prehistoric archaeological resources, historic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 throughout a very close consultation throughout the  
2 study. And then also ultimately, the existing  
3 Cultural Resources Management Plan that I mentioned  
4 from 1997 will be revised to be a new Historic  
5 Properties Management Plan or HPMP.

6 And so a general schedule, similar to  
7 the others, you know, first step will be to identify  
8 the APE and that will be in the May to June timeframe.  
9 And then finalize a study plan in -- in June or  
10 thereabouts. Conduct the -- the literature review  
11 will happen this summer of 2022 and then the field  
12 survey and the archaeological survey will happen in  
13 the fall of 2022. And then move on to preparing the  
14 study report through the end of this year into early  
15 2023 and then the study report will be filed with the  
16 draft license application for stakeholder review in  
17 the February 2024 timeframe.

18 So any questions on cultural?

19 MR. HAYES: Hey Kelly, it's pronounced  
20 "Fushay."

21 MS. KIRVEN: Fouche, okay. Thanks  
22 Rick, I knew I was butchering it and I felt like there  
23 were so many different ways it could have been  
24 pronounced so I just went with one and I knew it was  
25 wrong, so thanks.

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

3 MS. KIRVEN: Thanks.

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

7 MS. KIRVEN: Thanks.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 MR. JONES: Great.

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

22 MR. JONES: Thank you, Ben.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITION OFFICER

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



17 DEIDRA MUSICK NASH

18 Notary Public in and for the  
19 State of Georgia  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, STEPHANIE OSTRANDER, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Ostrander", is enclosed in a rectangular box.

STEPHANIE OSTRANDER

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