

STUDY RESULTS MEETING

GEORGIA POWER
A SOUTHERN COMPANY

61 LEE ROAD 335
SALEM, ALABAMA 36874

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011
10:00 A.M.

PRESIDING:

WINNIE SIMPSON

MLQ COURT REPORTERS

A T T E N D A N C E

- 1
- 2 Winnie Simpson
Morton Reed
- 3 Mike Crumbley
Sarah Florentino
- 4 Allan Creamer
Nick Nichols
- 5 Roger Martin
Ken Weathers
- 6 Morton Reed
Wanda Greene
- 7 Jim Crew
Michael Phillips
- 8 Brent Hess
Fred Cox
- 9 Tony Dodd
Steve Layman
- 10 George Martin
Hallie Meushaw
- 11 Fitzgerald Veira
Courtenay O'Mara
- 12 Tom Broadwell
Joey Slaughter
- 13 Alice Lawrence
Jim Candler
- 14 Michael Barnett

- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26

MLQ COURT REPORTERS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

I N D E X

Welcome - Winnie Simpson

Safety Briefing - George Martin

Introduction - George Martin

Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species - Steve Layman

Wildlife & Botanical Resources - Steve Layman

Wetlands, Riparian & Littoral Habitat - Steve Layman

Recreation & Land Use - Heather Drake

MLQ COURT REPORTERS

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

2 MS. SIMPSON: George is going to give the
3 safety speech this morning. Just before go, I
4 want to remind everybody that Janet Allen is
5 over here doing a takedown, so if you would
6 all identify when you speak up so she gets an
7 accurate record for us.

8 George Martin is going to start us off
9 this morning.

10 MR. MARTIN: Good morning, everybody. I
11 think we've got a couple of new folks in the
12 room. Arnold has been called to a respond to
13 the heavy flows coming down from the recent
14 storm event, so he will be back this afternoon
15 or in a little while. He asked me to give the
16 safety briefing and he had the safety briefing
17 on the bottom to half of this page and left
18 me the top page.

19 I think it's 6042.

20 MS. SIMPSON: 6026.

21 MR. MARTIN: 6026. We're in the
22 clubhouse. That's the emergency number.
23 Wanda, would you be willing to call from that
24 phone to 6026 and tell them we're in the
25 clubhouse.

26

27

1 The fire extinguisher is in the back of
2 the room. If we get into a fire situation,
3 let's evacuate primarily and not worry too
4 much about the fire extinguisher unless it's
5 something very, very local.

6 The AED is in the office up the hill.
7 Someone will have to run get it. Hopefully,
8 we won't have the need for that.

9 If there is a storm event, we will all go
10 up to the offices and get in the hallway.
11 That is the safest place.

12 If there is a fire, we'll go out into the
13 parking lot. Who knows CPR in the room. If
14 anybody has an emergency, let's all pitch in
15 and deal with that.

16 The restrooms are in the back. We've got
17 snacks and Cokes and beverages in the
18 refrigerator. Make yourself at home. Coffee
19 and what not.

20 I think that's about all that he covered
21 with us yesterday. The gathering area is in
22 the parking lot, if we have some unforeseen
23 event.

24 Other than that, I want to just reiterate
25 that safety comes first with Georgia Power,

26
27

1 that's why we like to share a safety message
2 before any meeting. And something I think
3 that's probably related to that that's timely
4 is we're all on the road. The weather they
5 are is kind of inclement. We're coming in and
6 out of airports and up and down the road and
7 cell phones and all distractions, so be doubly
8 safe and doubly careful when you are driving.

9 I want to start off and share a little
10 bit of information with you. I think most of
11 us were here yesterday, so bear with me for
12 repeating myself a little bit, but we are at
13 the Bartletts Ferry Study Results Meetings for
14 the Relicensing of Bartletts Ferry.

15 I'm going to share a little bit about the
16 Agenda, for the three days, yesterday, today
17 and tomorrow. I will be a little bit more
18 specific about today's Agenda. Tell you where
19 we are within the integrated licensing process
20 as it applies to Bartletts's Ferry. Lastly,
21 share with you a few maps that you will see
22 again and again today and orient you where we
23 are geographically in the State and in the
24 southeast.

25 Yesterday we went over Project Operations
26
27

1 and Drought Management, Water Resources, Fish
2 and Aquatics. Today we're going to focus on
3 RTE, Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species;
4 Wildlife and Botanical and Wetlands, Riparian
5 and Littoral Habitat and we'll end the day
6 with Recreation and Land Use.

7 Tomorrow we're going to pick up and
8 finish off our Study Results Meetings with
9 Geology and Soils and Cultural Resources,
10 which includes Archeological and Historic
11 Hydro Resource areas.

12 Today we're going to try to be timely
13 and move as quickly but as thoroughly as we
14 can to cover as many things this morning as we
15 can to give them the appropriate amount of
16 attention that they need, but not to curtail
17 any substantive discussion to allow for some
18 of our resource agency folks to hit the road a
19 little bit early.

20 So we're going to try to stay with that
21 Agenda, but we will kind of move ahead, but,
22 as I said, give enough time to thoroughly
23 consider the resource areas.

24 These meetings are as a result of
25 completing the Resource Studies that took
26
27

1 place in calendar year 2010.

2 The study plan determination that was
3 issued by FERC, Federal Energy Regulatory
4 Commission, of March 17, 2010 included nine
5 different resource areas. They are listed
6 here and these are reflected in our Agenda
7 from yesterday, today and tomorrow.

8 So here, again, this is where we are in
9 the process. And to drill down just a little
10 bit into where we are, in your Agenda -- And
11 does everyone have an Agenda, first of all.
12 Let's make sure if you don't, we've got more
13 in the back of the room. If you don't have
14 and agenda, you need to get one.

15 I want to refer you to Integrated
16 Licensing Process Plan and Schedule that's
17 been specifically developed for Bartletts
18 Ferry that's an attachment to your Agenda.
19 The highlighted items are the items that we've
20 been through thus far bringing us to today's
21 and yesterday's and tomorrow's Study Results
22 Meetings and that is highlighted here.

23 The next things to come as a result of
24 our filing the Study Reports on March 17th,
25 subsequent to today's, tomorrow's and

26

27

1 that takes place between the end of these
2 meetings and these Preliminary Licensing
3 Proposal Meetings, so the communication
4 pathway is open between Georgia Power and all
5 of our stakeholders between these meetings
6 today and between the Preliminary Licensing
7 Proposal Meetings. So we will be in contact
8 with you and you be in contact with us, either
9 face-to-face, over the phone, through
10 comments. Any communication that you would
11 like to use and we would like to use with you
12 to further resolve and refine the issues that
13 have been identified and, hopefully, we'll get
14 very, very close to a consensus agreement of
15 some form in reaching the Preliminary
16 Licensing Proposal Meetings. If we've got
17 five or two or one percent of things left,
18 we'll try to resolve them before we file the
19 Preliminary Licensing Proposal. So does
20 everybody see where we are and what comes next
21 and what we hope to get achieved by the end of
22 this year, if everything goes according to
23 what we've done thus far. Any questions on
24 that.

25 For those would need things that are on a
26
27

1 detailed level, I have a couple of these on
2 the back. This is the flow chart for the
3 Integrated Licensing Process that FERC has put
4 together for us and I've got a few of these on
5 the back, but we tried to break it down to the
6 specifics of Bartletts Ferry for you.

7 All right. To move on a little bit,
8 that's what we covered yesterday. Today, as I
9 said, we're going to try to move through
10 things in as an efficient and thorough manner.
11 If we do get to Wildlife and Botanical a
12 little bit early, if we all agree that's that
13 what we should do, Georgia Power will take
14 those steps, knowing that we may have to
15 repeat some of the things that we move up in
16 the schedule. If other stakeholders come at
17 these appointed times, we'll be glad to go
18 over that again for them, but the folks
19 assembled today agreed to move things up a
20 bit, we will.

21 Again, we will have lunch around noon.
22 And tomorrow, as I said earlier, Geology and
23 Soils and Cultural Resources; then we'll try
24 to, sort of, recap the three days in their
25 entirety and have one more opportunity open
26
27

1 dialogue over everything we've cover over the
2 three days.

3 All right. With that this is a map you
4 will see throughout the presentations. I just
5 want to orient us to where we are in the
6 southeast. Of course, we're in the State of
7 Georgia and Alabama is to our west. We're
8 on the State line on the Chattahoochie
9 River. Coming a little bit closer, we are
10 bounded here on the middle reach the
11 Chattahoochie by West Point before it ends
12 near West Point dam to the upstream northern
13 end of the river and to the southern end, the
14 downstream end, Walter F. George. And then we
15 hit Georgia Power's hydro facilities:
16 Langdale; Riverview; Bartletts Ferry, where we
17 are today; and then there is Goat Rock, Oliver
18 and North Highlands. And coincidentally,
19 Langdale and Riverview are under separated
20 FERC licenses. The Langdale Riverview project
21 boundary abuts the Bartletts Ferry project
22 boundary on the upstream side; and similarly
23 on the downstream side, the Goat Rock project
24 boundary abuts the downstream Bartletts Ferry
25 project boundary. And Goat Rock, Oliver and
26
27

1 North Highlands are under a different FERC
2 license referred to as Middle Chattahoochie,
3 which you will hear some of the folks make
4 reference to today. And in whole, Langdale,
5 Riverview, Bartletts Ferry, Goat Rock, Oliver,
6 North Highlands, they are referred to as the
7 Chattahoochie Hydro Group, so there is three
8 different levels with consideration to the
9 Chattahoochie Hydro Group.

10 The other map that will you see again and
11 again points out, again, the West Point Dam
12 and the Middle Chattahoochie projects; and
13 then the Bartletts Ferry project area is
14 outlined here in bold black. And you can see
15 that to the west are Lee and Chambers County,
16 Alabama; to the east, Harris County, Georgia;
17 and the purple line that we'll refer to again
18 and again throughout our presentation is
19 project boundary, primarily that's is
20 reflected by the 525 contour. There are a few
21 areas that go further than the 525 contour
22 that I will point out in just one second, but
23 the project area or the project vicinity are
24 greater than the project boundary and those
25 will be made reference to as well.

26
27

1 And, as I said, in a couple of areas the
2 project boundary does extent beyond the 525 in
3 areas like this piece of property here and
4 also with regard to the Blanton Creek Park.

5 So that's about all I had to get us
6 started today. Does anybody have any
7 questions or comments otherwise. If not, we
8 will move on.

9 MS. SIMPSON: George, let's go around the
10 room and introduce yourselves.

11 MS. O'MARA: There is coffee out, but
12 there is juice, water, Cokes, the whole line
13 in the refrigerator, so to help yourself if
14 you don't drink coffee.

15 MR. MARTIN: As we go around and
16 introduce ourselves, will you share with us
17 your name, your organization and your
18 responsibility within that organization; and
19 if you could share with us your interest, what
20 resource area are you interested in. If it's
21 all of them or in particular wetlands,
22 wildlife, RTE, land management, recreation.
23 Those are our focus today, but if you could
24 share that with us.

25 I will start us off. I'm Georgia Power

26

27

1 with George Martin -- I'm George and I'm with
2 Georgia Power Environmental Affairs. I'm the
3 Project Manager for hydro relicensing for the
4 company and I have a lot of experience in the
5 water area; and I just want to see an
6 efficient outcome of this proceeding to,
7 hopefully, make the environment better and
8 continue to operate in a flexible, reasonable
9 manner.

10 MR. MIKE CRUMBLEY: Mike Crumbley with
11 GDNR. I operate Blanton Creek wildlife
12 management area, mostly aquatic wildlife and
13 rare, threatened and endangered species.

14 MR. CREW: I'm Jim Crew, Manager of Hydro
15 Services for Southern Company Generation. I
16 have been involved in relicensing activity in
17 Alabama for the last ten years.

18 I'm here because George has always
19 claimed that Georgia Power does a better job
20 of relicensing than Alabama. And that may be
21 true, but I always point out that we have won
22 the last two national championships, so we
23 got that over him.

24 MR. REED: Morton Reed, Columbus Water
25 Works. I'm serving as Watershed Coordinator

26
27

1 in the Compliance Department with William
2 Kent. He is not here today. He is the
3 department manager and I have been involved in
4 river monitoring programs over the years and
5 as a land manager now serving as an
6 environmental specialist, watershed
7 coordinator, so I'm interested in flows up and
8 down. The Middle Chattahoochie Water Planning
9 Counsel, supporting that group. And I'm
10 chemical engineer, environmental engineer by
11 discipline, so that's the area that I focus
12 on.

13 MS. FLORENTINO: Sarah Florentino with
14 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC.
15 I'm here to review the rare, threatened and
16 endangered species and the terrestrial
17 resources. Not fish, but plants and
18 wildlife. I should say I have some fish.
19 There are some that are very threatened and
20 endangered. And I guess my position at FERC
21 is environmental biologist and I've been there
22 for about five-and-a-half years.

23 MR. CREAMER: Allan Creamer. I'm with
24 FERC. I'm Project Coordinator for Bartletts
25 Ferry. I am also a fishery biologist, so I
26
27

1 deal with aquatics, water quality, fisheries,
2 mussels and fish, so I leave the terrestrial
3 stuff to Sarah. You know, I guess, from a
4 regulatory standpoint that's why we're here,
5 for the most part, but, yes I have been down
6 here enough.

7 MS. O'MARA: Courtenay O'Mara. I'm an
8 engineer in our Hydro Services Office in
9 Atlanta. I work with Fred. We work on the
10 project preparations; and just, in general,
11 our group provides technical support for all
12 the Georgia Power hydro plants.

13 MR. COX: I'm Fred Cox. I'm in Hydro
14 Services at Southern Company Generation. I'm
15 a civil engineer. On this project my area of
16 expertise is in project operations or
17 resources, at least, open channel flows, not
18 the DO and that kind of thing.

19 MS. GREENE: I work with Georgia Power in
20 the Land Department in the Compliance &
21 Forestry Management Group. We are part of the
22 relicensing team, so we're really interested
23 in all of it, but our particular areas are
24 the recreation and land management uses.

25 MR. CANDLER: Jim Candler. I'm a
26
27

1 wildlife biologist by degree and I'm on the
2 Georgia Power team. Interested in the
3 national natural resource areas, particularly,
4 the rare and endangered species and wildlife
5 and botanical areas for this.

6 MR. SLAUGHTER: Joey Slaughter. You
7 heard from me for three hours yesterday. I'm
8 a two-time Auburn graduate. I'm just happy to
9 be here.

10 MR. BARNETT: I'm Michael and I work for
11 the Georgia Power Company Land Department and
12 I'm a national certified recreation leisure
13 professional.

14 MR. DODD: I'm Tony Dodd. I'm an aquatic
15 biologist with Georgia Power Company and I
16 work on the project team here in water
17 resources and other aquatic biological
18 issues.

19 MR. BROADWELL: Tom Broadwell with
20 Georgia Power Company and I keep track of
21 water quality in the reservoirs and chase
22 aquatic plants around.

23 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm Mike Phillips. I'm a
24 manager of Land Management and like I
25 mentioned yesterday, we're very interested in
26
27

1 getting a good license for this project.
2 Bartletts Ferry is an important part of our
3 generation mix and we appreciate everyone
4 coming and showing interest. We have our FERC
5 friends with us and if everyone speaks up and
6 let's us know what you think and look forward
7 to working with you.

8 MR. HESS: Brett Hess with Georgia P&R.
9 I'm a fisheries biologist and I'm involved
10 with aquatic resources and the recreation
11 department.

12 MS. LAWRENCE: Alice Lawrence with US
13 Fish & Wildlife Service in Georgia and I'm a
14 fish and wildlife biologist.

15 MR. NICHOLS: Nick Nichols with the
16 Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater
17 Fisheries. My interest here today is in the
18 RTE species and recreation.

19 MR. WEATHERS: I'm Ken Weathers. I'm the
20 district fisheries biologist with Alabama
21 Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, District 4.
22 I'm with our new boundary realignment, I'm
23 responsible for the Chattahoochie Reservoirs
24 to the Alabama section of them. I'm here
25 mainly interested in the recreation and the

26
27

1 aquatic resources.

2 MR. LAYMAN: I'm Steve Layman. I'm with
3 CH2M Hill and we're supporting the
4 environmental studies. I'm an (inaudible) by
5 trade. Also aquatic ecologist and our project
6 manager for the various resource studies.

7 MR. MARTIN: Roger Martin. I'm the
8 Executive Director of the Chattahoochie River
9 Warden. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit
10 adversarial organization for the Hooch from,
11 basically, West Point to parts of Alabama.

12 MS. MEUSHAW: Good morning. I'm Hallie
13 Meushaw. I'm an attorney with Troutman
14 Sanders and we provide legal services to
15 Georgia Power and part of the relicensing
16 team.

17 MR. VEIRA: Fitzgerald Veira, also with
18 Troutman Sanders. I also provide legal
19 services for Georgia Power and a member of the
20 world famous relicensing team.

21 MR. MARTIN: All right. Thanks. I want
22 to go ahead and call Steve Layman up. Dr.
23 Layman is going to present Rare, Threatened
24 and Endangered Species and also he is going to
25 do the Wildlife this afternoon, but I want to

26

27

1 reiterate what Mike Phillips said. We really
2 do appreciate the time and expertise that has
3 brought you here today and we look forward to
4 an open dialogue getting to the Preliminary
5 Licensing Proposal Meetings later this fall.

6 MR. LAYMAN: Okay. Thanks. I'm going to
7 start using an acronym here, RTE Species for
8 the rare, threatened and endangered, so you
9 will hear that a lot and so I wanted to define
10 that up front.

11 The study objectives for the RTE species
12 study, we're to list federal and state rare,
13 threatened and endangered plants in the animal
14 species with no records of occurrence near the
15 project, identify our habitat requirements and
16 then describe and evaluate their distributions
17 and habitat, use of these species presently
18 occurring near the project, so to the RTE
19 species report provides a listing of these
20 species and species accounts for numerous
21 federal and state protected and certain
22 special concern species of interest.

23 The study area for this analysis which is
24 also referred to as the project area is the
25 FERC project boundary, which is the 525-foot
26
27

1 contour in general around the impoundment,
2 the Bartletts Ferry Reservoir and Lake
3 Harding. It also included a zone extending
4 about 2,000-feet out from the project boundary
5 to be more inclusive of the terrestrial and
6 wetland habitats and wildlife habitats that
7 occur around the project. You will see that
8 this zone is common to the other studies that
9 will follow today, the wildlife, botanical and
10 the wetlands. In fact, those were concurrent
11 sources of effort for the field surveys, as
12 you will see in a moment.

13 The study area also included a portion of
14 the Blanton Creek Wildlife Management Area
15 within 2,000-feet of the project boundary.
16 Georgia Power leases this land to Georgia
17 Department of Natural Resources, I think
18 that's, like,
19 four-thousand-seven-hundred-and-something
20 acres or in that vicinity, so part of that is
21 in the study area.

22 The methods for this analysis were to
23 review existing information, to update
24 correspondence with the resources agencies,
25 federal and state, that have jurisdiction

26
27

1 over rare, threatened and endangered species
2 and I should mention, at the outset of the
3 project for the pre-application document, we
4 provided an initial list of species based on
5 consultation with Fish & Wildlife DNR and
6 ACDNR and we've simply updated that to capture
7 any new or current information that might be
8 out there. Another key component of the
9 analysis was field surveys that were conducted
10 in 2009 and 2010.

11 In terms of the kinds of existing
12 information that we looked at to develop the
13 list of species to understand what species
14 historically have occurred in the project
15 vicinity. The vicinity is a little wider than
16 the project area. We looked at the counties
17 surrounding the project, so Chambers and Lee
18 counties in Alabama and Harris County in
19 Georgia. So we looked more broadly at the
20 species that were historically known or
21 presently known to occur within that vicinity
22 and these are many of the key sources that
23 GDNR non-game conservation section formerly
24 the Natural Heritage Program. Georgia Power
25 has had a long-standing working relationship
26
27

1 here at this project and others in
2 understanding what occurrences of rare plants
3 or wildlife are in the vicinity. ACDNR
4 natural heritage section, Fish & Wildlife
5 Georgia Ecological Service Field Office as
6 well as some of the online databases maintain
7 by the Georgia and Alabama ecological services
8 field offices. The Alabama Natural Heritage
9 Program, which has an online database has an
10 inventory tracking document that comes out
11 periodically. The most recent being 2010.
12 Fish & Wildlife has maintained, of, course a
13 lot of information on review of candidate
14 species. They have an online database and
15 also have recovery plans, critical habitat
16 designations and five-year reviews for a
17 number of federally listed species in the
18 area.

19 Nature Serve Explorer is also a nice
20 database to cross-check with these various
21 sources. That's online encyclopedia of
22 conservation information for rare species.
23 The Alabama wildlife volumes that were
24 published for ADCNR comprehensive wildlife
25 conservation strategy. There is a series of
26
27

1 four nice, recent publications we talked
2 about, the high priority and priority species
3 of conservation concerning Alabama.

4 Certainly we refer to a lot of local,
5 state and regional manuals for rare plants and
6 protected animals; and, of course, the
7 scientific literature on occurrences of rare
8 species. Fairly recently, the Alabama mussels
9 book, to mention one of them. And various
10 other sources that are cited.

11 That information was used to compile the
12 list in the table that's in the reports. Some
13 31 state and federally protected or candidate
14 dated species, plus another 17 or so are
15 special concern species that we looked at.

16 In terms of the field surveys, a field
17 reconnaissance survey was conducted in April
18 and August of 2010 that was specifically to
19 explore terrestrial and wetland habitats in
20 the project area. You will see more about
21 that in the following presentations on
22 Wildlife, Botanical and Wetlands, so these
23 were surveys that were conducted by three
24 teams of two biologists for Georgia Power,
25 CH2M Hill, both pedestrian surveys on Georgia

26
27

1 Power lands and public lands as well as
2 surveys from both on project reservoir.
3 Particular attention was paid to the
4 potentially suitable habitat for the RTE
5 species. And prior to these field surveys,
6 the teams looked at maps and aerial photos and
7 the occurrence information that we compiled
8 through the literature review for an
9 understanding of where they may be found for
10 those surveys.

11 The fish surveys were also conducted in
12 2010, as Joey Slaughter summarized yesterday.
13 Those surveys included some of the lower
14 free-flowing reaches that the larger
15 tributaries that are coming into the project
16 like Mountain Oak Creek, Halawakee Creek and
17 Osanippa Creek. And then, of course, the
18 mussel surveys which you heard about yesterday
19 as well that were conducted in 2009 in the
20 project reservoir. In 2010 in the tailrace
21 area and in the Riverview Shoals area.

22 So we compiled a list of, again, 31
23 federal and state protected species and
24 federal candidate species. And in addition to
25 the table in the report, it lists there are

26
27

1 relevant to the occurrence. Little
2 amphianthus occurs on granite outcrops and
3 whirlpools and in very specialized habitat.
4 And those habitats are pretty well established
5 or known where they occur. We looked for
6 those in the project area. None of those were
7 found. It's not believed to be in the local
8 vicinity. Relict trillium, although we did
9 not find any within the project boundary,
10 there is a known occurrence in the wildlife
11 management area, it was recently transplanted
12 there in 2010 from Fort Benning, Georgia. So
13 Georgia Power and GDNR and Fish & Wildlife and
14 Calloway Gardens and others, perhaps, have an
15 agreement on transplanting these specimens
16 from Fort Benning where they were going to be
17 disturbed by expansion, as I understand.
18 Those are haven't transplanted. They are
19 outside of the project boundary, but within
20 the project area near the project.

21 The purple bankclimber is federally
22 regulated. It was collected downstream of
23 Bartletts Ferry Dam in 2000 and in 2001. At
24 that time it's believed that it was the same
25 specimen. There is evidence that, you know,
26
27

1 we found the same specimen that was originally
2 located in 2000. It was not found again in
3 our survey in 2010, although we included some
4 of the same surveyors, Jerry Dinkins on that
5 team. It is federally threatened and it's
6 occurrence downstream of the project boundary
7 near the Sandy Point boat ramp or just
8 downstream of it.

9 The shinyrayed pocketbook also was not
10 found during our surveys. The nearest known
11 population is in Uchee Creek in Alabama which
12 enters the river about 36 miles down stream of
13 the project. The Gulf moccasinshell and oval
14 pigtoe formerly occurred in the main stem
15 Chattahoochie River but they are believed to
16 no longer occur in the main stem river. Their
17 nearest populations is in tributaries in
18 southwest Georgia. So none of these were
19 found within the project boundary, but there
20 are recent occurrences of two of them within
21 the project area, that being the relict
22 trillium and the purple bankclimber, which was
23 found as recently as 2001.

24 Of the three federal candidate species
25 which are plants, none of them were detected

26
27

1 in the project area. Georgia rockcress occurs
2 on exposed bedrock surfaces. None were found
3 in the vicinity of Bartletts Ferry Dam, which
4 was the main habitat as identified in that
5 area. The nearest known population, which is
6 also the largest in Georgia, is downstream
7 about six miles of Goat Rock Dam and that is
8 included within the lands that Georgia Power
9 protects as part of the Middle Chattahoochie
10 license.

11 The white fringeless orchid, we
12 identified during the April survey one
13 potential suitable wetland that it could occur
14 in. It's flowering time is later in the
15 summer, so it wouldn't have been seen in
16 April. So we went back in August and looked
17 and walked that wetland pretty thoroughly and
18 did not find it there. There are no known
19 populations that we're aware of in Harris,
20 Chambers or Lee Counties at this time.

21 The Georgia aster also was not found in
22 the 2010 field surveys, but it occurs in, you
23 know, early successional habitats. Habitats
24 that have been disturbed that kind of mimic
25 its natural habitat and so along maintained
26
27

1 rights-of-way or road sides and that type of
2 thing. There is the potential for it to occur
3 within the project area. It was not found and
4 it was not found within the project boundary,
5 but it's also known to occur downstream in the
6 Goat Rock development.

7 Now, I will shift to the State protected
8 species. State protected plants species. Six
9 were identified as potentially occurring in
10 the project vicinity, but none of these six
11 species were found.

12 Croomia is the State's threatened
13 species. It is known from the Blanton Creek
14 Wildlife Management Area. That occurrence was
15 identified by the non-game conservation
16 section of GDNR, but we did not find it within
17 the project boundary, but certainly it's
18 nearby in the Wildlife Management Area.

19 The shoals spiderlily was not found
20 during this survey. It is known to occur in
21 Flat Shoal Creek. A very large population
22 associated with the same shoal that shoal bass
23 uses upstream on Highway 103. That's upstream
24 of the project boundary. There was an
25 occurrence documented back in 1992 during the

26
27

1 Riverview relicensing process, somewhere in
2 the vicinity any of Riverview Dam. A small
3 clump as it was described. We did not observe
4 any in that area. There is also an occurrence
5 that was documented during the Middle
6 Chattahoochie relicensing back in early 2000
7 below Oliver Dam, again, kind of a small clump
8 in an exposed area below the dam. It was not
9 flowering at the time we did the surveys, but
10 it has a characteristic strap like lead that
11 the team looked for in the shoal area that
12 they could access or see during that survey.
13 So it has been known to occur in the Riverview
14 Shoals area. It's upstream in Flat Shoals and
15 it's downstream, but we didn't identify any
16 present occurrences within the project
17 boundary.

18 These others were not found. I don't
19 know as much about them. Their specific
20 habitat needs. They were not found in the
21 area. I think the camillia -- silky camillia
22 is more of a coastal plain species. The
23 nevius stonecrop, which has habitat
24 requirements similar to Georgia rockcress,
25 which was not found, but it is known

26
27

1 little less disturbed on that side.

2 Two bird or rapture species were also
3 state protected and are found within the
4 project boundary. They include the bald
5 eagle, which no longer has federal listed
6 status, but is a Georgia threatened species
7 and an Alabama state protected species and
8 it's protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty
9 and the Gold Eagle/Bald Eagle Protection Act.
10 It occurs and has been known to nest in the
11 upstream reach of the reservoir since 2002.
12 They have a nesting pair for one or two young
13 every year. Since then I think it was 2007.
14 Jim Osier of GDNR updated us on that
15 information for this report.

16 The osprey, which the State protected in
17 Alabama occurs in the dam in the tailrace area
18 of Bartletts Ferry. In fact, it nests on the
19 platform of Georgia Power constructed on the
20 dam, so it's been found in that area in recent
21 years.

22 Other species of concern. We list 17
23 other plants and wildlife species of special
24 concern in Georgia or of highest or high
25 conservation concern in Alabama that

26

27

1 potentially occur in the project vicinity.
2 And we did not see any of the plants or
3 terrestrial wildlife of these special concern
4 species, but we did have some observation and
5 information to bear on several of the aquatic
6 species.

7 Two of the species presently occur
8 within the project boundary. Shoal bass, as
9 you heard yesterday, a robust population
10 occurs at the upstream end of the project in
11 Riverview Shoals and Flat Shoals Creek. The
12 Apalachicola red horse, although not collected
13 during our studies, has been known from recent
14 surveys to inhabit the project reservoir and
15 some of the larger tributaries that enter the
16 project reservoir.

17 One other aquatic species that is not
18 listed here. This is a sculptured pig toe,
19 which is a mussel species that was found in
20 2001. A relict shell downstream of Bartletts
21 Ferry Dam.

22 So in summary, presently there are no
23 known occurrences of federally protected
24 species within the project boundary, however,
25 there are recent occurrences of two federally
26
27

1 protected species in the project area. That
2 zone that's within 2,000-feet around the
3 project boundary. They include the relict
4 trillium, which was transplanted in 2010 to
5 the Blanton Creek Wildlife Management Area,
6 700 plants. And they maintained their
7 perpetuity in that Wildlife Management Area
8 through the agreement that that area is not
9 going to be harvested or disturbed by
10 Management activities there. And in then
11 purple bankclimber, federally threatened
12 species, was taken as recently as 2001
13 downstream of the project boundary. It was
14 not relocated in 2010.

15 Six state protected wildlife species are
16 presently known from current or recent
17 occurrences within the project boundary. They
18 included the several species of fish, of the
19 delicate spike mussel and the bald eagle and
20 osprey. And two fish species of special
21 concern presently occur within the project
22 boundary, which is the shoal bass and
23 Apalachicola red horse.

24 And that is it for the presentation on
25 the RTE species.

26
27

1 MS. SIMPSON: Anyone have questions for
2 Dr. Layman.

3 MS. FLORENTINO: Sarah Florentino with
4 FERC. I think I missed this part. You were
5 describing the location of the bald eagle
6 nest, did you say?

7 MR. LAYMAN: I didn't point out where it
8 was, but I can. Up in that area and that is
9 the least developed end of the reservoir as
10 well.

11 MS. FLORENTINO: How does Georgia Power
12 manage that portion?

13 MR. LAYMAN: Actually that part is within
14 the Wildlife Management Area, so it's part of
15 the green here. The Blanton Creek Wildlife
16 Area includes several of the larger islands
17 out in the upstream part of the reservoir. I
18 don't know if you want to speak to that or,
19 Jim, on the management practice there.

20 MR. MARTIN: Can you describe the Bald
21 Eagle management Program.

22 MR. CANDLER: It's on the island that's
23 protected. I don't think any wildlife
24 management is really done, so it's kinds of
25 protected.

26
27

1 MS. FLORENTINO: Is there any recreation?

2 MR. CANDLER: Fishermen on the water,
3 that would be about it. There is no hunting
4 over there and no trials or anything. They
5 occasionally hunt out there, but it's very
6 limited.

7 MR. SLAUGHTER: Joey Slaughter with
8 Georgia Power. The platform is actually --
9 it's on the east side, but it technically is
10 sort of in the middle. It's between the two
11 powerhouses, that little strip. You saw where
12 the excavated channel is for Units 5 and 6.
13 It's right that beginning. And at 8:00 there
14 were two ospreys on it.

15 MR. PHILLIPS: It's on the downstream
16 side.

17 MS. FLORENTINO: When you mentioned --
18 you were talking about it was near -- whatever
19 they found in 2000 or 2001 was near boat ramp?

20 MR. LAYMAN: Well, it probably was
21 described in Dinkins more recent report. I
22 think he described it being in the tail wag of
23 the channel on that side. It was down. There
24 is a Sandy Point is a part that is downstream
25 and it's part of the Middle Chattahoochie

26

27

1 project, but it's right at the downstream side
2 of Bartletts Ferry. And it was just off that
3 boat ramp and downstream a ways, to the best
4 of my recollection from that earlier report
5 and from what Jerry described.

6 MS. FLORENTINO: And that's a pretty old
7 boat ramp?

8 MR. LAYMAN: It was redone during the
9 Middle Chattahoochie relicensing.

10 MR. MARTIN: When it was found the first
11 time it was downstream of the prior boat ramp.
12 First two times that it was found it was
13 downstream of the old boat ramp. Now, it's
14 upstream of the new boat ramp. We'll show
15 you. We can take you.

16 MR. LAYMAN: This might be a little
17 better view.

18 MR. MARTIN: The Dinkins report has a
19 great map that's divided up into A, B, C and
20 D areas. We can show you on that map.

21 MR. LAYMAN: On this aerial photo, this
22 purple line is the downstream end of the
23 project boundary and the upstream end of the
24 Middle Chattahoochie project boundary. This
25 is the Sandy Point access area and the boat
26

27

1 ramp is off in here somewhere. I think it was
2 down in this zone roughly.

3 MS. SIMPSON: Let me ask for a group
4 consensus: Does everybody think it's okay for
5 us to proceed and move onto to the next
6 presentation on Wildlife and Botanical.

7 We're going to go ahead and move forward.

8 If any of you all know your colleagues or
9 anybody else that was disciplined and who were
10 planning to come for that, we need to make
11 sure that they get a presentation.

12 MR. LAYMAN: These will start to get
13 repetitive because of the concurrent efforts
14 involved. This is a lot like a botanical
15 resources study report. The objectives were
16 to describe terrestrial wildlife and botanical
17 resources occurring in the project area,
18 provide lists of representative plants and
19 animal species that use representative upland
20 habitat. This report focuses mainly on the
21 upland community. Then to identify basic
22 species in these habitats.

23 This is our study area or project area,
24 once again, which includes the FERC project
25 boundary around Bartletts's Ferry Reservoir

26
27

1 as well as a 2,000-foot zone extending beyond
2 the project boundary and including portions of
3 Blanton Creek Wildlife Management area.

4 The methods included reviewing existing
5 information, a field recognizance survey in
6 April 2010 and then preparing vegetation maps
7 for the project area.

8 Key sources of existing information that
9 were used were regional text and manuals on
10 the natural environments of plants and
11 wildlife species occurring in the area. And
12 this is just a listing of several of the key
13 documents and sources that were used, Natural
14 Environments of Georgia, Tom Patricks'
15 Protected Plants of Georgia, Chaffen's Rare
16 Plants of Georgia. The Alabama Comprehensive
17 Wildlife Conservation Strategy documentation,
18 including such things as a bird count list
19 from Columbus as well as the USG Breeding Bird
20 Survey and for invasive species, the Georgia
21 Exotic Pest Plants Council and the Alabama
22 Invasive Plan Council.

23 A field reconnaissance survey was
24 conducted in April of 2010 and we selected
25 that time frame to coincide with the

26
27

1 flowering times of spring ephemeral
2 vegetation, the ones that flower for a short
3 period. The majority of species of interest
4 flower in spring. Some of them flower later
5 in the year and we ended up repeating the
6 survey for the white fringeless orchids that
7 occur later in the year. These surveys were
8 conducted by three teams of two biologists
9 each, Georgia Power and CH2M Hill biologists.
10 Before they went out, they looked at maps and
11 aerial photography, had reviewed literature,
12 understanding the species they might
13 encounter. While in the field they visually
14 assessed habitats from Georgia Power and
15 public lands that they could access within the
16 2,000-foot zone and also from a boat in the
17 project reservoir. They completed community
18 evaluation forms which are provided in the
19 back of the report that characterize the main
20 community types that they observed within the
21 project area. They also noted the types of
22 habitat and species and maintained a species
23 list of what they observe during the field
24 survey.

25 The dominant vegetative community types

26

27

1 that were identified during the field
2 reconnaissance survey included these six main
3 community types. There are many others that
4 are listed in the report, also on the table
5 and also on the vegetation map. Mixed pine,
6 hardwood forest was the most common community
7 type in the project area. About 80 percent of
8 the project area was forested and the majority
9 of that forest was mixed pine hardwoods. I
10 think about 85 percent.

11 Pine forest is a common community type.
12 A lot of it occurs outside of the project
13 boundary as pine plantations or former pine
14 plantations. About 15 percent of the forested
15 areas in the project area are pine forests.
16 And then the remaining forest in the project
17 area are smaller, hardwood forests of various
18 types. Oak hickory associations are common.

19 Grassland areas were found in the
20 project area that included, you know,
21 hayfields and such with non-native grass
22 species, but also there are also some natural
23 grasslands with giant cane that occur in the
24 project area. Those are shown on our table
25 and on the map. Shrub communities, including
26
27

1 wetlands around many of the embayments to the
2 reservoir were also another dominant community
3 type. And there are some rock out crops in
4 the area that were examined for certain rare
5 species and the communities associated with
6 them that occur along Halawakee and Osanippa
7 Creek.

8 This is the vegetation map that's
9 provided in the report. It shows the main
10 community types. I'm just going the point out
11 that the cross-hatched, dark green and yellow
12 crosshatch is mixed pine and hardwood forest
13 community. The yellow that stands out would
14 be what is described in the report as
15 developed land with mostly residential and any
16 clear or landscaped areas that no longer have
17 the native vegetation on them. Those would
18 the yellow area that encompass about 19
19 percent of the project area. What you have
20 seen on this particular map is the lower end
21 of the lake in the Halawakee Creek Embayment.
22 Again, when we say Halawakee Creek Embayment,
23 it is the reservoir. It's the cove. It's
24 the Halawakee Cove, if you will. We have been
25 calling it to embayment. Let's see. I think
26
27

1 these light areas -- light green areas are
2 grassland areas, probably heyfield for the
3 most part.

4 And the red orange here is an oak forest
5 in the very upper end of Halawakee Creek. For
6 the detail on this, you need to look in the
7 report and the map. It just gives you an idea
8 of the quality and coverages of the mapping.
9 This would be the lower main stem reservoir.
10 And just to keep it interesting I will turn
11 sideways. North is to the left now, so the
12 dam is down here and it overlaps a lot of
13 the area you just saw in the previous figure,
14 but also includes more of the middle of the
15 reservoir.

16 These dark green areas are pine forests,
17 pine plantations. Many of these that are
18 outside of the project boundary are
19 commercially harvested, but are owned by other
20 entities other than Georgia Power. And in the
21 Geology and Soil presentation tomorrow you
22 will see some of those in aerial photography.
23 So, for example, this tract here, which is
24 actually along Mountain Oak Creek in Georgia
25 is outside the project boundaries. It's

26
27

1 inside the project area, but it's commercial
2 pine harvest land.

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Why don't you point out
4 the WMA on that.

5 MR. LAYMAN: Wildlife Management Area is
6 here. Am I hitting that right. Right around
7 in here. And you can see it's the undeveloped
8 nature of that land. Within the project
9 area, it's mostly mixed pine and hardwood
10 forest, some pine stands and then that is
11 probably forested wetlands here. And there is
12 Johnson Island up here, which is mixed pine
13 hardwood and then Bald Eagle is up here
14 somewhere. This is focusing on the very
15 upstream end of the project. Again, it
16 overlaps the previous map. Now, north is up
17 again. This is the Riverview Shoals area up
18 here and this was the upstream end of Johnson
19 Island, Bald Eagle and the Wildlife Management
20 Area being over here.

21 MS. LAWRENCE: Alice Lawrence, Fish &
22 Wildlife Service. What in the Riverview
23 Shoals area that's been surveyed for mussel
24 and shoal bass, does Georgia Power own
25 adjacent land to that area?

26
27

1 MR. LAYMAN: The question was: Does
2 Georgia Power own land adjacent to the
3 Riverview Shoals area. Outside the project
4 boundary. So you do own within the project
5 boundary the 525, up in that area right here.
6 The Riverview Shoals area would extend
7 upstream of the project boundary. You can see
8 the purple project boundary here and then
9 upstream that would be in the Riverview
10 project boundary area. And I don't know what
11 the project boundary is for it away from the
12 river. So it straddles both projects.

13 MS. SIMPSON: Isn't there a map in one of
14 those reports that have it?

15 MR. LAYMAN: Vegetative cover within the
16 Bartletts's Ferry project area. This is a
17 summary of what's within the 2,000 feet.
18 There is a table in the report that includes
19 this information plus what's within the
20 project boundary, but I just wanted to show
21 this for general trends of what's in the
22 surrounding area. And so, again, this just
23 confirms the top five communities that are in
24 bold underline what we have already kind of
25 reviewed. The pine hardwood forest is about
26
27

1 67 percent of that area; pine forest, 10;
2 developed area, which is the residential
3 primarily, about 19 percent; and these were
4 other categories that were inventoried out in
5 the field, including several of the islands
6 out in the middle of the reservoir.

7 Exotic and invasive plant species. We
8 looked at the Georgia Exotic Pest Plants
9 Council's information and the Alabama
10 information to compile a list of all of the
11 species that have been identified in Lee,
12 chambers and Harris Counties. And there were
13 24 category or Category I alert basic, plant
14 species known to those counties. Those are
15 the most serious, threatening species in terms
16 of how much they have invaded native habitats.
17 So they are certainly considered the highest
18 priority. There are 24 of them. 15 of those
19 species were identified in the project area
20 during the studies. That would be within the
21 2,000-foot zone.

22 Many of the species are associated with
23 human development, residential development and
24 so forth in the area. And, in fact, species
25 like Chinese predator are widespread in

26
27

1 floodplains in the Chattahoochie basin pretty
2 much all the way up the entire basin. Six of
3 these species were relatively common within
4 the project area and they are the Chinese
5 privet, Japanese honeysuckle, Mimosa tree,
6 Golden bamboo, which is not a Category I, it's
7 a Category II. It's more of a moderate
8 threat. The popcorn tree and Chinese wisteria.
9 So those are the most frequently occurring
10 invasives within the project area.

11 And then the study report provides a list
12 of plant and wildlife species that were
13 observed. And I didn't want to go through
14 that here, but just to show you that those
15 lists are in the report. They include all of
16 the plants that were observed, all of the
17 invasive species and lists of the bird surveys
18 that have been done in the surrounding area.
19 The other wildlife species are described in
20 the text of the document based on a regional
21 resources characterizing wildlife.

22 Land management. Georgia Power manages
23 it's undeveloped lands within the project
24 area to provide a buffer for water quality
25 protection, esthetics and wildlife habitat.

26
27

1 Within that 2,000-foot within the project,
2 Georgia Power owns about 8,000 of undeveloped
3 land. Within the 525-foot contour around the
4 project. That's a lot of the project boundary
5 that is defined by the 525-foot contour.
6 Within that contour, the undeveloped lands
7 managed by Georgia Power are managed in their
8 natural state and protected in their
9 environmentally area. The only time they go
10 in for timber practices is to remove fallen
11 trees or to do some thinning. And the Land
12 Department with describe that further if you
13 have some questions about that. But, in
14 general, it's a non-invasive, sort of,
15 management of those forested lands that are
16 within the project boundary. But in certain
17 areas where the project boundary extends well
18 beyond the 525-foot contour, that occurs
19 across the river from the Wildlife Management
20 Area up here and, perhaps, in association with
21 some of those other areas where the project
22 boundary goes out well beyond 525. There is
23 some management of those lands for commercial
24 timber harvest. Those lands total about 450
25 acres. The report describes those managed
26
27

1 areas, in part of response the FERC and the
2 study plan determination where it further
3 questions about how those lands are managed by
4 Georgia Power.

5 But in terms of timber harvesting on
6 lands that are outside 525 feet that are
7 either within the project boundary or outside
8 of the project boundary, Georgia Power always
9 does a thorough review of inventory before
10 those lands are harvested. They have a
11 full-time forester who works out of the
12 Bartletts's Ferry Land Management office and
13 works in conjunction with the biologists at
14 Georgia Power to identify sensitive habitats
15 and species. And they avoid those areas prior
16 to any harvesting activities. They also
17 maintain 100-foot minimum buffer around the
18 major streams in project reservoir and follow
19 established best management practices or BMTs
20 for timber harvesting. Georgia Power also
21 leases, as we've described earlier, the land
22 for the Blanton Creek Wildlife Management
23 Area, the GDNr and there is some timber
24 harvesting that also occurs there with similar
25 sorts of practices that Georgia Power is doing
26
27

1 on its lands. Again, there is more detailed
2 descriptive information in the report.

3 So in summary for the Wildlife and
4 Botanical Resources, a mixed pine hardwood
5 forest and pine forest cover about 77 percent
6 of the project area. Developed lands cover
7 about 19 percent of the project area, and
8 that's, again, within the 2,000-foot zone.
9 260 plant species were observed during the
10 field survey and those are listed in the
11 report and tables. The undeveloped shoreline
12 in the adjoining Blanton Creek Wildlife
13 Management Area, as we've seen from the aerial
14 photos provide a high quality habitat for a
15 diverse wildlife community. Also in looking
16 at historical aerial photography dating back,
17 at least, to 2000 and going back and looking
18 at some of the national wetland inventory
19 maps, there really haven't been that many
20 major changes in land use surrounding the
21 project. There is still a high proportion of
22 forested area here. I would say probably the
23 greatest change occurs upstream in the
24 watershed that are tributary to the project
25 upstream in the project area. For example,
26
27

1 Mountain Oak Creek and evidence at Halawakee
2 Creek and some of these tributaries that were
3 higher density populations. Human populations
4 that have been impacted associated with land
5 development and so forth.

6 Georgia Power manages its lands to
7 provide a buffer for water quality protection,
8 esthetics and wildlife habitat. That's it for
9 the wildlife and botanical.

10 MS. FLORENTINO: I was looking at the
11 maps where I notice there is a very small
12 section or a small percentage of land that has
13 what is classified as an invasive community,
14 but in the text it said that there was highest
15 concentration just below the dam on the east
16 side or on the west side, but then it doesn't
17 show up on the map. I was just wondering.

18 MR. LAYMAN: Yeah, that's a good
19 question. There is an invasive community that
20 shows up on the islands and that's because
21 it's completely kudzu I believe on one of the
22 islands. That area below the dam is not
23 entirely invasive community, so I think it's
24 more of a forested community. It's probably
25 loaded with privet, but I would have to

26
27

1 confirm that. I believe that's probably why
2 it's not mapped or that was mapped as invasive
3 in the area.

4 MS. FLORENTINO: So is it by the managed
5 part or is it by the substation or is it by?

6 MR. LAYMAN: You are right. It's not
7 shown as an invasive community on the map; and
8 this is Bartletts Ferry Dam. There the
9 Alabama side of the tailrace area going down
10 to Sandy Point, which is right here. That is
11 the project boundary, so this is referring to
12 this zone here. That's the best I can tell
13 you now. If you recall, Jim.

14 MR. CANDLER: I'm sorry. I can't hear
15 you.

16 MR. LAYMAN: The report describes this
17 area as containing the highest density of
18 invasive species and we did not map it as an
19 invasive plant community because it wasn't
20 entirely dominated by them, but do you recall
21 much about the location extent and so forth?

22 MR. CANDLER: There is quite a bit of
23 privet in that area, but it's underneath mixed
24 hardwood, so when you map it, you go with the
25 dominant species, which are the hardwood trees

26
27

1 and that sort of thing, but the privet is
2 real thick and heavy underneath, but that's
3 the reason that it shows up on the map that
4 way.

5 MS. FLORENTINO: So is it managed in any
6 particular way?

7 MR. CANDLER: It hasn't been. It's
8 inaccessible. It's in a real rugged area and
9 it hasn't been managed.

10 MS. FLORENTINO: Also, could you point
11 out the island where the kudzu is. On the
12 report Figure 4 has one.

13 MR. LAYMAN: It's one of these down here,
14 I think. Is that the one with the chimney
15 site cited on it?

16 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

17 MR. LAYMAN: Right there I think.

18 MR. CANDLER: I think that's it.

19 MS. FLORENTINO: What chimney is that?

20 MR. LAYMAN: Old home.

21 MS. FLORENTINO: What is the topography
22 like?

23 MR. LAYMAN: It's a very steep sloping
24 bank. It's a pretty small island. The acres
25 is probably in that table.

26

27

1 MR. CANDLER: It's four or five acres.
2 It's very small.

3 MS. FLORENTINO: Do many people go out
4 there?

5 MR. MARTIN: Allen was just asking me if
6 he saw it during the site visit and I said
7 that he most likely did.

8 MS. FLORENTINO: I was asking about the
9 recreation on the island. Is there any access
10 to that island at all?

11 MR. LAYMAN: I don't believe there would
12 be any recreation on it. I guess a boater
13 could pull up to it, but it's so steep on the
14 bank you wouldn't get on the island too much.
15 I'm not sure how it was accessed previously by
16 the homeowner, but I would say no. That's the
17 area right there. That's the dam upstream to
18 downstream and that's the island right there.

19 MR. MARTIN: Steve, Allan has some
20 picture on his laptop from the site. He has
21 got very good pictures that he is sharing.

22 MR. WEATHERS: Ken Weathers with Alabama
23 Wildlife Freshwater Fisheries. The table
24 lists an alert on giant salvinia. I was just
25 wondering if it's identified in Lee, Chambers

26
27

1 or Harris County? Is this referring to the
2 pond that was found out in Lee County or is
3 this another occurrence?

4 MR. LAYMAN: Could you restate the
5 question.

6 MR. WEATHERS: Table 3 lists giant
7 salvinia as being an alert and invasive
8 species identified in Lee, Chambers or Harris
9 County and I was just wondering where that was
10 found?

11 MR. LAYMAN: I don't know that that
12 information is in the report or where in Lee,
13 Chambers Counties that was found.

14 MR. WEATHERS: That was not within the
15 project site?

16 MR. LAYMAN: I would have to look at the
17 species list to see if that was one of the 15
18 that was observed. I can do that offline with
19 you and we can look, but, otherwise, that
20 information on the species was obtained
21 through Alabama Invasive Plant Council or
22 that would be the course. I don't know for
23 short.

24 MS. FLORENTINO: Actually, it's was more
25 of a request. I was wondering if you file

26
27

1 your summary, if we can also have the
2 (inaudible) that you use so we can (inaudible)
3 of that? Look at these layers at a different
4 scale?

5 MR. LAYMAN: Okay.

6 MS. SIMPSON: Can you do it?

7 MR. LAYMAN: Yes, I think so.

8 MS. SIMPSON: Okay. Well, let ask Mr.
9 Martin how you would like to proceed.

10 MR. MARTIN: Let's take a 15-minute
11 break, do wetlands and then have lunch.

12 - - -

13 (Whereupon, a brief break was taken)

14 - - -

15 MS. SIMPSON: We had some questions
16 about some invasive plants, so Steve is going
17 to add a few things to that presentation
18 before we move on.

19 MR. LAYMAN: Before we get started on
20 wetlands because of some of the questions we
21 got from Jim Candler to say a few words about
22 Georgia Power's involvement in managing and
23 communicating with their land management team
24 about invasive.

25 MR. CANDLER: Just real briefly just to

26

27

1 let you know that me and my team have been on
2 the board of the Georgia Exotic Plant Council.
3 It's easier to serve on the board than to say
4 that. We have been on that board for several
5 years now and we work real closely with that
6 group. As a part of that, we relay the
7 information we get from that group to our
8 forestry group to manage these lands. We're
9 not only out here with the foresters making
10 recommendations, but they have that knowledge
11 and benefit of that knowledge that we bring
12 back from that council also. And we just want
13 to point that out. Not only our land
14 management foresters, but also our
15 right-of-way foresters that maintain our
16 transmission lines and substations. We work
17 real closely with them on these kinds of
18 issues. So we just wanted to add that and
19 just to let you know that we do watch and work
20 in that area very closely.

21 MS. SIMPSON: Any other questions before
22 James sits down.

23 MS. FLORENTINO: I was just wondering so
24 as part of your management, do you sometimes
25 use herbicides or is it mainly mechanical or
26
27

1 what are the nature and methods of
2 maintenance.

3 MR. CANDLER: We have a herbicide program
4 -- aquatic herbicide program. We also our --
5 forestry group uses herbicide and our group
6 uses herbicides and mechanical, but with
7 exotics, most of the times the best way to get
8 them is with herbicide use.

9 MS. FLORENTINO: Do you have a regular
10 schedule that you use to maintain?

11 MR. CANDLER: It's on a case-by-case
12 basis, so as far as our aquatic program, it's
13 an annual program. We know where our issues
14 are. We go out and treat certain areas. We
15 also, if our customers or property owners call
16 us with complaints, we address those on the
17 aquatic side. On the terrestrial side, it's
18 more of a case-by-case. When you run into
19 something forward, the (inaudible) grass, keep
20 it out. If we see it, we report it to the
21 Georgia Forestry Commission and they have an
22 active program to go out and treat those
23 areas. If it requires multiple treatment and
24 they are taking the lead on that.

25 MS. SIMPSON: Steve, you want to go ahead
26
27

1 and go to the Wetlands Report.

2 MR. LAYMAN: Okay. The last in the
3 series of three presentations on wetlands,
4 terrestrial and RTE species. The wetland,
5 riparian and littoral habitat study. Study
6 objectives were to describe floodplain,
7 wetlands and riparian habitats occurring in
8 the project area, including lists of
9 representative plants and animal species that
10 use representative habitats, identify invasive
11 species and prepare a map delineating wetland,
12 riparian and littoral habitat within the
13 project area. So once again, our study area
14 or project area includes the FERC project
15 boundary around the project reservoir and a
16 2,000-foot zone extended beyond the project
17 boundary, including portions of Blanton Creek
18 Wildlife Management Area and, of course, the
19 islands within the management area in the
20 upstream end of the project.

21 Methods were to review existing
22 information which encompass much of the
23 information that was reviewed for botanical
24 wildlife and the RTE species. Field
25 reconnaissance Survey in April 2010 and in the
26
27

1 preparation of wetland mapping of the project
2 area. Field reconnaissance survey was
3 conducted concurrent to the upland portion of
4 the survey in April of 2010. They included
5 pedestrian in both surveys by three teams of
6 two biologists. Before they went out in the
7 field, they looked closely at national wetland
8 inventory maps prepared by US Fish & Wildlife
9 Service in 1979 and then aerial photo, more
10 recently taken to inspect the areas for
11 potential habitat before they went in the
12 field.

13 They used the 1987 Corps of Engineers
14 wetland manual field forms in the field and
15 then they classified the wetlands according to
16 the Cowardin classification system. In the
17 field they looked to locate the NWI Wetlands.
18 It's a ground group or verify to the extent
19 possible, the occurrence of those wetlands;
20 and they also identified additional wetlands
21 that may have developed since 1979 in the
22 project area or that weren't detected by the
23 NWI coverage.

24 The three major classes of aquatic and
25 wetland habitat in the project area include
26
27

1 riverine wetlands, which are the deeper water
2 habitat in the main channel on the upstream
3 end of the impalement. Lacustrine wetlands
4 which are the deep water habitats, open water
5 habitats, within the reservoir in the lower
6 main stem reservoir and the larger tributary
7 embayment. And then the palustrine wetlands
8 or vegetation dominated wetlands along the
9 main stem river and embayments. And those
10 included forested and scrub shrub wetlands,
11 which were the most common wetlands; and then
12 emergent wetlands associated with shallow
13 plats in the reservoir.

14 The maps that were prepared, these are
15 the same views that you saw for the
16 terrestrial vegetation. This is the dam in
17 the lower right corner flow going downstream
18 to the bottom. This is the Halawakee Creek
19 Embayment. You can see the Halawakee Creek
20 Embayment in the lower end of the reservoir.
21 Most of this is open water habitat. The
22 actual forested and shrub wetland areas that
23 are shown tend to be in the small little
24 tributary drainage ways coming into the lower
25 reservoir and also downstream of the dam.

26
27

1 They are not as prevalent in this lower
2 portion of the reservoir as you will see in
3 the upper end of the reservoir. Freshwater
4 ponds were also mapped. Some of those occur
5 within the project area but outside of the
6 project boundary.

7 This is the view of the lower main stem
8 reservoir with the orientation shifted with
9 north to the left side here and the dam is on
10 the right. As you see, as you go up to lake
11 in the tributary embayments, you start to pick
12 up more forested and shrub wetlands.
13 Certainly, as you get up along the Wildlife
14 Management Area, along the island in the
15 shoreline, they are most prevalent in the
16 upstream end of the project, which also has
17 the most undeveloped shoreline areas.

18 This is a view of the upper portion of
19 the reservoir. North is to the top. And,
20 again, you can see the Wildlife Management
21 Area associated forested shrub wetlands along
22 the main channel of the reservoir.

23 Emergent wetlands occur on shallow flats.
24 They don't show up as well on this image, but
25 there are some here in that light purple. And

26
27

1 other areas that aren't too easy to see on the
2 screen.

3 Aquatic and wetland habitats within the
4 Bartletts Ferry project boundary. This shows
5 the acreage within the project boundary. This
6 table will also show the acreage in the
7 project area, up to 2,000 feet. Of the
8 vegetative wetlands, the forested and shrub
9 wetland together comprise the majority of the
10 wetlands. We were able to identify a little
11 over 500 acres of wetlands that were in part
12 of the NWI coverage; and, in addition, we
13 found 193 acres of additional wetlands that
14 were not on the NWI maps and based, in part,
15 because of the resolution of the NWI maps.
16 The remote daily use for preparing those maps
17 probably didn't pick up on a lot of the
18 smaller wetlands. There might be an acre or
19 less in size. Also since the late '70s from
20 the deposition of additional sediments in
21 embayments and so forth, there would be more
22 of a transition of open water habitat in some
23 areas to emergent wetlands. So most of these
24 additional wetlands are of the emergent
25 wetland type.

26

27

1 So there is total of about 712 acres of
2 vegetative wetlands within the project
3 boundary and within the 2,000 foot project
4 area there is about 1,100 acres,
5 approximately.

6 Aquatic and wetland plants. Georgia
7 Power biologists have been on the lake for a
8 long time and have been inventorying aquatic
9 plants over the years. A species list was
10 provided in the pre-application document Tom
11 Broadwell and his team have developed. In
12 addition, during this field reconnaissance
13 survey, we documented three aquatic plants and
14 80 wetland plants, most of which are native
15 species and the list of these species are
16 provided in the report. Nine exotic or
17 non-native aquatic wetland plants species were
18 found in the project boundary: Alligator weed,
19 parrot feather, yellow flag, elephant ear,
20 Asiatic day flower, torpedo grass, lady's
21 thumb, purple sesban and popcorn tree. These
22 were the types of invasive, exotic plant
23 species observed within the wetland, riparian
24 and littoral habitat of the project.

25 Again, the report compiles lists of
26
27

1 species that were found in the representative
2 habitat. And bringing this one to a swift
3 conclusion. Forested scrub-shrub and
4 emergent wetlands cover about 712 acres within
5 the FERC project boundary. Forested
6 scrub-shrub wetlands were the dominant types.
7 The wetlands were in the Blanton Creek
8 Wildlife Management Area are located
9 primarily along the reservoir margin and
10 islands, including Johnson Island. 80 aquatic
11 and wetland plant species were observed
12 during this field reconnaissance survey. And,
13 again, as we look at the aerial photography
14 preparing for the field survey over time since
15 the late '70s. In general, we were impressed
16 by the lack of major changes in land use
17 surrounding the project area. Most of the
18 important changes probably occurred in the
19 tributary areas upstream in the project
20 boundary.

21 MS. FLORENTINO: I was just wondering,
22 you said, I guess, for a long time Georgia
23 Power has been monitoring the aquatic
24 community. And I was just wondering what
25 trends have been noted over the time period?

26
27

1 MR. LAYMAN: Okay. I guess what I was
2 referring to is how often Georgia Power has
3 been out as part of their water quality
4 monitoring efforts and so forth. They have
5 been inventorying aquatic plant species, in
6 general, and native species as well, so I
7 don't know to the extent that you might have
8 noticed trends, Tom, in invasive aquatic
9 species.

10 MR. BROADWELL: Tom Broadwell with
11 Georgia Power. Several years ago we treated a
12 little tiny patch of (inaudible) in the upper
13 end and haven't seen it since, so that's one
14 of the, you know, that's an exotic that you,
15 kind of, always worry about.

16 MS. FLORENTINO: In term of the others,
17 are they widespread just very small patches
18 here and there or are they concentrated?

19 MR. BROADWELL: It's a pretty small
20 patch. Usually homeowners are real quick to
21 call us. We're on their phone system. So if
22 it's interfering with their docks or anything,
23 we hear about that pretty often. And at
24 Harding, we don't get many calls here. Almost
25 none.

26
27

1 MS. FLORENTINO: How do you treat it when
2 they do treat it? What do you use?

3 MR. BROADWELL: Usually an herbicide.

4 MR. LAYMAN: Any other questions?

5 MR. REED: Talking about the herbicides,
6 in order to minimize costs for most of county
7 roads, the one technique is to use spraying to
8 kill the grass so many feet off the road
9 side. And I don't know if that's practiced in
10 this area or not. Just is it practiced or
11 not, I guess, is my question?

12 DR. LAYMAN: The question and probably I
13 don't know if it's land.

14 MR. REED: Which is not necessarily
15 related to Georgia Power at all.

16 DR. LAYMAN: Are herbicides used along
17 the road sides of the project area to control
18 growth of vegetation, is that your question?

19 MR. REED: Yes.

20 DR. LAYMAN: Do you know to what extent
21 herbicides are used within the project area?
22 Does Georgia Power use herbicides?

23 MS. GREENE: Wanda Greene with Georgia
24 Power. I don't think we use any on our land
25 roads -- forestry roads. We don't use it. We

26

27

1 would keep it clear, but I don't know, like,
2 DOT or county government. I don't really know
3 the answer.

4 MR. REED: The reason I asked is I never
5 heard of doing that. Troupe County is where
6 I'm at and I was surprised that you can afford
7 to mow the side of the road, so the argument
8 was I'm going to kill it with my chemical
9 means and that way we'll reduce carbon
10 emissions through the atmosphere that would
11 have been released by the tractors pulling the
12 bush hogs. That's what prompted my question.
13 I don't know. I got concerned because of the
14 many bridges that cross over West Point Lake
15 that have been oversprayed.

16 MS. SIMPSON: Does anybody have any
17 other questions for Dr. Layman before we take
18 a lunch break.

19 MR. MARTIN: Let's break for 30 minutes
20 until 12:30.

21 - - -

22 (Whereupon, a brief break was taken)

23 - - -

24

25 MS. SIMPSON: All right, guys, we're

26

27

1 ready to head to the finish line. Heather
2 Drake is going to give our presentation on
3 Recreation and Land Use Study.

4 MS. DRAKE: Greetings everyone. As
5 Winnie, just said, I'm Heather Drake. I'm
6 with CH2M Hill and I helped Georgia Power Land
7 Department prepare the Recreation and Land Use
8 Study.

9 This provides an overview of my
10 presentation today. First I'll start with the
11 study objectives for the overall study and
12 then I've organized things such that I will
13 first talk about recreation related item then
14 land use then I will talk about the project
15 visual esthetics and then I will wrap up with
16 the overall study findings.

17 Okay. Our study objectives were to
18 describe the projects recreation, land use and
19 visual qualities to characterize the existing
20 project recreation and its ability to meet
21 current demands as well as future demands, to
22 characterize the existing project land use and
23 adjacent land uses; and lastly, there were
24 some additional information requests from
25 FERC. And this included items such as making

26
27

1 sure we have handicapped accessibility, hours
2 and whether or not certain recreation
3 facilities were within the project boundary
4 or outside the project boundary. I'm not
5 necessarily going to go into that level of
6 detail today, but I would like to note all
7 that information is in the report and to
8 please spend some time going through the
9 thirty-something tables that are in there.

10 Okay. First recreation. We had,
11 basically, three study extent for recreation.
12 The first project boundary, which is the
13 purple line on the map. That's been discussed
14 quite a bit today. Again, it follows the
15 525-foot contour elevation and the reservoir
16 is accessed by eight locations. Six of those
17 are public. And I know it's really hard to
18 see on this map, as well as on that, but it's
19 the brown dots that you see on the map and we
20 will provide additional discussion of the
21 facilities a little bit later. Then there are
22 also two private access locations and those
23 are the green dots. And then, additionally,
24 Sandy Point provides access to the tailrace
25 area.

26
27

1 Okay. A second extent that we looked at
2 was for regional recreational opportunities.
3 And to do this we did, essentially, a 60-mile
4 radius of the project. And we were looking
5 for recreation facilities that provided a
6 similar recreation opportunity to those of
7 Bartletts Ferry. While I have the slide up, I
8 wanted to note briefly note what a couple of
9 those are. Here we are right in the center.
10 Here is Lake Harding. As most of you know,
11 the Corps Lake West Point is directly north.
12 Over in the Tallapoosa River basin, Alabama
13 Power runs Lake Martin and then downstream
14 there is Yates and Furlow and then further to
15 the south is Walter F. George.

16 And then the third extent, and I'm mainly
17 bringing this up because of having the map up,
18 is for projecting future demands. I looked at
19 the six counties, three on each side, and took
20 their growth projections for the future and
21 that's what I average and averaged them and
22 applied them to our existing recreation. So
23 mostly just for visual purposes, I wanted you
24 to note the three counties on this side and
25 the three on the other.

26
27

1 The next couple of slides I want to
2 briefly touch on our study methods. First,
3 like the other studies, we did a tremendous
4 amount of work looking at existing
5 information. Due to the growth going on in
6 this region due to Fort Benning as well as the
7 Kia Plant and other successful businesses such
8 as Aflac in Columbus. There is a lot of
9 growth going on and as a result, most of the
10 local comprehensive plans have been updated
11 recently, as well as there have been a range
12 of management plans developed for each of the
13 counties around the project with the exception
14 of Chambers. And then lastly I would like to
15 mention, we also looked at the FERC conference
16 of plans and those included two state
17 conferences of outdoor recreation plans.

18 Other existing information we used
19 Georgia. DNR provided traffic counties data
20 for Idle Hour Park.

21 This image here at the bottom, it's a
22 little tough to see in the light, but this is
23 the color box. We provided that and we
24 utilized that in our analysis. And then
25 lastly, we collected Lane Creek Parkground
26
27

1 data. And that's something Georgia Power Land
2 Department manages and it provides really good
3 information on overnight use as well as
4 daytime use at that particular facility. Like
5 I said, we identified regional recreational
6 opportunities.

7 The next component I'm going to talk
8 quite a bit on coming up are our recreational
9 field surveys and user counts. And then
10 lastly, were interviews with recreation user
11 groups and some examples of these would be
12 organizations as the Lake Harding Homeowners
13 Association, the Auburn Bass Masters as well
14 as operators such as Jay's Marina.

15 Okay. A quick reminder. I don't the
16 FERC folks don't need to be reminded. But a
17 recreation day is defined as a visit to
18 project for recreational purposes during a
19 24-hour period. I briefly wanted to describe
20 before we get to survey data, how I actually
21 determined existing use. And please note that
22 first we did use estimates developed from the
23 survey data for weekdays, holiday weekends,
24 and weekends days. And then seasonal use was
25 calculated by taking those and multiplying it
26
27

1 times the numbers of days and that was then
2 rolled up to an annual number. And then as I
3 discussed, future use was projected based on
4 the corresponding county population groups.

5 Okay. The next three slides are going
6 to discuss the existing facilities at the
7 project. For ease of reading I have them
8 divided up between Georgia and Alabama. And
9 what this slide illustrates are the facilities
10 and then as FERC requested we delineated who
11 the owner of the facility was, who the
12 operator was, which in this case usually means
13 who takes care of parking, the boat ramps and
14 signage. The third column is routine
15 maintenance. And that includes things such as
16 trash pick up, mowing and that sort of thing.
17 And then lastly to the right are the
18 amenities. All of the project access
19 locations provide boat ramps and shoreline
20 access and then you can see additional
21 facilities are also described. Another thing
22 to note about these three locations, you will
23 see the asterisk are the ones that we actually
24 surveyed void and then Blanton Creek Park is
25 the only facility on the lake that's actually
26
27

1 open seasonally. The (inaudible) are
2 accessible open 24-hours a day year-round.
3 Blanton Creek Park, which is fee-based is open
4 seasonally, generally mid-March to Labor Day.

5
6 In Alabama we have these six locations,
7 one of is private. And this map, though, is
8 not showing up as well as I would like. This
9 provides aerial views of each of the
10 locations. For example, moving from north to
11 south on the Alabama side, we've got Riverview
12 Park, which is the northern-most access point
13 in Alabama. And then we go down to
14 Chattahoochie Valley. Here is the overview.
15 You can see the boat put in. It's located
16 there. And then Halawakee boat access on the
17 Halawakee Embayment. It's adjacent to the
18 landing, Halawakee Marina, and the Po Boy's
19 Landing, which is located down here, not far
20 from where we are right now.

21 Then on the Georgia side, we have Blanton
22 Creek Park, which is located just south of the
23 Wildlife Management Area and Idle Hour Park,
24 which is where we have the traffic counter
25 data, which is down here. And as you aerial,

26
27

1 the traffic counter is approximately right
2 there and we have this overflow parking on the
3 other side.

4 Okay. This slide, basically, summarizes
5 the distribution of the days that we surveyed.
6 I mentioned earlier that we based our
7 calculations on weekend day, holiday and
8 weekdays, so you can see the distribution of
9 the survey days. We started out with 14 days,
10 which was comparable to the other recreation
11 studies that we had done. And then at the
12 request, I believe, of WRD or another
13 stakeholder, we added two additional days in
14 this March to help characterize fishing.

15 Okay. The next two slides are just very
16 briefly showing the forms that we use to
17 administer the survey. And I've just called
18 out some of the key information that we use
19 from each form. For example, here we've got
20 the user information, which provide us, for
21 example, with what county they are from, how
22 long their duration is and frequency, their
23 reason for visit, which is really important,
24 and then also they were asked to rate the
25 facilities at Bartletts Ferry.

26
27

1 Okay. This is the user-count form. The
2 survey form that you just saw, obviously, we
3 administered at each of the survey sites.
4 This was used at the same time to summarize,
5 basically, what we were seeing. This provided
6 key some information. We noted vehicles
7 observed and that includes with and without
8 trailer, as well as bank fishers in the
9 reservoir or in the tailrace. And also,
10 importantly, was the county of origin of the
11 vehicle tags.

12 To insure consistency throughout the
13 survey, every morning before each of the 16
14 surveys, we did go through a training for
15 those doing the survey and that included items
16 such as daily site rotation polls. It was
17 really important, particularly, for the car
18 count or for the user-count forms that we
19 regularly visited each site throughout the day
20 to determine turnover.

21 Okay. This the distribution of our
22 results. We were able to administer
23 approximately 686 surveys overall. 40 of
24 those were self-administered from Blanton
25 Creek. I just want to point that out. Some
26
27

1 of these results are not that surprising.
2 July 4th was the day that we collected the
3 most surveys. What was a little bit more
4 surprising for me was the other two most
5 popular days were actually in the spring.

6 Okay. About 60 percent of the use or 60
7 percent of the surveys were collected from
8 either Idle Hour, Po Boy's or Halawakee boat
9 access. And the next couple of slides, just
10 FYI, I'm going to start summarizing the survey
11 results and what the surveys actually told
12 us.

13 Okay. Really interesting was the survey
14 county of origin. 83 percent of those
15 surveyed, came from those six counties that I
16 showed you on that original map. 30 percent,
17 not surprisingly, came from Lee County, which
18 is the county adjacent in Alabama. What was a
19 little more surprising was that only 11
20 percent came from Harris County and that
21 county entails the entire project on the
22 Georgia side.

23 Over half noted the project as their only
24 recreation destination when asked. And then
25 West Point was noted as the most commonly
26
27

1 noted other destination. About ten folks said
2 that was their primary recreation destination.

3

4 Other observations from the surveys, both
5 the average party size and the age
6 distribution of those surveyed varied very
7 much whether it was a holiday or a non-holiday
8 and then also what the primary activities
9 being primary recreation use at each
10 individual location. So, for example, we have
11 certain locations where land-based activities,
12 such as shoreline relaxation, picnicking are
13 more popular. And those are at locations such
14 as Chattahoochie Valley and Po Boy's. And at
15 those locations it tended to have a lightly
16 younger age distribution, whereas those sites
17 where fishing was more popular, we tended to
18 have a slightly older age distribution.
19 Blanton Creek is pretty much the exception to
20 most of this and I will get to that in a
21 second.

22 So project-wise, our average party size
23 was 2.5, during holidays it increased to 3.3.
24 As I mentioned, age distribution was
25 relatively consistent with the exception of
26
27

1 Blanton Creek where 45 percent of the users
2 are over the age of 55. That is not
3 surprising given the amount of RV camping and
4 such that goes on there. And then excluding
5 the overnight visits to Blanton Creek, the
6 average duration of visits was three to four
7 hours.

8 Okay. This summarizes the primary reason
9 that those surveyed gave for their visit.
10 What this shows is that between 20 and 22
11 percent were there for pleasure or pontoon
12 boating, for swimming or wading or for boat
13 fishing. Then what's also interesting is an
14 additional 20 percent were there for either
15 shoreline relaxation or fishing. You will see
16 11 percent for shoreline relaxation and 9
17 percent for fishing.

18 As I pointed out earlier on the survey
19 form, folks have an opportunity to rate the
20 facilities at the project. The detailed
21 site-by-site ratings are in the report. This
22 is just a summary. Overall project recreation
23 facilities were rated 68 percent good and 20
24 percent fair and 12 percent poor. Parking
25 overall was rated 90 percent, either good or
26
27

1 fair. Exceptions to that, there were some
2 concerns at Halawakee and at Riverview. The
3 restrooms, which are only offered at three
4 locations at Blanton Creek, Idle Hour and Po
5 Boy's, 83 percent rated them as good or fair.
6 The fishing. This will make some of our
7 fisher folks happy. 95 percent rated the
8 fishing as good or fair. And then the most
9 commonly noted improvement were either
10 additional or improved restrooms, improved
11 parking or trash pick up and lighting.

12 Okay. This slide summarize our current
13 recreational use of the project. We have
14 estimated 125,000 visits a year based on our
15 survey data. 44 percent currently occur in
16 the summer. 34 percent in the spring.
17 Halawakee boat access experienced the
18 greatest percentage at 23 percent. And then
19 future recreational use, after applying the
20 corresponding county growth rate is estimated
21 to be 180,000 in the year 2050.

22 Okay. Future demand was determined for
23 parking as well and it was compared to
24 existing total parking capacity and then our
25 average observed spring/summer capacity. And

26
27

1 this was taken and projected out in a similar
2 manner as the recreation use. And then
3 compared to see whether our existing
4 facilities would meet the future demands,
5 which they will, however, as you will notice,
6 Halawakee Creek is starting to get close to
7 capacity.

8 Okay. This slide summarizes the access
9 evaluation to north Bartletts Ferry that we
10 performed. This was something that one of
11 early stakeholders brought up at scoping and
12 so we included a brief analysis in the report
13 that looked at a variety of factors. And they
14 included property ownership, boating and
15 driving distances, the zoning, as well as the
16 safety. A summary of that information is in
17 the report.

18 The second main component of the
19 recreation and land use study was land use.
20 Okay. Similar to recreation, the FERC
21 project boundary was one of our study area.
22 And as you can see that's the purple line
23 here. And then similar to Steve's
24 presentation earlier, we went to a 2,000-foot
25 zone beyond the project boundary.

26
27

1 essentially, four key elements to it. The
2 first is Georgia Power's Leasing and Permit
3 Program. Written leases are required and
4 prior to any sort of activity occurring, any
5 kind of construction, they must go through a
6 permit application process and an approval
7 process and a permit card must be posted on
8 the site during construction. Needless to
9 say, during the permitted application and
10 approval process, they need to follow to
11 shoreline management guidelines that are
12 available on Georgia Power's website. The
13 guidelines affect things such as B&Ps, what
14 needed for landscape plans as well as buffers.

15

16 Compliance. To insure those are being
17 followed, inspection at renewal and transfer
18 are performed as well as random inspections
19 and weekly surveillance of the shoreline, and
20 then, if necessary, enforcement is done. And
21 to do this, Georgia Power currently has two
22 full-time shoreline representatives as well as
23 three boats and two trucks.

24 Okay. The next two slides I want to
25 briefly touch on the project visual esthetics.

26

27

1 Similar to land use, most of the southern
2 side of the reservoir tends to be the more
3 developed side of the project, particularly
4 down around here, here where the northeastern
5 shoreline tends to be the least developed and
6 provides the least developed use. These
7 current two photos, which I apologize if you
8 can't see them very well, are both views
9 standing in Georgia looking east. So, for
10 example, the first one up here is from
11 Riverview looking northeast and you can see a
12 nice riverine environment here. Moving
13 further south, standing at Chattahoochie
14 Valley, this is also looking east into Georgia
15 in a similar undeveloped. These three views
16 shows a more developed nature once we move
17 more down to the southern side of the
18 reservoir.

19 Okay. This view is looking from Idle
20 Hour Park, which is here looking into Alabama.
21 And as you can see, we are starting to get
22 into a more suburban nature along the
23 shoreline. Then moving into Alabama, this is
24 looking east from the Halawakee boat access.
25 And I would like to point out that you are
26
27

1 actually looking at the Halawakee Embayment
2 here. And then this, moving further south is
3 looking north from Po Boy's Landing.

4 So in summary, a few of the takeaway
5 items are the existing recreational use for
6 the project was estimated at roughly 125,000.
7 Future recreational use is projected to be
8 about 184,000 in 2050. Use was highest at the
9 Halawakee boat access, followed by Po Boy's
10 and then Idle Hour Park. The existing parking
11 facilities have adequate capacity to
12 accommodate future demands. Then 15 to 20
13 period of the project lands are in developed
14 land uses, generally, on the southern end of
15 the project with the exception of the lands
16 around the City of Valley.

17 I'd be happy to take any questions.

18 MR. NICHOLS: When you state that
19 existing parking facilities have the adequate
20 capacity to accommodate future demands, is
21 that looking at it from an annual average or
22 is that looking at peak?

23 MS. DRAKE: It's not looking at peak.
24 What it's actually looking at is the observed
25 average for spring and summer, so I,

26

27

1 basically, took our, you know, what we
2 actually observed during spring and summer and
3 projected that out the same way I did the
4 existing recreation, so that's actual observed
5 use.

6 MR. NICHOLS: You are not actually
7 looking at it from a peak-use point of view?

8 MS. DRAKE: Correct. It is not looked at
9 from a peak perspective.

10 MR. WEATHERS: The two complaints I hear
11 more than anything from my anglers are
12 parking problems at Halawakee Creek and the
13 vandalism at Po Boy's. A lot of people tell
14 me they are scared to leave their vehicle in
15 the trailer park there because so many have
16 been vandalized. It could just be the
17 perception or representation, but that's what
18 a lot of people believe.

19 I know that facility could probably be
20 used a lot more if people would not be worried
21 about leaving their vehicle.

22 MS. DRAKE: You're saying Po Boy's;
23 right?

24 MR. WEATHERS: Yeah. And they were
25 complaining a lot about the holes and pot

26
27

1 holes and all at Halawakee Creek, but that was
2 just completed a few weeks ago.

3 MS. DRAKE: I would like to mention
4 really quickly for the audience, if you are
5 reading the report, as you are looking through
6 the ratings, do note that since we performed
7 the survey on both event launches at Halawakee
8 have been completely renovated. They were
9 dug up and re-paved and the parking lot was
10 also re-paved.

11 MR. WEATHERS: Re-surfaced.

12 MS. DRAKE: Or resurfaced, so please keep
13 that in mind when you are reading the report.
14 Those are good observations there.

15 MS. FLORENTINO: I'm actually going to
16 read comments from our recreation but she sent
17 me with a couple of comments/questions in
18 regards to the Halawakee boat access. She
19 said she was looking at the maps and that it
20 looks like most of the access is within the
21 project boundary, but for some reason the
22 parking lots wasn't within the project
23 boundary. She wanted to know if you could
24 explain why that was because we will have to
25 have a reason for it?

26

27

1 MS. DRAKE: Okay. There are actually a
2 couple of instances and actually since --
3 Wanda, would you like to -- Wanda Greene from
4 the Land Department, would you like to maybe
5 comments on the straddling of the project
6 boundary.

7 MS. GREENE: I may have to do some. That
8 goes into some of the historical. The
9 question is why is the project boundary
10 straddling?

11 MS. FLORENTINO: Why doesn't it include
12 the parking area at the Halawakee boat access?

13 MS. GREENE: That is something I will
14 have to look at. It's based on a contour in
15 that area, but there maybe some historical
16 reason I might need to look into it.

17 MR. WEATHERS: Well, I know at Halawakee
18 Creek there are parking area where the boat
19 ramps and then across the road a lot of the
20 overflow parking is parking over there. And I
21 asked Damon, our capital development
22 supervisor, if they couldn't pave that area
23 too because it's just dirt. He said they
24 really try to discourage people from parking
25 over there because of safety reasons. They

26
27

1 are having trailers and that's a real busy
2 road and all, but that is a real problem as
3 far as not enough area to park, just right
4 there on the side of the road where the boat
5 ramp.

6 MS. DRAKE: There is not a whole lot of
7 room to expand there unless you want to cut
8 out the side of the hill.

9 MS. FLORENTINO: This is another longer
10 one. And I have page reference to in Section
11 1.2, page 3, Georgia Power states that there
12 are 180,000 parcels of lands adjacent to the
13 shoreline leased by residence or home sites.
14 Georgia Power state that these parcels are
15 Georgia Power owned properties above the full
16 521 foot elevation contour and include both
17 project lands between the 521 and 525-foot
18 elevation contours and non-project lands that
19 are above the 525-foot elevation contour. In
20 a recent Commission order, the Commission
21 determined that lands underlying private
22 structures on existing projects land as well
23 as a parcel proposed for future development
24 with private (inaudible) should be removed
25 from the Tacoma Hydroelectric Project, which
26
27

1 is the FERC Project No. 12-529 from that
2 project boundary. The license requires for
3 removal of these lands and the filing of
4 revised Exhibit G drawings. In light of the
5 Commission's actions, Georgia power should be
6 made aware that the Commission may take some
7 more action with respect to this project, so I
8 guess that's more of a comment than a
9 question.

10 MR. CREAMER: I think what that's getting
11 at is the idea that we are trying to get away
12 from having private structures within the
13 project boundary. That's been a problem for a
14 few years now and we have been trying to
15 remove those situations.

16 MS. DRAKE: Would it be fair to say that
17 this is a head's up for the Land Department?
18 I guess my question would be is: How
19 aggressively do y'all seem to be implementing
20 that in new licenses and such?

21 MR. CREAMER: I don't know. A lot of
22 this is coming from our compliance folks
23 because that's where a lot of it comes up.
24 Now, if we see problems during a licensing
25 that we think needs to be addressed at that

26
27

1 point, we might do something and the
2 Commission might do something during the
3 licensing. I can't speak to what they would
4 do, but it is something that we would pay
5 attention to as we're reviewing the
6 application.

7 MS. DRAKE: Okay. Great.

8 MR. CREAMER: As a head's up, I don't
9 know what ultimately might happen, but it's
10 precedence for doing this type of thing.

11 MS. DRAKE: Yeah, I have not heard.

12 MR. PHILLIPS: Our Shoreline Management
13 Program and Permitting Program, we do not
14 permit residential structures in the project
15 boundary. We have some structures in the
16 project boundary years ago and our goal is
17 through attrition, remodeling, tearing down
18 and rebuilding to move those out of that
19 project. We have been successful in doing on
20 a lot of occasions. We also in an agreement
21 with FERC, and I believe it was in the early
22 '90s, set aside 200 acres in the project to
23 mitigate that were building inside the
24 project. So I don't think that's going to be
25 an issue with that she brought up. I think we

26

27

1 are addressing that already.

2 MR. CREAMER: I think something that
3 would be of benefit is to move forward and
4 talk about that agreement. You know, those
5 types of things need to be complained. If
6 that's what had happened as mitigation for
7 having these things there, it would help to
8 have that explanation in the application.

9 MS. FLORENTINO: Patty also sent me a
10 copy of the order she referred to as the
11 Tacoma Hydroelectric Project Order and she
12 highlighted if you want to look at them.

13 MS. DRAKE: Did you have any other
14 questions?

15 MS. FLORENTINO: No. That was all she
16 had.

17 MS. DRAKE: How about the other
18 stakeholders. Well, thank you very much.

19 MS. SIMPSON: Hearing nothing further, we
20 will turn the meeting back over to our leader,
21 George Martin.

22 MR. MARTIN: If there is any further
23 discussion or questions on any of the resource
24 areas we've covered today, now would be a good
25 time to talk about it.

26

27

1 MS. SIMPSON: Thank you. See y'all
2 tomorrow, we hope.

3 - - -

4 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at
5 1:20 p.m.)

6 - - -

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF DEKALB

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken down, as stated in the caption, and the colloquies, questions and answers were reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record given to the best of my ability.

The above certification is expressly withdrawn upon the disassembly or photocopying of the foregoing transcript, unless said disassembly or photocopying is done under the auspices of MLQ Court Reporters and the signature and original seal is attached thereto.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties; nor am I financially interested in the action.

This, the 6th day of April 2011.

Janet R. Allen
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate Number B-1213

1