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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NEPA SCOPING MEETING
MORGAN FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PLANT
Integrated Licensing Process

Wednesday, April 14, 2004
1:00 p.m.

CHATTHOOCHEE NATURE CENTER
9135 Willeo Road
Roswell, Georgia

JANET D. HUTZEL, Presiding

1 PARTICIPANTS:

2 Representing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

3 JANET D. HUTZEL

4 ANN MILES

5 MARK PAWLOWSKI

6 RON McKITRICK

7 RANDY YATES

8 ELIZABETH MOLLOY

9

10 Representing Georgia Power Company:

11 GEORGE MARTIN

12 STEVE LAYMAN

13 SCOTT HENDRICKS

14 COURTENAY RIDDLE

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C O N T E N T S

1		
2		PAGE
3	Call to Order and Introductions, Ms. Hutzel.....	4
4	Scoping Meeting Purpose and Overview of	
5	Licensing Process.....	5
6	Existing Conditions, Mr. Martin.....	14
7	Video Presentation.....	15
8	Existing Facilities, Ms. Riddle.....	22
9	Land Resources, Historical Resources, Mr. Hendricks.....	36
10	Environmental Resources, Mr. Layman.....	42
11	Potential Information Needs, Ms. Hutzel.....	54
12	Public Comments.....	58
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		

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

2 MS. HUTZEL: We would like to welcome everyone to
3 the Scoping Meeting for the Morgan Falls Hydroelectric
4 Project.

5 Before we begin, I would like to take care of one
6 administrative item. Please make sure if you haven't already
7 sign in at the back of the room and pick up a scoping
8 document. There are some available I know that when we
9 mailed them out a few pages were missing.

10 First let me introduce myself. I am Janet Hutzel,
11 I'm an Outdoor Recreation Planner with the Federal Energy
12 Regulatory Commission. I will also be serving as the project
13 coordinator for the Morgan Falls project, and will be doing
14 the cultural resources.

15 In addition to myself today Randy Yates is
16 available. He will be doing recreation and land use for the
17 project;

18 Ron McKitrick who is doing the terrestrial;

19 Liz Molloy who is a staff attorney; and

20 With us today is Ann Miles, the Director of the
21 Division of Hydropower Licensing, and a colleague of mine
22 Mark Pawlowski.

23 As a side note, there are two colleagues who were
24 unable to attend who will be part of the project, and they
25 are Monty Tehar who is doing the developmental analysis and

1 engineering, and Lee Emory who will be doing the fisheries
2 and water quality.

3 At this point I would like to briefly discuss
4 FERC's role in hydro relicensing, and then talk a little bit
5 about the integrated licensing process, also known as the
6 ILP, the scoping process, and Morgan Falls process plan, and
7 schedule.

8 FERC has the responsibility under the Federal Power
9 Act to regulate nonfederal hydroelectric developments
10 throughout the United States. FERC can issue licenses for
11 hydroelectric projects for periods up to fifty years.

12 Prior to license expiration, Georgia Power or any
13 other licensee must file an application for a new license in
14 order to keep operating the project.

15 Before we grant a new license or make a decision on
16 what conditions should be included in the license, we must
17 assess what effects of the proposed action and any reasonable
18 alternatives will be needed.

19 The National Environmental Policy Act, also known
20 as NEPA, requires that an environmental analysis be performed
21 to analyze potential effects.

22 In the case of the Morgan Falls project, we are
23 proposing to do an analysis in the form of an environment
24 assessment, or an EA.

25 We will, the staff, review the license application,
26

1 prepare the necessary environmental analysis, and make
2 recommendations to the commission about whether the project
3 should be relicensed and, if so, what license conditions are
4 needed.

5 Our purpose today is to solicit comments and input
6 from the public, NGOs, federal, state, and local agencies,
7 and any tribes if they are present about issues that need to
8 be considered or not considered in the EA, to identify if all
9 the available information has been identified, or there is
10 other available information out there not identified, to
11 identify the study needs, and to discuss, review, and
12 finalize the process, plan, and schedule for Morgan Falls.

13 If everyone hasn't, I do suggest you get a scoping
14 document. This was issued last month, and includes a brief
15 description of the existing project facilities, and covers
16 the potential studies identified by Georgia Power that may be
17 appropriate for the Morgan Falls project.

18 The scoping document also describes the type of
19 information we are seeking as part of scoping, as well as
20 provides the preliminary list of environmental issues, the
21 prefiling process schedule which is found in Appendix A for
22 Morgan Falls, and an outline and time line for our EA
23 document.

24 Our primary goal here is to get your thoughts on
25 what issues are important and to finalize the process plan.

1 We have a slide show that goes over the new
2 integrated licensing process, and also the process plan for
3 Morgan Falls.

4 As you may well know, FERC established the
5 integrated licensing process last July. Georgia Power is the
6 first licensee to use the new ILP, or integrated licensing
7 process.

8 As part of the new ILP Georgia Power must file a
9 preapplication document when they file their NOI. Everyone
10 here should have received one of these.

11 The PAD provides the basis for this ILP, and
12 summarizes the available environmental information and the
13 known project impacts to the environment, and enables the
14 licensing participants to define issues and study needs.

15 One of the key purposes of the ILP is that
16 everything is front-loaded. We identify the issues in the
17 beginning stages, we identify the study needs. It is going
18 to be a very time-intensive process during the first year.

19 The ILP was envisioned by us to improve the
20 timeliness in processing license applications, while
21 adequately protecting the identified resources.

22 Like I said before, the key to the ILP process is
23 early participation, including FERC's participation. FERC
24 was involved from the beginning, and all the stakeholders
25 need to be involved right from the beginning.

1 We scoped the process, it's been 90 days since
2 Georgia Power filed their NOI, and we are scoping the process
3 now, and the study plan will be developed within the first
4 year.

5 To keep us on track of everything because it is so
6 front-loaded there is a process plan and schedule established
7 with the time frames for each step given. The next slide is
8 the overview of the process plan and schedule.

9 Before we begin discussion of the process plan or
10 the ILP for Morgan Falls, I want to give a brief overview of
11 what you will be seeing in the next few slides.

12 The process plan is essentially a schedule. It
13 details for everyone when the information is needed. To
14 represent the process plan on these slides we have developed
15 triangles and broken it up into three stages.

16 The prefiling stages basically mean the license
17 application has not been filed, and these are the steps that
18 are needed before Georgia Power files their license
19 application.

20 The triangle that you will be seeing is broken up
21 into scoping, study plan development, and conducting the
22 studies.

23 One thing I really cannot stress enough is the fact
24 that it is fast, and if you want to participate you have to
25 be on board and meet the deadlines of the process plan.

1 Today's scoping is very important because it's
2 designed to provide insight into the gaps in information and
3 to review and finalize this process plan.

4 If you're not familiar, the process plan is
5 available in Appendix A of the scoping document. It's also
6 available in the PAD that you were provided.

7 Comments on our scoping that we issued, the PAD
8 itself, and any study requests must be filed by May 14th,
9 2004.

10 The study request should address the criteria set
11 out in the regulations, and this is the next slide I will be
12 discussing.

13 Also, there are handouts in the back of each of
14 these slides, so if you do not write down what the study
15 request is it's available in the handout.

16 In order to better focus the studies, these
17 criteria were made:

18 One, each study request should define the goals and
19 objectives of the study.

20 Another one is explain the relevant resource
21 management goals of the agency or tribe with jurisdictional
22 authority, for example with 4(e) or the water quality cert
23 agency.

24 If you are a public, you must explain any relevant
25 public interest. You must explain the relevant public

1 interest if you are not a member of anyone with
2 jurisdictional authority, so it's essentially anyone else.

3 The study, the criteria also includes the current
4 knowledge of information, and explains why the available
5 information is not adequate to fill the gaps. You have to
6 explain the nexus between the study and the project specs,
7 and how the information obtained will be used to develop
8 license recommendations.

9 You must demonstrate that the proposed study is
10 consistent with accepted scientific practice, and you must
11 give consideration of the cost and level of effort of the
12 study, including an explanation why an alternative study
13 proposed by the applicant would not suffice.

14 All of these criteria must be addressed when you
15 send in your study request.

16 MR. DUNCAN: Can I ask a question?

17 MS. HUTZEL: If it's quickly, sure.

18 MS. MILES: Can you identify yourself and go to a
19 microphone.

20 MR. DUNCAN: My name is Jeff Duncan, I'm with the
21 National Park Service attached to the regional office.

22 Several of us at lunch were sort of discussing that
23 final bullet point there on consideration of level of effort
24 and cost, and it was unclear to us what that would look like
25 in terms of a study request.

1 Do we actually need to put a cost estimate in the
2 study request, or just show that we're not asking for the
3 moon, we're asking for something that is really a real issue?

4 MS. MILES: My name is Ann Miles.

5 I would say to the best of your ability if you have
6 some sense of what the study would cost it would be a good
7 idea to put that in there. If not, what's the level of
8 effort involved in it.

9 If you can't actually put a dollar value on it, we
10 would hope that you would be able to have some sense of what
11 you think that level of effort is.

12 MS. HUTZEL: This is Janet Hutzel restarting the
13 slide show.

14 The next slides, the second part is the study plan
15 development. By June 28, 2004 Georgia Power will file their
16 proposed study plan.

17 If there are any disputes, there will be an
18 informal meeting held July 28th, 2004, which the participants
19 and FERC will be available to discuss with Georgia Power to
20 try to resolve any of the disputes. It's just an informal
21 meeting.

22 By September 26th, 2004 the comments, public
23 comments, agency comments on the study plan must be filed.
24 And by November 25th, 2004 the commission will make a
25 decision and approve the study plan, and Georgia Power will

1 need to follow that study plan then.

2 And the last step is the year's worth of studies.
3 During the first year Georgia Power shall conduct the studies
4 in accordance to the approved study plan.

5 And around November 2005 Georgia Power will prepare
6 and provide participants with the progress report of the
7 study plans.

8 By April 1st, 2006 Georgia Power will file the
9 final study report describing what was found, the data
10 collected, and including all the implements of the study
11 plan, and the schedule that was followed.

12 If necessary, the report would also contain any
13 proposed modifications to the study plan if second-year
14 studies were needed.

15 And then by October 2nd, 2006 Georgia Power must
16 file their preliminary licensing proposal.

17 To bridge the gap between the burden of developing
18 a complete draft application that subsequently is filed again
19 in the short time in the form of a final application and
20 providing sufficient information for the agencies and
21 participants to evaluate the merits of the applicant's
22 proposal, the ILP requires the applicant to prepare a
23 preliminary licensing proposal that explains its existing and
24 proposed operations and environmental measures, and includes
25 a draft environmental analysis of those measures.

1 At the same time, though it is optional, Georgia
2 Power may also file a draft of its biological assessments and
3 a historic properties management plan.

4 Stakeholders will have no longer than December
5 31st, 2006 to file comments on the proposed preliminary
6 licensing proposal.

7 And then by February 28th, 2007 Georgia Power must
8 file its license application. At this point we the
9 commission take over. We issue the tendering notice by March
10 2007, and if all the information has been done, if all the
11 study plans are complete and we need no additional
12 information we issue the acceptance notice and are ready for
13 EA by May 2007.

14 Comments, conditions, and interventions will be due
15 by July 2007, and at the same time in July 2007 Georgia Power
16 must request a 401. They can request it earlier.

17 We anticipate that the environmental analysis will
18 be complete by November 2007, and participants have until
19 December 2007 to comment on this EA.

20 The modified mandatory conditions are due no later
21 than February 2008.

22 After all this is in, the commission will make its
23 decision whether or not the hydro power project will be
24 relicensed and, if so, what conditions are needed.

25 And that essentially is an overview of the ILP and

1 process plan.

2 Are there any questions about the ILP process plan?

3 I know this was pretty brief.

4 (No response)

5 MS. HUTZEL: No? Okay.

6 At this point George Martin of Georgia Power will
7 briefly discuss about the existing project facilities and
8 operation, and talk about the existing environment around
9 Morgan Falls.

10 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Janet, and thank you
11 FERC staff.

12 Good afternoon. My name is George Martin. I work
13 for Georgia Power as a biologist, and I also serve as project
14 manager for the relicensing of the Morgan Falls project.

15 On behalf of Georgia Power I would like to thank
16 the Chattahoochee Nature Center for providing these
17 facilities today, and I would like to welcome you all to the
18 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's first integrated
19 licensing process, NEPA scoping meeting.

20 This is the first NEPA scoping meeting, and it
21 focuses on the Morgan Falls project. Today's scoping meeting
22 and site visit continues the initial steps in relicensing
23 following preconsultation meetings, the distribution of the
24 preapplication documents, and the notification of intent to
25 relicense, the initial tribal consultation, the issuance of

1 FERC's scoping document, and notice of commencement, as well
2 as FERC's prescoping ILP training.

3 To begin our presentation and to further introduce
4 you to the Morgan Falls project we will now view a brief
5 video focusing on the relicensing effort entitled Looking
6 _____
7 Forward with the Past in Mind. _____

8 _____

9 VIDEO PRESENTATION

10 Narrator: "It was a time of significant transition for
11 the nation, it was the turn of the 20th Century. As
12 population increased, the need to transport workers
13 throughout cities like Atlanta became a necessity. The
14 solution, the electric streetcar.

15 "Growth within the cities created a new market for
16 hydro power technology. In the late 1800 S. Morgan Smith
17 invented a water turbine which achieved great popularity
18 among grist mill owners throughout the East. By the early
19 1900s Smith's company became one of the largest builders of
20 water turbines in the world.

21 "Smith's interest soon turned toward harnessing
22 water power for growing urban centers. Smith decided to
23 develop the Bull Sluice Hydropower Project on the
24 Chattahoochee River just north of Atlanta, and a company

1 called the Atlanta Water and Electric Power Company.

2 "Between 1902 and 1904 the Atlanta Water and
3 Electric Power Company designed and constructed Bull Sluice
4 Station. After S. Morgan Smith's death Bull Sluice was
5 renamed Morgan Falls. The Morgan Falls plant began
6 delivering power to the Georgia Railway and Electric Company
7 on October 10th, 1904.

8 "The Morgan Falls plant supplied all of the Georgia
9 Railway and Electric Company needs, including Atlanta's
10 popular streetcar system.

11 "In 1912 the Atlanta Water and Electric Power
12 Company merged with the Georgia Railway and Electric Company
13 to become a new entity, Georgia Railway and Power Company.
14 The new company became the predecessor to the current Georgia
15 Power Company.

16 "In 1922 to keep pace with electricity demand a
17 major turbine upgrade increased plant capacity to 16,800
18 kilowatts, the level it operates at today.

19 "In 1957 the City of Atlanta and Georgia Power
20 Company entered into a contract to raise the Morgan Falls
21 Dam. The construction allowed Georgia Power to reregulate
22 the peak water releases from the Army Corps of Engineers
23 recently-completed Buford Dam. Flow reregulation was
24 essential for maintaining river water quality during low flow
25 periods for Atlanta and other downstream users.

1 "Georgia Power maintains its relationship with the
2 many users of the Chattahoochee River even today. The Morgan
3 Falls plant continues to reregulate Chattahoochee River flows
4 for the benefit of all downstream users. In fact, river flow
5 reregulation for water quality and water supply is one of the
6 plant's primary purposes.

7 "Georgia Power also actively participates with the
8 Atlanta Regional Commission and its members in developing
9 long-term water supply solutions for the region.

10 "But to understand the importance of Morgan Falls
11 in the region's water management system it is essential to
12 understand the river system itself. Georgia Power owns and
13 operates 19 hydroelectric generating facilities across the
14 state of Georgia.

15 "The Chattahoochee River, one of the most
16 significant natural resources in the state, is home to seven
17 Georgia Power hydropower facilities, four U.S. Army Corps of
18 Engineers dams, and two privately-owned dams which harness
19 the natural energy of the Chattahoochee River.

20 "Morgan Falls is situated in the heart of
21 metropolitan Atlanta, 36 miles downstream of the U.S. Army
22 Corps of Engineers' Buford Dam, and twelve miles upstream of
23 Peachtree Creek in the city of Atlanta.

24 "For water quality purposes the Georgia
25 Environmental Protection Division has established a 750-

1 cubic-foot-per-second minimum river flow rate for the
2 Chattahoochee River immediately upstream of its confluence
3 with Peachtree Creek and below the City of Atlanta water
4 supply intake.

5 "In addition to the Atlanta intake, there are
6 numerous water supply intakes located in Lake Lanier and
7 along the entire stretch of the Chattahoochee River.
8 Coordination begins upstream at the significantly-larger
9 Buford Dam which provides flood control for the region, and
10 operates as a peaking-power facility.

11 "A peaking-power facility provides minimal water
12 releases most of the time, but releases significantly more
13 water during peak power demands, which usually occur Monday
14 through Friday in Atlanta."

15 Pat Stevens, Atlanta Regional Commission: "The
16 management system is needed because our main source of water
17 supply comes out of Lake Lanier and Buford Dam, and they make
18 releases that are variable. Sometimes they make really large
19 releases, and sometimes the releases are very low and the
20 river level is very low. Morgan Falls helps smooth out the
21 flow in the river for our use for water supply."

22 Sally Mills, City of Atlanta: "The Chattahoochee
23 River is a critical asset, the most valuable asset the city
24 has, because water is irreplaceable. You cannot have a city
25 without a water supply. This is our water supply, and

1 everything that we can do to protect it we should do. The
2 City supports the relicensing of Morgan Falls Dam for that
3 reason because it does allow us to partner with Georgia Power
4 and other users of the river to protect the downstream users
5 and allow our population to have a water supply."

6 Narrator: "Morgan Falls provides more than just
7 Chattahoochee flow reregulation for water supply.

8 Wayne Hardie, Morgan Falls Plant Supervisor:
9 "Morgan Falls is operated as a modified run-of-river project,
10 it has a generating capacity of 16.8 megawatts, and it's
11 powered by seven horizontal turbine units. At that capacity
12 Morgan Falls can serve about 4,400 homes annually in the
13 Atlanta area. Hydropower provides a clean, renewable,
14 nonpolluting source of electricity. Morgan Falls provides
15 this clean energy at low cost, and has been doing it for
16 almost 100 years.

17 "Morgan Falls is the oldest continuously-operating
18 generating plant owned by Georgia Power. In fact, this year
19 we will be celebrating our centennial anniversary."

20 Narrator: "The Morgan Falls project and the
21 surrounding areas provide the public with a variety of
22 recreational opportunities. Three land units of the
23 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area are adjacent to
24 the Morgan Falls project. The National Parks Service manages
25 these units, which include Island Fort, Vickery Creek, and

1 Gold Branch. The National Recreation Area provides
2 opportunities for fishing, walking, hiking, wildlife viewing,
3 and picnicking.

4 "In addition to the national Recreation Area, the
5 City of Roswell and Fulton County also operate smaller parks
6 that provide fishing docks, additional picnic areas, walking
7 trails, and a boat ramp for canoe and raft rentals.

8 "The Atlanta Rowing Club operates a facility at
9 Azalea Park that provides rowing access to the river.
10 Georgia Power provides a canoe portage and takeout around
11 Morgan Falls Dam.

12 "The 48-mile reach of river below Buford Dam is
13 classified as a secondary trout water, and is a popular urban
14 trout fishery. Historically, the Chattahoochee River was a
15 warm-water stream. The construction of Buford Dam
16 transformed the river into a cold-water stream because the
17 Corps releases water from the depths of Lake Lanier. The
18 Georgia Department of Natural Resources manages the main stem
19 Chattahoochee River south of Buford Dam to Peachtree Creek as
20 a trout fishery.

21 "There are also opportunities for warm-water
22 species fishing within the Morgan Falls impoundment itself,
23 and downstream of the dam. Warm-water species include
24 various shore bass, striped bass, large-mouth bass, blue
25 gill, and other types of sunfish.

1 "Both the cold-water and warm-water fisheries
2 provide the Atlanta region with invaluable fishing areas.
3 DNR has stated that among the rivers they have studied the
4 Chattahoochee is the most heavily-fished river in the state."

5 Chris Womack: "The Morgan Falls project and its
6 reservoir have been an integral part of the north Atlanta
7 landscape for over 100 years. In the 21st Century Morgan
8 Falls will continue to provide many benefits to the
9 community, including river flow reregulation for downstream
10 water quality and water supply, enhanced recreation and
11 environmental resources, and emissions-free electricity
12 generation for the Atlanta area.

13 "Georgia Power looks forward to continuing our
14 relationships with all parties interested in the Morgan Falls
15 relicensing effort."

16 Narrator: "Morgan Falls' current FERC license
17 expires in 2009. Georgia Power has just begun its
18 relicensing effort utilizing FERC's integrated licensing
19 process. Georgia Power's goal is to make this ILP, the first
20 in the nation, as smooth and as productive as possible. The
21 plant is an important resource in the production of clean,
22 renewable energy, and is rich with historic significance.

23 "Georgia Power wants to ensure that Morgan Falls
24 remains an important feature in the community. Georgia
25 Power, we are a citizen wherever we serve."

1 project is operated, a detailed discussion of the operations
2 as found in your preliminary application document in Section
3 IV.

4 I am also going to spend a little bit of time
5 explaining how the dams in the Upper Chattahoochee River
6 Basin are operated. Understanding that is essential to
7 understanding how Morgan Falls is operated and how it is
8 critical for the region.

9 I have presented a number of project statistics,
10 I'm not going to read all of these line by line, but there
11 are a few of them that warrant further discussion.

12 The first is Morgan Falls is operated as a modified
13 run-of-river plant. A run-of-river plant is simply where the
14 water releases from the dam are always equal to the project
15 inflows into the dam.

16 As you can see, Morgan Falls has 2,250 acre-feet of
17 usable reservoir storage, and its reservoir area covers 673
18 acres.

19 Just for comparison's sake now -- I will get into a
20 little bit more detail later -- but the Army Corps of
21 Engineers' Buford Dam which is located upstream of our
22 project has usable reservoir storage of over 1 million acre-
23 feet, and its reservoir covers over 38,000 acres, so there is
24 quite a big difference between the two reservoirs.

25 I mentioned that we are a modified run-of-river.

1 Morgan Falls uses the limited usable storage available in its
2 reservoir to slightly modify the project inflows, and Georgia
3 Power does this to assure that there is enough water
4 downstream of the Morgan Falls project for water supply,
5 wastewater assimilation, and for hydroelectric power.

6 Morgan Falls currently has two goals of projects
7 operations, and the first and probably the most important is
8 to reregulate or smooth out the peaking flows from Buford Dam
9 which is located upstream.

10 Like I said, Georgia Power does this to ensure that
11 there is enough water in the Chattahoochee River downstream
12 of Morgan Falls for drinking water supply intakes and for
13 treated wastewater discharge assimilation.

14 Morgan Falls also generates enough power every year
15 to serve over 4,400 homes.

16 I mentioned earlier that Buford Dam is
17 significantly larger than Morgan Falls. You obviously can
18 see Buford Dam, there is Morgan Falls. These reservoirs
19 actually represent scale versions of the usable reservoir
20 storage that I was talking about earlier.

21 Now, usable reservoir storage is simply the water
22 within a reservoir that is impounded for later uses, and also
23 below which the turbines can't operate.

24 So you can see from this picture just how much
25 larger Buford Dam is than Morgan Falls, and because of its

1 size Buford Dam literally drives the way the entire upper
2 Chattahoochee River system is operated.

3 Now, Buford Dam is located 36 miles upstream of
4 Morgan Falls, and operates as a peaking power facility.
5 Buford Dam is also the first dam on the Chattahoochee River.
6 When Buford Dam peaks it releases up to 10,000 cubic feet per
7 second of water into the river, which is quite a lot. During
8 nonpeak periods that flow rate drops down to approximately
9 600 cubic feet per second.

10 Now, peaking normally occurs for Atlanta Monday
11 through Friday in the late afternoons, and you can imagine
12 that's just when customer demand is highest for electricity.
13 But peaking can also occur in the morning times as well.

14 So when Buford Dam is peaking the water level below
15 Buford Dam and upstream of Morgan Falls, the water level in
16 the Chattahoochee River actually rises, as do the water
17 levels in the Morgan Falls reservoir.

18 When Buford Dam is not peaking and it releases
19 about 600 cfs Morgan Falls releases a steady release
20 downstream, so because there is more water coming out of
21 Morgan Falls than coming in the water levels in the Morgan
22 Falls reservoir actually fall during Buford's nonpeak power
23 periods. Morgan Falls only has enough usable reservoir
24 storage to actually smooth the Buford Dam flows.

25 Now, I referred earlier to the usable reservoir

1 storage. We know in Buford Dam that there's over 1 million
2 acre-feet of usable reservoir storage, and for Morgan Falls
3 there's 2,250 acre-feet.

4 A real easy concept to help visualize the
5 difference in the reservoir size is to compare the time to
6 drain this usable storage. Imagine if you will that the
7 reservoirs are like large bathtubs, and you pull the plug out
8 of the drain. Well, at 2,250 acre-feet it takes a half a day
9 for Morgan Falls to completely drain its reservoir storage.
10 For Buford Dam that number is 259 days, so again you can see
11 the difference in the two reservoirs.

12 And because of Buford Dam's large size it literally
13 drives the system, and it also is the main storage reservoir
14 for the system. Morgan Falls only has enough usable storage
15 to smooth out the flows from Buford.

16 259 days indicates that Buford Dam has the ability
17 to affect the quantity of water in the river for months at a
18 time. Morgan Falls is a half a day, so Morgan Falls can only
19 affect the amount of water in the Chattahoochee River for
20 hours at a time. So that's why it can only smooth the flows
21 from Buford, and not supply the river with water. Buford
22 Dam serves that function.

23 Now I'm going to give you a little bit more detail
24 about how the river system is operated in this stretch.

25 First of all, the Georgia EPD has mandated that

1 there be a 750-cubic-foot-per-second flow rate at confluence
2 of Peachtree Creek with the Chattahoochee River. Now, that's
3 a Georgia EPD mandated number.

4 And the ARC manages the water in this stretch of
5 river in cooperation with both Georgia Power and the Army
6 Corps of Engineers.

7 So let's look at this in a little bit more detail.
8 There are a number of tributaries which flow into the
9 Chattahoochee River from Lake Lanier all the way down to
10 Peachtree Creek. Only a few of them are depicted on this
11 schematic. These tributaries are the tributaries that the
12 ARC uses to calculate the total tributary flow into the
13 Chattahoochee.

14 There are also numerous drinking water withdrawal
15 points and treated wastewater discharge points for all of our
16 municipalities that are located along this stretch of the
17 river.

18 So like I mentioned, the Atlanta Regional
19 Commission manages this stretch in cooperation with Georgia
20 Power and the Corps of Engineers.

21 Georgia Power actually has an agreement with the
22 ARC, and the Corps of Engineers has a similar agreement with
23 the ARC to ensure that that 750 cfs flow rate is achieved.

24 We receive weekly requests from the ARC for our
25 minimum flow rates from each of the projects. Georgia Power

1 receives a weekly request, as does the Corps of Engineers.

2 So exactly how does the Atlanta Regional Commission
3 calculate that request?

4 Can you all hear me okay if I just move away?

5 The ARC starts at the 750 cfs, and this is for
6 Morgan Falls minimum flow rate. Starting at 750 they
7 subtract the flow, the tributary flow going into the
8 Chattahoochee River between Morgan Falls dam and Peachtree
9 Creek.

10 And the reason that the ARC subtracts the tributary
11 flow is because that's water that's already in the system, so
12 it doesn't need to be supplemented from the dam.

13 They take 750, subtract the tributary flow between
14 Morgan Falls and Peachtree Creek, and then the ARC asks the
15 City of Atlanta and the Cobb-Marietta Water Board the water
16 demand for that week, and that's how they arrive at the
17 minimum flow request for Morgan Falls.

18 So once they're at Morgan Falls they continue the
19 same calculation moving upstream towards Buford Dam. So
20 Morgan Falls is going to have a different minimum flow
21 request from the ARC than Buford. But that's how they
22 generally calculate it.

23 So the point is to make sure that that 750 cfs
24 target is achieved, and that's to assure that there is enough
25 water in the river downstream of the 750 for additional water

1 supply intakes and wastewater discharges.

2 So the ARC system ensures that that 750 is
3 achieved, while at the same time minimally impacting Buford
4 Dam's other uses which, by the way, I did not mention what
5 Buford Dam's other uses are, but it's hydroelectric power,
6 navigation, recreation, water supply, and flood control. So
7 they have a number of purposes that they must operate Buford
8 Dam under.

9 So we know that Buford Dam is a large body of
10 water, they also control the quantity of water entering the
11 system.

12 Now I want to look -- this chart shows some actual
13 flow data. I downloaded this flow data from the USDS
14 website, so anyone has access to it, you can look at this at
15 any time.

16 And for those of you that can't see in the back, on
17 the Y axis we've got flow in the river in cubic feet per
18 second, and this is a week's worth of flow data. So I've got
19 a Monday through a Sunday.

20 I actually selected a period in June of 2001, and
21 that was a drought period for Georgia, and the only reason I
22 chose this particular time frame is it's kind of easier to
23 understand the base model during a drought period because you
24 don't have other flows coming in and interfering. So it's
25 just to explain the base model.

1 Now, I said that Buford is operated as a peaking
2 plant. You can clearly see when Buford releases that flow
3 rate is about 4,800 cfs, and it's also late in the day.
4 These lines represent a Monday to a Tuesday, the change in
5 day.

6 So the peaking period occurs late in the afternoon,
7 and then at its minimum flow rate we're looking at 500 cfs,
8 so there is a drastic difference between the minimum flow
9 rate and then the peaking flow rate.

10 Now, Morgan Falls is operating right about at 900
11 cfs which is about where we operate on a normal basis. I
12 think we're operating at that flow rate right now.

13 So you can clearly see the peaking that Buford
14 does, and then the smoothing that Morgan Falls performs.

15 I think that's all I wanted to say on that chart.

16 So Buford peaks, and Morgan Falls smooths those
17 peaking flows.

18 Now I want to take a look at sediment for a minute.
19 Sediment in the Morgan Falls reservoir affects its ability to
20 smooth the Buford peaking flows, and there is sediment in the
21 Morgan Falls reservoir.

22 In 1981 the Corps of Engineers completed a study,
23 the Metropolitan Atlanta Area Water Resources Management
24 Study, and it was the first basin-wide look at water needs
25 for the region, and in that study they determined that the

1 sedimentation that had accumulated in the Morgan Falls
2 reservoir was due to upstream sources, which you can see
3 runoff from agricultural lands, stream bank and riverbank
4 erosion, and then sedimentation from land disturbing and
5 clearing activities, which shouldn't surprise you. However,
6 the data shows that sedimentation has reached equilibrium.

7 You all saw in the video that in the late 1950s the
8 City of Atlanta approached Georgia Power, and they needed
9 help with their water because Buford Dam had recently been
10 constructed, Buford Dam was releasing those peak power
11 releases, which caused problems for the downstream users of
12 the Chattahoochee.

13 So after Atlanta approached Georgia Power they
14 decided to enter into an agreement to raise the Morgan Falls
15 reservoir, and after the dam was raised that gave Georgia
16 Power the ability to reregulate the peaking flows from
17 Buford.

18 So construction was completed in 1960, and this
19 shows the volume of the reservoir in acre-feet, and obviously
20 this is the years as time goes by.

21 So when the dam was completed in 1960 there was
22 3,150 acre-feet. That was determined from a Georgia Power
23 topographic survey. In fact, all of these points are from
24 topographic surveys.

25 In 1976 when the Corps was preparing that 1981

1 study the Corps of Engineers completed a survey and
2 determined that at that time there was 2,450 acre-feet.

3 And again in 2001 the Corps of Engineers performed
4 another topographic survey and determined that there was
5 2,250 acre-feet.

6 So you can tell from the shape of this curve and
7 that it's flat here at the end that the sedimentation in the
8 reservoir has really reached an equilibrium.

9 So now what I want to do is return to that concept
10 that I talked about earlier of the bathtub and pulling the
11 plug out of the drain

12 Okay. So we know from when I mentioned this
13 earlier that the time to drain the usable storage -- and this
14 is at the average annual river flow rate passing through
15 Morgan Falls -- it takes a half a day to completely drain the
16 usable reservoir storage. So what would that be at the
17 original volume, or the original 3,150 acre-feet?

18 Well, it's three-quarters of day, which means that
19 you're only adding six hours more of storage. The water only
20 stays in the reservoir for six additional hours, even at its
21 original volume.

22 So the plant operators back in the 1960s operated
23 Morgan Falls the same way we do today. Morgan Falls still
24 only has the ability to affect the quantity of water in the
25 Chattahoochee River on an hourly basis, because you're

1 looking at less than a day.

2 Buford Dam still can affect how much water is in
3 the system for months at a time. So Buford Dam because of
4 its size can still drive the system.

5 So in summary there are three concepts I want you
6 to walk away with today. The first is that Buford Dam
7 controls the amount of water in the river, so it controls the
8 flow. Because of its large usable reservoir size, it can
9 affect the amount of water in the river on a monthly basis.
10 That was that 259 days -- that's months.

11 However, because we work under an Atlanta Regional
12 Commission management system we typically only look at flows
13 on a weekly basis.

14 The second important thing is Morgan Falls because
15 of its limited reservoir storage can only affect the amount
16 of water for hours at a time, and so only performs a
17 smoothing function.

18 And the third is that the Atlanta Regional
19 Commission on behalf of all of the river users coordinates
20 with Georgia Power and the Corps of Engineers to ensure that
21 that Georgia EPD 750 cfs is achieved. It has been an
22 effective system, and because of that Georgia Power in our
23 preliminary application document we have proposed to continue
24 our current operations because it is an effective system.

25 We are committed to continuing the operations for

1 the region's water supply, for the wastewater assimilation,
2 and for hydroelectric power.

3 I am done with the engineering portion. I'm going
4 to turn it over to Scott Hendricks.

5 MR. HENDRICKS: Thank you, Courtenay.

6

7 MS. HUTZEL: Excuse me. I believe someone had a
8 question. Can you go to the mike, please.

9 MS. HOLMBECK-PELHAM: I'm Skelly with the Upper
10 Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

11 I was wondering about that graph that shows
12 sedimentation in Bull Sluice Lake, and I was wondering what
13 the error is associated with that methodology used to
14 determine usable storage.

15 And then my second question was given that we have
16 three data points and we only have one, you know, in the past
17 decade, what level of confidence do we have when we say that
18 the process of sedimentation is leveling out?

19 MS. RIDDLE: The percent error I think that you're
20 referring to has to do totally with the percent of error with
21 topographic surveys.

22 This was an aerial, and this is an aerial, and I
23 think that was probably a ground run topo.

24 With aerial topography you can get plus or minus
25 two feet, so that's the percent error rate you're talking

1 about on survey, which is the best that we can do these days.

2 24

3 Fred, do you know if the original one was an aerial
4 or a ground run topo, that very first?

5 FRED: I believe the original one was based on a
6 ground run.

7 MS. RIDDLE: I'm not sure if I could answer what
8 the error rate is by doing that topographic survey. I think
9 we need to probably talk with an actual surveyor.

10 And when what was your second question, the second
11 part of your question, Skelly?

12 MS. HOLMBECK-PELHAM: The second question was your
13 summary of that graph was that the process of sedimenting in
14 Bull Sluice Lake had reached equilibrium. Am I stating that
15 correctly?

16 MS. RIDDLE: That's right.

17 MS. HOLMBECK-PELHAM: And so looking at that, there
18 are three data points, one in 1975, another one in 2000.
19 What level of confidence do we have when we look at those
20 three data points to say that the process has reached
21 equilibrium?

22 MS. RIDDLE: I feel pretty confident. Three points
23 are enough for me to draw this curve. I think if you did a
24 survey today you would find another point right out here. I
25 feel confident in saying that.

1 I'm not sure if that answers your question or not,
2 Skelly. I feel confident in saying that it's reached an
3 equilibrium.

4 Okay. I'm going to go ahead and let Scott
5 Hendricks come up here.

6 MR. HENDRICKS: As Courtenay said, my name is Scott
7 Hendricks. I work with the land department at Georgia Power.

8 At all of our hydropower facilities the land
9 department has general responsibilities for of course land
10 management activities and historical resources.

11 Today I would like to talk to you about two primary
12 projects, land resources which I will divide into a
13 description of the project boundary for the Morgan Falls
14 project, also a brief description of land use in the project
15 area.

16 The second topic will be historical resources which
17 we break into the historical aspects of the dam and
18 powerhouse themselves, and other cultural resources in the
19 project area.

20 To start off and give you a definition of the
21 project boundary, the Morgan Falls reservoir or Bull Sluice
22 Lake runs for about seven river miles from the dam in this
23 area upstream of Georgia 400 to about this first set of
24 islands. The normal full-pool operating level for the
25 reservoir is 866 feet elevation.

1 The project boundary which encompasses the
2 reservoir -- you may not be able to see it real clearly, this
3 dark orange line is at 868 elevation, so because the project
4 boundary is two vertical feet above the surface of the
5 operating elevation of the reservoir, most of the land that
6 is inside the project boundary is in fact inundated by the
7 reservoir.

8 When we talk about ownership, Georgia Power's
9 ownership of the lands inside the project boundary, we own
10 some small amount of lands down here around the project dam
11 and powerhouse, and for the vast majority of the rest of the
12 land Georgia Power retains flood rights to inundate the
13 property and operate it according to FERC license.

14 We all know that this area is very highly
15 developed, a lot of residential, some commercial development,
16 and when you get right down on the reservoir itself you see
17 some residential shoreline development, a large number of
18 public parks and recreational facilities.

19 The other thing you really notice is a large amount
20 of undeveloped lands, and some pretty intact buffers along
21 the reservoir, and this can be attributed to the Metropolitan
22 River Protection Act, and also the creation of the
23 Chattahoochee River National Recreation area. Both of those
24 have helped restrict high-density development along the river
25 corridor.

1 Let's move on to recreational opportunities and
2 recreational resources in the project area. Of course, with
3 that high development recreation is in high demand. The
4 Chattahoochee River is an important resource that helps meet
5 some of that demand.

6 Fishing is important, a large number of parks we'll
7 talk about in a minute.

8 The other thing we have is rowing, competitive
9 rowing you saw a little bit of in the video is also popular
10 in the project. For those not in a competitive mode,
11 leisurely kayaking and canoeing is also readily available.

12 One of the things that's been discussed earlier
13 today is the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.
14 For anybody that's not yet familiar, it's a 48-mile corridor
15 from Buford Dam to Peachtree Creek, Morgan Falls is about in
16 that area right there.

17 As the video indicated, three distinct land
18 management units operated by the Parks Service are adjacent
19 to the project boundary -- Gold Branch, Vickery Creek, and
20 Highland Ford represent a good bit of undeveloped area
21 providing high quality recreational opportunity for wildlife
22 viewing, hiking trails, and also access to the river.

23 I would like to take you on a real quick photo tour
24 for those of you that are unfamiliar with the area, or didn't
25 get to take a tour on the site visit of the other

1 recreational opportunities.

2 We will start at the upper end of the project at
3 Don White Memorial Park right under Georgia 400 operated by
4 the City of Roswell. This area provides of course parking,
5 some picnic areas, and a couple of public fishing docks.

6 Moving downstream to Riverside Park, also operated
7 by the City of Roswell and also Fulton County, provides
8 playgrounds and some other amenities. This trail right up
9 here is of course part of the Roswell Riverwalk that will go
10 down most of the west side of the project.

11 Moving downstream, Azalea Park, about 80 acres, a
12 public boat launch, a canoe rental facility, sheltered picnic
13 areas, and some other playgrounds and amenities.

14 Chattahoochee Nature Center of course where we are
15 now, environmental education facility partnering with local
16 schools to offer natural science curriculum. The Nature
17 Center provides an extensive boardwalk through wetland fringe
18 habitat for wildlife viewing opportunities.

19 Morgan Falls Park located outside the project
20 boundary, and well away and to the east of the project dam
21 includes some ball fields, a nine-hole golf course and
22 driving range, some other amenities.

23 The reason I include it in this presentation is
24 because of the proposed Great Park at Morgan Falls that is an
25 initiative of the Sandy Springs Conservancy. A master plan

1 for this park would be to incorporate a good bit of this area
2 and these amenities into a hub, a regional hub connecting
3 hiking trails, green space, and some other things.

4 One of the key points would be a pedestrian bridge
5 across the river just downstream of Morgan Falls Dam which is
6 pictured in the background.

7 Of course a final thing on the recreational topic
8 would be the boat ramp and parking area downstream of the dam
9 in this area. This is on property owned by Georgia Power
10 Company and operated by the Georgia Department of Natural
11 Resources.

12 Moving on to historical resources, Morgan Falls is
13 of course the oldest continuously operating generating plant
14 that Georgia Power has. A newspaper article at the turn of
15 the century mentioned that this site was located in the
16 furthest and most remote portions of Fulton County.
17 Certainly it will turn 100 years old in October of this year.

18 There are a number of historically-significant and
19 interesting facts about the construction of this facility,
20 and we do expect it to be eligible for the National Register
21 of Historic Places.

22 When we talk about cultural resources in the
23 context of Morgan Falls I'm primarily talking about the
24 occupation, the prehistoric occupation of the area by
25 American Indian tribes.

1 Courtenay mentioned an agreement between Georgia
2 Power Company and the City of Atlanta to raise the dam.
3 Prior to that construction which inundated new lands, Georgia
4 Power contracted an archeological study of the Morgan Falls
5 basin.

6 The primary target for that study was rock shelters
7 located along the river like you see here. Evidence was
8 found of American Indian occupation of pottery like you see
9 here, tools and weapons and some other artifacts.

10 Another interesting aspect of this project is
11 Hightower Trail, one of the best marked and well known Indian
12 trails running from central Georgia to northwest Georgia,
13 across the project about like you see here we have indicated
14 on some references, and this historical marker which you can
15 probably read out there is actually located right about here
16 at the entrance to the Cherokee Country Club.

17 This trail served as the unofficial boundary I
18 guess between the Cherokee Indians to the north and the Creek
19 Indians to the south.

20 And just a quick summary of the land and historical
21 resources, the majority of the land inside the project is
22 inundated and is held by flood rights with Georgia Power,
23 numerous and diverse recreational opportunities in the
24 project area. The dam and powerhouse we expect to be
25 eligible for the National Register, and the project area is

1 rich in historical resources, only one of which is the
2 occupation by American Indian tribes.

3 With that, I will turn it over to the next
4 presenter which would be Steve Layman to discuss
5 environmental resources.

6 MR. LAYMAN: My name is Steve Layman, I'm a Senior
7 Environmental Scientist and Fisheries Biologist with
8 GeoSyntec, and we are part of the Georgia Power team to
9 assist with the evaluation of environmental resources, and in
10 addition to the land resources that Scott has covered, these
11 are other resource areas of interest at the Morgan Falls
12 project, and I will touch on each of these briefly in the
13 following slides.

14 As many of you already know, the Chattahoochee
15 River is a well-studied river basin. It is part of a larger
16 Appalachian-Chattahoochee-Flint or ACF River Basin which
17 has been at the center of so much study the past two decades
18 regarding long-range water planning and water allocation.

19 As a result, abundant information already exists
20 for this basin for evaluating continued operation of the
21 Morgan Falls project, and these are some of the key sources
22 of existing information e have identified in the
23 preapplication document.

24 First, the Atlanta Regional Commission which
25 coordinates the water management system for the Chattahoochee

1 River and maintains a comprehensive data base of land use and
2 population data for a ten-county area;

3 The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning
4 District which covers a sixteen-county area has compiled a
5 vast amount of information in recently developing long-range
6 plans for water supply and conservation, storm water
7 management, and wastewater management;

8 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which completed
9 comprehensive environmental studies in the basin for water
10 allocation, preparing and synthesizing a lot of this in their
11 1998 draft DIS for water allocation in the ACF;

12 The Georgia Department of Natural Resources
13 Wildlife Resources Division has been conducting fishery
14 surveys and inventories in the Chattahoochee River both
15 upstream and downstream of the project for management of the
16 fisheries;

17 The Georgia Environmental Protection Division
18 collects, compiles, and models water quality data for the
19 Chattahoochee River;

20 The U.S. Geological Survey has been characterizing
21 water quality conditions in the ACF river basin as part of
22 the National Water Quality Assessment Program, or NOQA;

23 Of course the National Parks Service which manages
24 and administers the Chattahoochee River National Recreation
25 Area, and they have also been conducting recently baseline

1 studies of environmental resources within the recreation
2 area.

3 And there are various other sources as well, many
4 of which are summarized in the PAD, and certainly we are
5 interested in hearing today any others that you may be aware
6 of that we haven't covered. Some of them include watershed
7 assessments conducted on many of the tributary watersheds, as
8 well as data collected by other interested and active
9 organizations and stakeholders in the basin.

10 First to touch briefly on geology and soils, Morgan
11 Falls is located in the Piedmont Province, and the river
12 drains southwest to the border with Alabama, and to the Gulf
13 of Mexico.

14 The soils in the Piedmont tend to be deeply
15 weathered, many areas lack the original topsoil from past
16 agricultural activities, and Scott has mentioned today the
17 predominant land use of the project area is urban
18 residential, and with rapid urbanization there have been
19 changes in the flow characteristics of tributary streams due
20 to increased impervious area, and this in turn has increased
21 storm water runoff and associated erosion and sedimentation
22 upstream of the project, also effecting increases in
23 temperature during the summer.

24 As Courtenay described, Buford Dam reregulates flow
25 of the Chattahoochee River through the project area, it

1 controls about 76 percent of the drainage area upstream of
2 the project. The remaining 24 percent is from warm water
3 tributary inflow entering the river below Buford Dam.

4 Georgia Power operates Morgan Falls to maintain
5 stable Chattahoochee river flows below Buford Dam. As is
6 shown here, the project is located in a 48-mile segment that
7 extends from Buford Dam down to Peachtree Creek in the city
8 of Atlanta. Here is the project. I will refer to this reach
9 in some of the following slides.

10 Buford releases very widely as Courtenay pointed
11 out from the normal minimum flow of about 600 cfs up to
12 10,000 cfs at peaking flow.

13 What Morgan Falls does is it typically releases a
14 minimum flow in the range of 930 to 1,160 cfs. The minimum
15 flow releases from the project exceed 40 percent of the
16 average annual discharge year-round.

17 What this does is help to ensure that the 750 cfs
18 minimum flow target can be met just upstream of Peachtree
19 Creek.

20 Courtenay touched on this, but I want to get in a
21 little more detail about why this is so important and so
22 vital to the water quality in the Chattahoochee River.

23 First of all, the Chattahoochee River Basin
24 including Lake Lanier provides over 60 percent of the
25 drinking water supply in metropolitan Atlanta serves about

1 three million people in the metropolitan area.

2 In the area between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek
3 there are four major water intakes, two upstream of the
4 project which total about 193 million gallons per day
5 withdrawal, or close to 300 cfs withdrawal of water, and in
6 the downstream reach between Morgan Falls and Peachtree Creek
7 two additional intakes with withdrawal of another 223 million
8 gallons per day.

9 The Chattahoochee River also serves as the region's
10 primary receiving water for assimilating treated wastewater.
11 Several municipal wastewater discharges are located upstream
12 of the project. The Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility
13 discharges directly into the Morgan Falls impoundment around
14 the Willeo Creek area.

15 The majority of treated wastewater discharges in
16 the basin about 70 percent occur below the confluence of
17 Peachtree Creek over twelve miles downstream of the project.
18 These six largest facilities just downstream of Peachtree
19 Creek are returning about 344 mgd, or 530 cfs flow to the
20 river.

21 There are also combined sewer overflow or CSO
22 facilities that discharged into Peachtree Creek and is well
23 below Peachtree Creek.

24 So Morgan Falls operation ensures, or helps to
25 ensure that adequate flows for water supply and water quality

1 are maintained in the Chattahoochee River.

2 Note here the central location of the project
3 relative to the major water intakes in yellow, and the major
4 municipal wastewater discharges in red.

5 Incidentally, Georgia EPD compiles water quality
6 data for many of these sites, and we have presented in the
7 preapplication document water quality data for the water
8 intakes upstream and downstream of the project.

9 There are also of course numerous industrial
10 facilities in this area of the basin. They also benefit from
11 Georgia Power's operation of the project and ARC's water
12 management system.

13 Turning to water quality, Georgia EPD classifies
14 this 48-mile segment as drinking water, recreation, and
15 fishing, and in addition the Wildlife Resources Division
16 designates the 48-mile segment as secondary trout waters,
17 which means it's cold enough to maintain stocked trout year
18 round.

19 The 36-mile segment upstream of the Morgan Falls
20 dam, including the Morgan Falls impoundment, fully meets its
21 designated uses.

22 The 12-mile segment downstream extending to
23 Peachtree Creek partially supports its uses because of
24 elevated densities of fecal coliform and legacy PCB
25 concentrations in fish tissue. Both of these conditions are

1 attributed to storm water runoff from urban areas, and not to
2 operation of the Morgan Falls project.

3 The water quality of the project impoundment, or
4 Bull Sluice Lake, is largely influenced by the physical
5 characteristics of the impoundment. It is narrow and
6 shallow, and has flow characteristics very similar to a
7 river. Its hydraulic residence time which has been mentioned
8 is short, about a half day the average annual discharge, and
9 based on water quality measurements taken by Georgia Power
10 there is no vertical stratification of the lake which often
11 occurs in much larger bodies of water.

12 Georgia Power monitored water quality at the
13 project this past year at several locations. Four quarterly
14 or seasonal water quality monitoring stations in blue were
15 established within the project boundary.

16 At these stations vertical profiles were measured
17 of dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, conductivity,
18 transparency, and in addition at the downstream location near
19 the dam 22 analytical parameters were evaluated, including
20 metals and nutrients.

21 During the summer months beginning in July and
22 extending into the early fall Georgia Power also installed
23 continuous monitoring devices at the upstream and downstream
24 ends of the project, these hot pink locations, and these
25 monitored dissolved oxygen and temperature.

1 In addition, a third monitor on the lower end of
2 Big Creek, which is the largest warm-water trib to the
3 impoundment, also had a continuous temperature monitor on it.

4 These data, or many of these data were summarized
5 in the preapplication document.

6 There are abundant water quality data for the upper
7 Chattahoochee River basin. In addition to what Georgia Power
8 has been collecting, Georgia EPD has compiled data for the
9 intakes upstream and downstream of the project.

10 Certainly a lot of the water assessment, watershed
11 assessment data has gone into EPD's Chattahoochee River model
12 which is available.

13 We understand that the Wildlife Resources Division
14 may be collecting continuous temperature data for some of the
15 fisheries investigations on trout, and quite possibly some of
16 the data being collected by Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeepers
17 and the City of Roswell either in the impoundment or in Big
18 Creek may also be applicable to the project.

19 Certainly one of the most unique features of the
20 Chattahoochee River is its trout fishery. It's one of the
21 southernmost trout fisheries in the U.S., certainly one of
22 the largest in an urban area.

23 The Wildlife Resources Division and the National
24 Parks Service managed the upstream and downstream segments of
25 the Chattahoochee differently to vary the angling

1 opportunities. I'll touch on those in a minute.

2 I do want to say that we understand that water
3 temperature is of concern to the Wildlife Resources Division
4 relative to maintaining that cold temperature regime for
5 trout, and we understand the storm water runoff from
6 urbanizing watersheds, and in more recent years has
7 contributed to higher summer maximum temperatures in the
8 downstream reach, especially during low flow periods, and
9 these higher temperatures at times can be detrimental to the
10 maintenance of trout.

11 The Chattahoochee River offers diverse fishing
12 opportunities, and I would like to summarize the differences
13 between the upstream and downstream reaches.

14 The upstream reach that is upstream of the Morgan
15 Falls project is highly influenced by Buford Dam operation,
16 the water temperature is cold, the daily fluctuations can be
17 dramatic, and native warm water fish diversity is generally
18 depressed in that reach.

19 It is managed intensively for rainbow and brown
20 trout, it's a put-and-take fishery that is stocked trout,
21 mostly 9-inch size trout and larger, and up to several
22 hundred thousand trout a year have been stocked into that
23 reach.

24 There is no warm water species management per se in
25 the upper reach. This is a brown trout.

1 In the downstream reach it is a wider and warmer
2 reach of river, and for that reason water level fluctuations
3 tend to be less dramatic, more moderate. And also the warmer
4 temperatures support a greater diversity and abundance of
5 native warm water species of fish.

6 This area is also managed as a trout fishery, put-
7 grow-and-take. That is they have stocked fingerling brown
8 and rainbow trout in the past, and they also have a delayed
9 harvest fishing program which involves at catch-and-release
10 program for larger trout stocked into the reach.

11 Because of the warmer water conditions in the lower
12 reach, the Wildlife Resources Division and the Parks Service
13 have been cooperating on restoring shoal bass. This is a
14 shoal bass. It's a black bass species, it's native to the
15 ACS river basin, and also there has been a limited striped
16 bass fishery that now has developed in the tailwater reach
17 because of striped bass swimming upstream from West Point
18 Lake about 77 miles downstream of the project.

19 The Morgan Falls impoundment supports both warm
20 water and cool water fisheries. Most fishing below Roswell
21 Road is for warm water species, yellow perch, sunfish, large
22 mouth bass, other species, but trout also occur in the lake
23 other species of chain pickerel, catfish.

24 There is an exotic species that's in the area in
25 ponds here at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. There is the

1 Asian rice eel. Apparently hobbyists introduced them from an
2 aquarium in the early '90s, and they have reproduced in the
3 ponds. There is no evidence they are in the lake here yet,
4 or in the river, but I know that's of concern to the resource
5 agencies.

6 In summary, the fisheries data that are available
7 for the project are available through Wildlife Resources
8 Division fishery management studies and reports, National
9 Park Service baseline studies, we understand they have an
10 ongoing mussel survey and instream flow study that should be
11 informative for this relicensing.

12 We understand that a fish survey is planned for the
13 recreation area. Back int '80s the Corps completed an
14 instream flow study that looked at trout habitat, angling,
15 recreational boating.

16 There's benthic macro invertebrate that's being
17 collected by local fly fishers and stakeholders, and these
18 are some of the data that may be applicable to Morgan Falls.

19 The Chattahoochee River corridor supports wildlife
20 botanical resources representative of the Piedmont, the
21 predominant regional cover here is secondary oak, pine
22 forest. The Park Service has completed vascular plant
23 surveys of the three land units adjacent to the project, Gold
24 Branch, Vickery Creek, and Island Ford.

25 Wildlife in this area is typical for a suburban

1 area, and if you have been out there today you probably see a
2 lot of geese out on the water.

3 The vegetated shorelines around the project protect
4 wetlands, riparian, and literal habitats, and these vegetated
5 shorelines are protected and promoted through the
6 Metropolitan River Protection Act, as well as the National
7 Park Service management of the river corridor.

8 The wetlands occur mainly in the lower half of the
9 impoundment. As you're driving on Willeo Road around the
10 Nature Center you see many of those from the road.

11 We understand the Park Service is also conducting
12 baseline inventories in the recreation area regarding wetland
13 and aquatic plants, as well as amphibians and reptiles.

14 Finally in regard to rare, threatened, and
15 endangered species, because the project is located in such a
16 heavily urbanized area the potential for occurrence of
17 federally-protected species tends to be more limited here.

18 Four federally-protected species historically
19 occurred in the two-county Fulton-Cobb project vicinity. The
20 Park Service is presently conducting a mussel survey in the
21 recreation area that includes the reach below Morgan Falls.

22 And in your preapplication document it identifies
23 also state protected species and species of concern that
24 Georgia Power will address during the relicensing process.

25 And to summarize for the environmental resources

1 the project releases ensure adequate river flows for water
2 supply needs and water quality requirements. The river
3 provides diverse fishing opportunities for trout and warm
4 water species, the vegetated shorelines protect the wetland,
5 riparian, and literal habitats, there are no federally-
6 protected species currently known in the project area with
7 one exception. There are captive bald eagles here at the
8 Chattahoochee Nature Center, I believe.

9 And we believe abundant information already exists
10 for evaluating many of the resource impacts associated with
11 continued project operation.

12
13 That's all I have.

14 MS. HUTZEL: Thank you everyone from Georgia Power.

15 Now we are going to go into the preliminary
16 information needs identified by us.

17 In Section 4.2 of the scoping document we listed
18 environmental issues and concerns that we plan to analyze in
19 our EA.

20 It's not intended to be exhaustive or final, but
21 it's an initial listing of what we have identified that could
22 be potentially significant.

23 And for ease we're going to go over these briefly,
24 and please flip to your scoping document if you want to
25 follow along.

1 For geology and soils we are going to analyze the
2 effects of the continued project operation on shoreline
3 erosion, for water quality and water quantity, the effects of
4 the continued project operations on water quality,
5 temperature and dissolved oxygen, the effects of the project
6 operations on water quality in conjunction with the
7 operations of upstream water projects, i.e. the Buford Dam,
8 and the existing water withdrawals from other sources along
9 the river.

10 For aquatic resources, we propose to analyze the
11 effects of the project operations on entrainment and
12 impingement on fish, on warm water fish populations and
13 native mussels, and on the put-grow-and-take trout fishery in
14 the Chattahoochee River, and the effects of the project
15 operations on enhancing aquatic habitat in conjunction with
16 the flow releases from Buford Dam.

17 For terrestrial resources, we plan to analyze the
18 effects on vegetation and wildlife resources, and on the
19 maintenance on wetlands and riparian zones within the
20 project area.

21 For recreation, determine the adequacy of existing
22 public access in recreation facilities in the project
23 boundary to meet current and future demands, and the effects
24 of the continued project operations on recreational
25 opportunities within the project area.

1 For land use and aesthetics, the continued
2 operation on land use and aesthetic resources within the
3 project area.

4 For cultural resources we plan to analyze the
5 effects of the proposed action and alternatives on the
6 properties that are included in or eligible for the National
7 Register of Historic Places.

8 And finally for developmental resources, any
9 effects on proposed and any alternative environmental
10 protection enhancement measures on project economics.

11 These are what we have proposed in the scoping
12 document.

13 Now, Georgia Power -- this in Section 4.3 of your
14 scoping document -- Georgia Power had identified in their PAD
15 potential studies that they thought may be needed for the
16 Morgan Falls hydroelectric project, and I will briefly go
17 over these too.

18 Under geology and soils they had proposed to
19 conduct a shoreline reconnaissance to evaluate erosion within
20 the project boundary, and prepare a study report on
21 incorporating these findings.

22 On other issues like water quality they propose
23 conducting quarterly reservoir water quality monitoring and
24 continuous dissolved oxygen and temperature monitoring of the
25 project inflows and project discharge during summer periods

1 of expected low dissolved oxygen, and to prepare a study
2 based on that information.

3 They propose to support ongoing fisheries surveys
4 being conducted by resource agencies to evaluate the
5 potential of the Asian rice eel, and prepare a study report
6 incorporating the findings, and to provide a literature-based
7 analysis of fish and aquatic resources, including fish
8 entrainment and fish passage.

9 And they also propose to conduct a wildlife
10 botanical rare, threatened, endangered species survey and a
11 wetlands, riparian, and littoral habitat field recon survey,
12 and prepare a study report incorporating these survey
13 findings.

14 They intend to prepare a recreation and land use
15 study report providing a literature-based analysis of
16 existing recreation use, and prepare an aesthetics resource
17 report incorporating site visit photos and a description of
18 representative viewsheds.

19 For cultural resources they intend to prepare an
20 archeological study report providing a literature-based
21 analysis of known historic properties, including properties
22 that may be of interest to Indian tribes potentially affected
23 by this project.

24 And they plan also for cultural resources to
25 conduct an inspection of the project dam and powerhouse,

1 Also we want to go over the issues in the scoping
2 document during this open forum, we want you to tell us if we
3 have identified all the issues, the issues we've listed in
4 the scoping document, if they have all been identified, or if
5 there are any issues that do not need to be analyzed in the
6 EA.

7 As I said before, this process is very front-
8 loaded. If there's any studies that you want done, now is
9 the time to start discussing them.

10 Everything, the comments on the scoping document,
11 the comments on the PAD, and the study request need to be
12 filed with FERC, you have to have them at our office by May
13 14th, 2004 for them to be considered. It is very important
14 that if you have any comments, concerns, information that we
15 haven't identified on a study request, you have to have it in
16 by May 14th, 2004.

17 Before we begin just an open forum, there are
18 approximately eleven people who wanted to speak, and I have
19 them listed here.

20 Jeff Duncan.

21 MR. DUNCAN: I don't have anything.

22 MS. HUTZEL: You don't plan to comment, okay.

23 Alice Palmer, Jim Long.

24 MR. LONG: I just checked that box in case.

25 MS. HUTZEL: Okay.

1 Chris Martin, Sue Cielinski. You don't plan to
2 have a comment?

3 How about we just start with Alice Palmer, and
4 we'll go from there.

5 MS. PALMER: I'm Alice Palmer with the U.S. Fish
6 and Wildlife Service out of our Athens, Georgia ES Office.
7 And I will be providing written comments as well, but I just
8 had one question and one comment.

9 For our comment, in the scoping document it states
10 that you will no analyze dam decommissioning as an
11 alternative.

12 For an adequate NEPA analysis, the full range of
13 reasonable should be considered, ranging from no action to
14 full removal.

15 There can be multiple benefits to removal,
16 including geomorphological benefits such as sediment
17 transport and woody debris transport, and a host of
18 biological benefits associated with the connectivity of
19 aquatic habitats such as increasing genetic exchange linking
20 upstream productive shoal areas to the downstream aquatic
21 community, reversing habitat fragmentation, an issue that is
22 currently impacting a state-listed fish species of this
23 project.

24 Therefore, we feel that dam decommissioning should
25 be included in the full range of alternatives considered in

1 this NEPA process.

2 We understand that we need to protect our drinking
3 water supply and downstream water quality. Therefore, this
4 alternative should address the flow scenario that would
5 result from decommissioning, and any resulting effects on
6 water intakes that might occur.

7 And I just had a question on the economic analysis.
8 I think in the scoping document it said that there would be
9 an analysis done, and we just wondered what would be involved
10 with that.

11 MS. MILES: I will answer the economic analysis to
12 the best of my ability.

13 We do two things when we look at economics. One is
14 to look at the cost of the individual measures in relation to
15 the benefit of that measure. Many times it's easy to put a
16 dollar value on the actual cost if it's a lost amount of
17 generation or some other cost to build some structure. And
18 then we'll look at in a qualitative way what are the benefits
19 to the resource as a result of that cost.

20 So that's part of what goes into our balancing when
21 we look at the various resources on both the environmental
22 side and the developmental size of the equation.

23 The other economic analysis we do has to do with
24 what is the economic feasibility of continuing to operate the
25 project under various alternatives, as it's proposed, as it

1 may be with any mandatory conditions, or with any staff
2 additional recommendations.

3 That is a current cost analysis. It often may not
4 be exactly what the actual cost would be to the licensee to
5 operate the project. We leave that actual decision on the
6 value of the project in an economic way to a licensee to
7 determine, make a determination.

8 Sometimes our economic analysis may even come out
9 that it looks like because we do a current cost analysis
10 without taking into consideration inflation or many other
11 considerations that are very important to a hydro project.

12 It may be our analysis could show a negative, that
13 there aren't any benefits where it could be very valuable
14 still for the licensee.

15 MS. HUTZEL: Dan Kinser.

16 MR. KINSER: I don't have anything.

17 MS. HUTZEL: Skelly Holmbeck-Pelham.

18 MS. HOLMBECK-PELHAM: I'm Skelly with the Upper
19 Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

20 I think your microphones were set up for the
21 basketball team. It makes me feel short.

22 My first request to FERC is that given the
23 importance of this comment period in this new ILP we have
24 been told again and again in the past recently that this
25 comment period is so critical, so my first comment or request

1 is that this comment period be extended to 120 days to give
2 entities that don't have the resources that you all have more
3 time to comment.

4 In the scoping document there's a discussion about
5 doing a literature study on erosion and sedimentation, and we
6 would request that there be an actual field study done on
7 sedimentation, and mud flat formation, and wetland formation
8 in Morgan Falls because of the importance of Morgan Falls in
9 providing rereg, and because of its critical importance as a
10 recreational amenity both above the dam and below the dam we
11 would like to see an actual field study where someone goes
12 out in the field and takes a look at where mud flats are
13 forming, is this a wetland or is it just a mud flat abutting
14 Piedmont Forest.

15 We would also like to see an analysis of some
16 dredging options. There isn't really a understanding right
17 now about sedimentation and what we could do about it, what
18 are the dredging options, how much would it cost, how would
19 it affect the operations, how would it affect temperature
20 which is a big issue for our fisheries, how would it affect
21 recreational opportunities. So we would like to see that.

22 We would also like to see -- the Park Service is
23 doing an in-stream flow study specifically designed to allow
24 them to comment on tristate water issues.

25 We would like to see an in-stream flow study done

1 that focuses on Morgan Falls dam and its effects.

2 And that's it. Thank you very much to FERC for
3 organizing this, and to Georgia Power for all their
4 hospitality today.

5 You're looking at me in a questioning way. Do I
6 need to make something more clear?

7 MS. MILES: No. I was just thinking of your first
8 comment on extending the comment period, and I wanted to say
9 something just to everyone on this.

10 This is the first of the ILPs that we have done.
11 Some of you may have been involved in working out this
12 process, and we had over about a year's period a group of
13 representatives and people who were interested in the hydro
14 licensing process spent a lot of time trying to figure out a
15 way to do it better than we have been doing it.

16 And what came out of that, which was not just
17 imposing it folks, but was quite a collaborative effort of
18 this is a process that we think will work for all
19 stakeholders to the best of our ability knowing that probably
20 we need a little bit of flexibility here and there.

21 But I guess what I would like to say is I hope that
22 you will try your hardest to help us work within these time
23 frames that have been set up in the beginning to see if we
24 can make it work.

25 The idea here is to try to reduce all of the time

1 and effort that we put into this licensing process, which has
2 become quite an intensive process, and at the same time take
3 a good hard look at what the effect of the project is, what
4 the issues are, what studies need to be done.

5 And sometimes I think we just expand to fit the
6 space, and maybe it's possible to -- it is my optimistic view
7 of the world -- maybe it's possible to really concentrate
8 hard during this very first part, and then I think it's going
9 to be easier.

10 And we recognize it is time intensive in the
11 beginning, and I guess we just hope that you'll be able to
12 rally the resources to be able to put them in as best you can
13 during this early time frame.

14 So I appreciate your comment.

15 MR. MCKITRICK: Ron McKitrick with FERC.

16 Just as a point to help me out, one of the first
17 things you said was either to clarify, if I'm on the mark,
18 but maybe in some of your written comments -- but I think the
19 first thing you mentioned, or one of the first things was
20 dealing with a field study.

21 We know the sediment-erosion type of situation
22 that's around here, but I picked up that it was to help
23 identify wetland areas or something like that, and the think
24 that -- I mean I think we know where wetlands are, and there
25 may be other ways of doing that.

1 If that's the purpose of the study just to identify
2 those wetlands, then that's one thing. But then if there's
3 some outcome that you want from that study, that's what
4 really helps justify that study. What are we going to do
5 with that information?

6 MS. HOLMBECK-PELHAM: That's a good question. What
7 I was trying to state is that because there has been so much
8 sedimentation in Bull Sluice Lake and we've really seen a
9 change over the years, we have seen mud flats form, we have
10 seen wetlands form, the question is how does that affect the
11 ability of the project to provide reregulation, how does that
12 affect the project as a recreational resource in Bull Sluice
13 Lake?

14 There are stories, riverkeepers with stories about
15 people who used to water ski on that lake, and if you've been
16 out there recently you know you cannot do that today.

17 So the question is how does the sedimentation in
18 the lake affect the project's ability to rereg, how does it
19 affect the project as a recreational amenity in Bull Sluice
20 Lake, and also below, because there are concerns about
21 temperature and having that real shallow lake up there that
22 there can be slugs of warm water that come out and affect the
23 fisheries below.

24 And then another part of that could also be
25 capacity of the project for hydropower.

1 And so the idea of actually going out -- in the
2 scoping document it says to do a literature study, but there
3 just isn't a way unless someone gets out in the field and
4 does some transacts and does a study and says "All right,
5 here we have accretion here, this is what's happening here"
6 it's real hard I think to get a sense of what's really
7 happening and, you know, doing it from an aerial photograph
8 point of view does have considerable error associated with
9 it.

10 Did that clarify?

11 MR. McKITRICK: Yes.

12 MS. HOLMBECK-PELHAM: Okay.

13 MR. PAWLOWSKI: My name is Mark Pawlowski, and I'm
14 not sure if you were the one that asked the question
15 regarding in-stream close study, but my question is do we
16 know when the National Parks Service will close study?

17 MS. HOLMBECK-PELHAM: I think in a year.

18 MR. PAWLOWSKI: In about a year?

19 VOICE: (Inaudible.)

20 MS. MILES: I think what he said is it may be in a
21 year, or it may take longer, and maybe there's some way to
22 provide efficiency of finances spent and for Georgia Power to
23 fund the National Parks Service to extend that study to be
24 more specific to Morgan Falls. Once you get people in the
25 field, it's cheaper to keep them out there a little bit

1 longer.

2 MR. PAWLOWSKI: My next question, and perhaps
3 you're not the best person to answer that, but I would be
4 curious as to -- my understanding is that the Park Service's
5 in-stream close study is more geared to the Appalachiicola-
6 Chattahoochee-Flint River Compact, and --

7 MR. EK: I'll address that.

8 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Okay. And then to move into that I
9 would like to know how is it addressing that that may be
10 different from how it's needed to address operations at
11 Morgan Falls, and I would like to get some idea of what
12 distinguishes the two situations.

13 MR. EK: I'm a little hoarse here, but I should be
14 able to be understood. The study that is being done --

15 MR. PAWLOWSKI: If you could state your name.

16 MR. EK: I'm David Ek, I'm Chief of Science and
17 Resource Management at Chattahoochee River National
18 Recreation Area.

19 The study that's being done is targeting the whole
20 park area, the 48-mile section looking at limited habitats,
21 only limited habitats along the river, not all habitat areas,
22 primarily like shoal areas and that type of habitat is some
23 of the emphasis area.

24 And so in your project area there's not a lot of
25 shoal habitat, so the study that we're doing even though it

1 may be useful to you, it's not going to answer the questions
2 that I feel that need for study, so don't count on ours as
3 answering the questions that you need for your project.

4 Maybe an expansion of that, or an addition to it to
5 include additional habitats, or additional transects, or
6 other components in it to add, to supplement it would be
7 helpful, but it's not -- I don't believe it would be
8 appropriate for the habitat in the Bull Sluice Lake area.

9 MR. PAWLOWSKI: What particular methodology are you
10 using?

11 MR. EK: Well, I'll let Jim Long -- he wanted to
12 speak anyhow --

13 MR. LONG: I'm Jim Long, I'm also with the National
14 Park Service.

15 We did not have the ability to do a complete IFIM,
16 incremental flow in-stream methodology, so it was targeted
17 toward shoal habitats.

18 It is using the P-hab Sim computer program to
19 generate those data, but it's looking only at a couple
20 different flows out of Buford, and it's only looking at a
21 limited number of habitats.

22 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Is there a study, sort of a study
23 plan or a contract that is available --

24 MR. LONG: We contracted with the USGS, they were
25 supposed to be working on it last year, and that's the year

1 when we got all of our flows back, and we were looking at
2 shallow water habitats, so they weren't able to do the work
3 last year. So we're just now beginning to get in the field.

4 MR. PAWLOWSKI: So the field work hasn't --

5 MR. LONG: The field work is just beginning.

6 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Just beginning.

7 Is it possible to get the study plan so that we
8 could see what's -- can that be provided during the scoping
9 comment, or can we be directed as to where we can obtain it?

10 MR. LONG: We can either give you a copy of it, or
11 we can direct you to the principal investigators at USGS,
12 whichever you're most comfortable with.

13 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Well, the document in hand is
14 better than the name in the bush.

15 MR. LONG: I see David making a note.

16 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Thank you.

17 MR. LONG: Is that it?

18 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Yeah.

19 MR. LONG: Thanks for putting me on the spot.

20 MR. PAWLOWSKI: That's okay.

21 MS. HUTZEL: Sam Corwin.

22 MR. CORWIN: My name is Sam Corwin, I'm with the
23 DeKalb County Public Works, Water and Sewer Department.

24 And before I get into our position on Georgia
25 Power's request to continue to operate Morgan Falls, I would

1 like to give you a little background information on our water
2 system, our current projects, and our near-term plans.

3 DeKalb County is the second most populated county
4 with an estimated population of 700,000. Of this number, we
5 provide water to approximately 660,000 people.

6 We are currently permitted to withdraw 140 million
7 gallons per day from the Chattahoochee, and to treat 128
8 million gallons a day.

9 We are also currently constructing a new water
10 plant at a cost of \$154 million. This plant will have a
11 capacity of 150 million gallons per day, and will be easily
12 expandable to 200 million gallons per day.

13 Additionally, we are expanding our on-site raw
14 water reservoir capacity from 235 million gallons to 1
15 billion gallons of raw water.

16 Our new plant should be on line in September of
17 next year, and our reservoir project will be completed by the
18 end of this year.

19 We are also in the process of designing a new raw
20 water pump station and a 96-inch transmission which will run
21 approximately 2.4 miles from the Chattahoochee River to our
22 on-site raw water reservoir. Construction of this project
23 should begin next year.

24 We believe that DeKalb County will benefit from the
25 continued operation of Morgan Falls dam for the following

1 reasons:

2 First, DeKalb County generates a significant amount
3 of wastewater which is treated by the City of Atlanta and
4 discharged downstream at Peachtree Creek.

5 The continued operation of Morgan Falls is
6 essential for reregulating Buford Dam releases to provide a
7 more steady and sufficient flow to assimilate this treated
8 wastewater discharge.

9 Second, if the current operation of Morgan Falls is
10 not continued, more nonpeak releases that we required from
11 Buford Dam to maintain water quality at Peachtree Creek.

12 This would require the purchase of additional
13 storage in Lake Lanier. The cost of this purchase would
14 eventually have to be passed on to our customers.

15 Lastly, we are committed to a regional approach for
16 ensuring both water supply and quality for the metropolitan
17 Atlanta area.

18 We believe ARC water management system provides the
19 most efficient water management system practicable for
20 providing water supply and water quality releases from Morgan
21 Falls dam.

22 We support Georgia Power's proposal to continue
23 operating the Morgan Falls project according to the
24 provisions contained in the existing statement, the policy
25 between Georgia Power and ARC.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. HUTZEL: Thank you.

3 Jim Parsons.

4 MR. PARSONS: I am Jim Parsons with the Cobb
5 County-Marietta Water Authority.

6 The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority is a
7 political subdivision of the State of Georgia, is a regional
8 water wholesaler with fourteen customers that serve over
9 750,000 Georgia citizens.

10 The Water Authority withdraws water from both ACT,
11 Lake Alatoona, and the ACF, Chattahoochee River Basins, which
12 enables the authority to provide interbase and balance to
13 meet the needs of our region.

14 The current manner in which Morgan Falls is
15 operated allows efficiency and conservation for the volume of
16 water released from Buford Dam to meet metro Atlanta water
17 supply needs, while providing water quality protection.

18 The CCMWA supports the conjunctive use of power
19 generation, domestic water supply, and wastewater
20 assimilation as provided by the current operation of Morgan
21 Falls, and strongly endorses the continuation of the project
22 as currently operated for the benefits provided the citizens
23 of Georgia and the Southeastern United States.

24 And we have got information on our operation also
25 which is in our written comments. These comments are from A.

1 Roy Fowler, the general manager of the authority.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. HUTZEL: Thank you.

4 Pat Stevens.

5 MS. STEVENS: I am Pat Stevens, I'm with the
6 Atlanta Regional Commission.

7 The Atlanta Regional Commission is the metropolitan
8 planning agency that covers the ten-county metropolitan area.
9 The population of that area is about 4 million people.

10 Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River system
11 supplies drinking water to over 3 million people in this
12 metropolitan area.

13 The water supply intakes on the river supply nearly
14 60 percent of that need. There are intakes both upstream and
15 downstream of Morgan Falls.

16 The limited storage at Morgan Falls is important to
17 reregulating or smoothing the peak releases from Buford Dam
18 during off-peak periods, and this flow attenuation is very
19 important to ensuring that flows are maintained to meet
20 metropolitan's water supply needs and some water quality
21 requirements that are imposed by the State downstream.

22 Given the overall importance of maintaining water
23 supply and water quality flows in the river, and the
24 importance of maintaining this water supply for the
25 metropolitan Atlanta area.

1 The limited storage capacity in Morgan Falls is
2 very important to the metro area, and it is essential that
3 the Morgan Falls project continues to operate in its current
4 mode for water supply and water quality, and I would hope
5 that you would take that into consideration strongly in any
6 of the studies that you do as far as this project.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. HUTZEL: Thank you. Patty Durand of the Sandy
9 Springs Conservancy.

10 VOICE: I think she just left.

11 MS. HUTZEL: She just left, okay. A.J.
12 Stockslager.

13 MR. STOCKSLAGER: I am Jim Stockslager, and I am
14 President of the Huntcliff Homes Association.

15 And looking at this very fine colored map you all
16 put out it appears to me that we are more than 50 percent of
17 the eastern border of the impoundment. We basically go from,
18 if you'll look at your map from Sullivan Creek all the way
19 around, and own all the land on the river -- individual
20 homeowners do, not me -- almost up to Roswell Road. We are
21 short of Roswell Road a little bit.

22 Our main concern is we want the dam to be
23 relicensed, but our main concerns are silt, and I was very
24 interested in the comment that they're going to do a study on
25 stopping the erosion, because the ups and downs of Lake

1 Lanier and the ups and downs of heavy rains devastate our
2 land.

3 We have several buildings that were built on the
4 flood plain back in 1967, '8 and '9. We rebuilt the swimming
5 pool and the country club, the club down there on the river,
6 and raised them all above the hundred-year curve, but the
7 stable which was there since I believe 1968 is on the flood
8 plain, and so we have a horrendous condition that occurred in
9 the big flood of the spring of last year when Lake Lanier was
10 generating at full amount, and then we had three inches of
11 rain, and we got caught with the twelve-hour delay period,
12 and it ended up Big Creek let loose, and we were flooded and
13 had to take horses out.

14 That's all our concern.

15 MS. HUTZEL: Okay. Sally Mills.

16 MS. MILLS: Sally Mills here for the City of
17 Atlanta. We certainly appreciate the opportunity.

18 Atlanta supplies water to a regional population of
19 over 1 million located in a 650-square-mile service area.
20 The water system serves more than 148,000 active residential,
21 industrial, commercial, government, and wholesale accounts
22 with an average water demand of 120 million gallons per day.

23 The service area covers the cities of Atlanta,
24 Fairburn, Union City, Hapeville, and the counties of Fulton,
25 Clayton, and Fayette.

1 The city has provided drinking water for more than
2 a century since construction of an artesian well at Five
3 Points in 1875, and installation of the intake on the
4 Chattahoochee which became operational in 1895.

5 Atlanta has developed around the headwaters of the
6 Chattahoochee which is one of the smallest river basins
7 serving a major population in the country.

8 The wild water source for the water system is the
9 Chattahoochee River, and Atlanta depends exclusively on the
10 Chattahoochee River to supply water to its residents and its
11 regional customers.

12 Atlanta owns and operates three water treatment
13 complexes that have a combined permitted capacity of 246
14 million gallons per day, and a firm pumping capacity of 475
15 million gallons daily.

16 In 1960 the City of Atlanta and Georgia Power
17 redeveloped the Morgan Falls dam to increase reservoir
18 capacity. Atlanta contributed to the cost of installation of
19 gates on the dam to provide additional reservoir storage for
20 retiming and reregulating the daily flows from Buford Dam.

21 Increased storage capacity protects Atlanta's
22 ability to manage its water supply during drought or
23 emergency conditions.

24 Morgan Falls is a reregulation dam that's operated
25 to dampen the peak releases from Buford Dam during off-peak

1 periods. It equalizes the flows at the city's water intake,
2 and protects the intake from sediment during drought and low
3 flow conditions.

4 The City of Atlanta supports the relicensing of
5 Morgan Falls dam and the operation of Morgan Falls dam by
6 Georgia Power in the same manner that it is currently
7 operated to maintain water supply and downstream water
8 quality.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. HUTZEL: Was there anyone else who had a
11 comment? Can you please go to the microphone. '

12 MR. CHRIS MARTIN: My name is Chris Martin, and I
13 work with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. I was
14 on one of the earlier check lists when everybody else started
15 bailing out on comment.

16 MS. HUTZEL: Oh. Sorry about that.

17 MR. CHRIS MARTIN: I'm really not here to comment.
18 We will be doing that in writing before May 14th.

19 However, I do have a concern on the process, and
20 I'm a fisheries biologist, a field biologist, and one of the
21 concerns is the timing or the length of time allowed for
22 studies.

23 A one-year period is very short, and it's an
24 optimistic time period. When you go out and do field studies
25 you want to catch a variety of climatic conditions and

1 development, and also in the fish populations you can't
2 expect the same to be continuing from year to year.

3 Water fall, rainfall varies from year to year as we
4 well know. We went from drought to a lot of rain last year,
5 and we seem to be back in the drought period again.

6 Sunlight patterns differ, which affects water
7 warming, which is a critical issue in the Chattahoochee
8 River.

9 And also the operations of Buford Dam are right now
10 changing. Two of their generators are down for refurbishing.
11 One is on line right now, and the other two will be coming on
12 line probably around the first of the year, and that will
13 greatly impact the water flow conditions in the river, and
14 also water temperature conditions.

15 So we are in a period of flux, and to ask for a
16 study time line of one year is a bit concerning to us, and we
17 want to know what level of flexibility is there in this study
18 time line in order to keep everything clicking along like
19 you've got it prescribed in the ILP.

20 MS. HUTZEL: There is flexibility. Right now
21 Georgia Power has proposed as you said one year. However, in
22 the ILP we have built in two years of study if they're
23 necessary.

24 So if the first year isn't sufficient -- and there
25 are several criteria by which we have to determine if the

1 second year is needed -- I don't have the regulation in front
2 of me, but it's Regulation 5.15 of the ILP.

3 There was on the back a colored flow chart of the
4 integrating licensing process. It would have been under Box
5 15, second studies if needed and a study review. So there is
6 flexibility. If the first studies aren't adequate, there is
7 flexibility for a second study.

8 But like you said currently right now Georgia Power
9 has proposed one study. If once that year study is done
10 something is not adequate, something is missing there is
11 opportunity for you or any other stakeholder to say we think
12 we need a second study, and these are the reasons why.

13 MR. CHRIS MARTIN: So that would come as a comment
14 later on. Could it be incorporated into our original study
15 design request?

16 MS. HUTZEL: Yes, it can be incorporated when you
17 file your study request if you do incorporate it into the
18 original one. Now is the time.

19 If there's information that you think is lacking
20 and you think one year isn't enough, then you can give us the
21 reasons why. It would be optimal to do it now. Later on it
22 can also be done. There are certain criteria you have to
23 meet. But, yes, you could propose that now.

24 MR. CHRIS MARTIN: Okay. The second question is on
25 the specificity required in the study designs. We have

1 questions as to how detailed we need to get, or does being
2 very specific in our goals and objectives for the study, is
3 that adequate in order to come up with a study design later
4 that we could review?

5 MS. HUTZEL: Let us confer for a second.

6 (Pause.)

7 MR. PAWLOWSKI: As with any study design, the more
8 specificity that you can supply the more focused the study
9 can be, so we would be very interested in your management
10 objectives and resource goals to the extent that you can be
11 specific.

12 You know, I don't think anybody is expecting down
13 to the exact number of fish we would like to see per acre of
14 habitat, but what the management objectives are, how you
15 implement those management objectives. If you have
16 particular study design criteria that you as a State use that
17 you believe are adequate for your management purposes, you
18 know, the more specificity the more focused the study can be.

19 And so I would urge you to be as specific as you
20 possibly can be, but recognizing that there does need to be
21 some kind of flexibility in that.

22 Does that sort of answer your question?

23 MR. CHRIS MARTIN: Sorta kinda.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. CHRIS MARTIN: And the last is related to cost.

1 As you know, you have already heard a concern about
2 the time crunch for us to review the documents and kind of
3 gather our thoughts and then respond in a meaningful manner
4 to FERC and also to Georgia Power, and we are kind of feeling
5 a little bit of a hand in the back, and we view this as an
6 accelerated process, and hopefully that's going to be good
7 for all concerned.

8 But do we need to include costs? I mean study
9 design greatly affects costs, who does the study greatly
10 affects costs as well.

11 MR. PAWLOWSKI: I think the idea in cost is to
12 minimize the potential cost, so when addressing a study if
13 Georgia Power has proposed one type of study that comes in at
14 a certain cost level, we would be interested if there is an
15 alternative type study that can come in at a certain cost
16 level, and what the differential is between the two.

17 The idea is we're trying to make relicensing less
18 burdensome financially for all those concerned, so we're
19 trying to keep to a tight time schedule because time
20 translates into money, and to choose least-cost alternatives
21 when it comes to designing studies and the types of studies
22 that will be done, with the idea and with the concern that we
23 are really interested in answering the effects of the project
24 operations on the resources of concern. So I don't think
25 it's meant to be the study will be \$150,000.

1 MS. MOLLOY: I just wanted to add something. This
2 is Liz Molloy from FERC.

3 One idea is that if you have particular ideas in
4 mind you should certainly share them if you're looking for
5 something. In identifying your goals, your objectives, your
6 resource management things you're identifying what you're
7 looking, you know, what you're operating under, and you need
8 to sort of share what you're looking for.

9 And if any kind of study will work for that, that's
10 fine, but if you're looking for a certain level of effort and
11 you can explain why that level of effort is necessary versus
12 something else, that helps in looking at the different
13 options.

14 And maybe there will be a way that isn't proposed
15 by you or the licensee, but with the goals and objectives of
16 the resource management with sort of the level you're looking
17 for with what they're looking at and offering we can get a
18 sense maybe of what would work for everyone.

19 The more information you can give on that, though,
20 the easier that's going to be to come to that answer.

21 Oh, one last thing.

22 When you do put in a study
23 request, please be sure to look at the study criteria that
24 are listed, and to just tick down each one of those, because
25 it's very important to us that you consider them and explain

1 to us what your consideration is for each of those criteria
2 that's listed.

3 MR. CHRIS MARTIN: In closing, I would like to
4 thank the FERC and Georgia Power for your openness and your
5 willingness to involve us in this process.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. GEORGE MARTIN: This is George Martin. I would
8 just like to respond briefly to Chris's comments in regard to
9 developing studies, the level of detail, the resource
10 management goals and objectives, and the costs, and all of
11 those things.

12 Georgia Power would appreciate the opportunity to
13 work with you throughout that process such that we can both
14 understand what your resource management goals and objectives
15 are, and get to the appropriate level of study design and
16 study detail, while keeping costs in mind.

17 MS. HUTZEL: Does anyone else have a prepared
18 statement? Ron does.

19 MR. McKITRICK: Just a couple of things that would
20 overall help me when you're -- it sounds like a lot of you
21 are going to send in prepared comments as opposed to
22 discussing a lot of things here.

23 One thing I heard was there is a lot of ongoing
24 studies being done by a whole lot of different folks out
25 there. If you were -- what would be helpful for me is what

1 study are you doing, and when do you expect it to be in, is
2 it going to be something that can be used by Georgia Power in
3 the analysis that's going on, or is it going to be filed by
4 the time it comes to us so that we can use it, so some idea
5 of the amount of things going on out there, what they are,
6 and when they are going to be coming in would generally help
7 if you put it into your comments.

8 Another thing was -- I'll cluster some of the
9 comments that we heard from ARC, the City of Atlanta, water
10 associations, public utilities -- one of the things that was
11 mentioned I think by Sam of DeKalb Public Water Works was the
12 cost of water if Morgan Falls came out.

13 Those kinds of figures would also be helpful from
14 the other folks. We did hear from Fish and Wildlife Service
15 giving us a lot of environmental reasons, you gave us a lot
16 of developmental reasons.

17 We heard from Ann one of the things that we have to
18 look at is developmental as well as nondevelopmental
19 resources for a whole lot of different reasons. One of them
20 would be helpful, any costs associated with those from the
21 environmental community, if that's a reasonable alternative
22 we have commission policy dealing with dam removal that needs
23 to be looked at by y'all, and see what types of environmental
24 things that were talked about that may go into the overall
25 goals and objectives of the resource agencies as well as why

1 that should be done, given commission policy.

2 All of those would be helpful information for us.

3 MR. PAWLOWSKI: I would also be interested in is
4 there available for purchase for storage in Lake Lanier, and
5 what the cost of purchasing that storage would be, and all
6 that information would be helpful.

7 MS. HUTZEL: This is your opportunity to speak. If
8 you want to talk about the process plan, any issues that we
9 haven't addressed, any studies, we are here now, this would
10 be the time to do it.

11 If you don't, there is another option. You can
12 still submit your comments in writing or via the Internet.
13 We have a sheet on the back, a paper on the back table that
14 says how to submit your written comments either to the
15 secretary via the mail or Internet.

16 But like I said, this is the time to discuss it if
17 you wish to.

18 If no one else wants to speak -- Yes, please.

19 MR. EK: Once again I'm David Ek with the National
20 Park Service.

21 The National Park Service has -- just as a
22 reminder, we manage sixteen different land units from Buford
23 Dam down to Peachtree Creek, but also the 48-mile section of
24 the river and the bed.

25 So the project does have a lot of interest to the

1 National Park Service, has a lot of ability to affect the
2 natural and cultural resources, and recreational resources
3 there.

4 We do plan on providing comments, but we are going
5 to be providing written comments, and we are in the process
6 of preparing those, and we will specify some of the studies
7 we're doing and detailing that for your information as far as
8 the time frame of completion.

9 I just wanted to let you know that the National
10 Park Service is very interested, and will be providing
11 comments, but in a written format.

12 MS. HUTZEL: Okay. Anyone want to discuss the
13 process plan itself, any questions on the time frames that
14 everyone needs to meet, including us?

15 (No response)

16 MS. HUTZEL: I know it's going to be quite a
17 challenge, it's going to be very front-loaded.

18 If not, okay.

19 In closing we would like to thank everyone for
20 taking your time coming here, and we will be around shortly
21 if I want to mingle, talk to us individually we'll be here
22 for at least half hour. So feel free to come and --

23 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Then we'll be back at six.

24 MS. HUTZEL: And we'll be back at six. If you want
25 another round, we'll be back at six o'clock.

1 Thank you.

2 (At 3:50 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, 2004, the
3 meeting was concluded.)

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