

MEETING SUMMARY
UPDATED STUDY REPORT AND DRAFT LICENSE
APPLICATION PM&E MEASURES WORKSHOP

CUTLER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSING
FERC PROJECT No. 2420

RIVERWOODS CONFERENCE CENTER
LOGAN, UT
AUGUST 31, 2021

Submitted by:

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September 15, 2021

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Meeting Agenda

Attachment 2 – Meeting Presentation

MEETING SUMMARY
UPDATED STUDY REPORT AND DRAFT LICENSE APPLICATION PM&E MEASURES WORKSHOP
CUTLER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSING
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The Updated Study Report (USR) and Draft License Application (DLA) protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measure workshop was held by PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power in support of Cutler Hydroelectric Project relicensing and in accordance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Integrated Licensing Process per 18 CFR § 5.15(f). The meeting agenda is included in Attachment 1. The presentation, including slides referenced in Table 2, is included in Attachment 2.

Ten stakeholders participated in the meeting, including representatives from federal and state agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and interested members of the public (Table 1). Also participating were six FERC staff assigned to the project. The meeting was hosted and staffed by PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power and consultants responsible for preparation of the Initial Study Report (ISR) and USR. A complete list of participants is included in Table 1.

The purpose of the meeting was as follows:

- Update stakeholders on the Cutler Hydroelectric relicensing process and schedule, including the review process for the DLA.
- Review proposed future operations.
- Inform stakeholders on results of the USR.
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholder questions on the USR.
- Brainstorm future potential PM&E measures.

Informational items are detailed in the meeting presentation (Attachment 2). Table 2 provides a summary of questions/comments received from stakeholders on proposed future operations and the USR during the meeting. Table 3 provides a summary of questions/comments received from stakeholders on resource-specific PM&E measures during the workshop portion of the meeting.

TABLE 1. USR AND DLA PM&E MEASURES WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
STAKEHOLDERS		
Agencies/Local Governments		
Mike Allred	Environmental Scientist	Utah Division of Water Quality
Jaron Andrews ¹	Hydrologist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gabriel Murray	Bear River Watershed Coordinator	Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Clay Bodily	City Engineer	Smithfield City
Gordon Anderson	City Councilman	Newton Town
Non-Governmental Organizations		
Bryan Dixon	Board Member Emeritus	Bridgerland Audubon Society
Irrigators		
Trevor Nielsen	General Manager	Bear River Canal Company
Interested Individuals		
Barb Watterson		
Jim Watterson		
Elliot Mott		
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION		
Khatoon Melick ¹	Environmental Engineer and FERC Coordinator	FERC
Frank Winchell ¹	Archaeologist	FERC
Ben Mann ¹	Fisheries Biologist	FERC
Kelly Wolcott ¹	Environmental Biologist	FERC
Robin Cleland ¹	Office of General Counsel	FERC
Kyle Olcott ¹	Outdoor Recreation Specialist	FERC
PACIFICORP AND CONSULTANTS		
PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power		
Todd Olson	Director of Licensing and Environmental Compliance	PacifiCorp
Eve Davies	Principal Scientist/Cutler Relicensing Manager	PacifiCorp
Connely Baldwin	Water Resources Engineer	PacifiCorp
Stewart Edwards	Area Engineer	PacifiCorp
David Holt	Property Manager	PacifiCorp
David Eskelsen	Company Spokesman	PacifiCorp
Consultants		
John Gangemi	Facilitator, Recreation Resources	River Science Institute
Nuria Holmes	Regulatory and Licensing Consultant	Kleinschmidt Associates
Ben Cary	Hydraulic Engineer	Kleinschmidt Associates
Frank Shrier	Technical Lead, Fisheries Biologist and Water Quality	SWCA
Dave Epstein	Water Quality	SWCA
Leah Candland	Fisheries Biologist	SWCA

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
Neal Artz	Project Manager, Scenic Resources	Cirrus
Eric Duffin	Land Use	Cirrus
Matt Westover	Shoreline Habitat	Cirrus
Justin Barker	Sedimentation	Cirrus
Stephanie Trapp	Ecologist	Cirrus
Levia Shoutis ¹	Project Manager/Biologist	ERM
Sheri Ellis	Cultural Resources	Certus Environmental Solutions
Miriam Hugentobler	Project Coordinator	
Scott Pratt	Principal	PMG Vegetation
Bryan Westerberg	Senior Technical Specialist	PMG Vegetation

¹ = Participated remotely

TABLE 2. CUTLER USR MEETING STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

STUDY REPORT	QUESTION/COMMENT ¹	RESPONSE
FERC Licensing Process (Slides 5–10)	None	
Proposed Cutler Future Operations Plan (Slides 11–20)	Jim Watterson (adjacent landowner) - Noted that a 1-foot drawdown is half the water in the reservoir. In removing water, is sediment also being removed?	Cary (Kleinschmidt) - Sediment transport is driven by velocity and particle size. The change in operations being proposed today doesn't change velocity much at all. The highest potential for transport is in Cutler Canyon but is not significant. Full drawdown (not what PacifiCorp is proposing) did create significant velocities but even with that did not remove significant sediment.
	Jim Watterson - What is the proposed term for the new license?	Davies (PacifiCorp) - Standard term for hydropower licenses is currently 40 years.
ISR Comment/Response Update (Slides 21-24)	None	
Land Use Study (Slides 25–46)	Andrews (USFWS) - Noted range of stage change for the Collinston gage was presented [Slide 38 of presentation] and asked if similar information is available for the Corrine gage.	Duffin (Cirrus) - That information is currently not included in the Land Use USR and may need to be added.
Shoreline Habitat Characterization Study (Slides 47–63)	Wolcott (FERC) - Study objectives were to include potential impacts to amphibians.	Davies & Westover (Cirrus) - Changes in water depths would occur during winter. Amphibians hibernate in adjacent uplands during winter, so no impacts to amphibians are anticipated.
	Dixon (BAS) - Over the next 40 years, warming is expected due to climate change potentially leading to more ice-free days. Has this been modelled?	Davies - Data required for this type of modelling are not available and is not currently required by FERC due to uncertainty of data. Melick (FERC) - FERC does not require this type of modelling because of lack of data.
	Dixon - Is there any provision for revisiting this over the next 40 years [term of the license], e.g., if things change rapidly is there any provision for reopening the license?	Melick - Once the license is issued, it is a matter for the Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance (DHAC). Wolcott - There is a license amendment process and other reopener clauses, for threatened and endangered species for example, as well as non-capacity amendment.

STUDY REPORT	QUESTION/COMMENT ¹	RESPONSE
	Mott - Would the use of motion-detecting cameras have been useful for this study?	Westover - Use of motion-detecting cameras didn't follow existing protocols and would have required a greater level of effort.
DLA/PM&E Discussion (Slides 64–68)	None	
Resource-Specific Stations	See Table 2	
Next Steps and Action Items (Slides 69–72) (Table 4)	None	

¹ USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BAS = Bridgerland Audubon Society, FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

TABLE 3. CUTLER RESOURCE-SPECIFIC PM&E MEASURES WORKSHOP STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

RESOURCE	PACIFICORP'S PROPOSED PM&E MEASURES	QUESTION/COMMENT RECEIVED
Geology, Soils, and Sedimentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential additional bank stabilization projects and monitoring within FERC Project Boundary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend mitigation boundary for bank stability downstream from FERC Project Boundary. Remove reservoir sediment to improve water quality.
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow monitoring, operations management (per Operation Compliance Monitoring Plan)* Additional watershed improvement projects within FERC Project Boundary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate operations with downstream water users, e.g., Bear River Wildlife Refuge (codify current practices). Natural Resources Conservation Service grant coordination with Bear River Canal Company.
Botanical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed management and monitoring* Shoreline buffer vegetation monitoring and maintenance See threatened and endangered species below (ULT monitoring)* 	None
Terrestrial Wildlife and Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential avian monitoring within Project Boundary* Continue ongoing wildlife habitat improvements throughout FERC Project Boundary* 	None
Special Status Species (Not federally listed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to cooperate with UDWR and other interested stakeholders on special-status species management (various management and monitoring plans)* 	None
Threatened and Endangered Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain current Ute ladies'-tresses (ULT) habitat. Monitoring of the ULT population within FERC Project Boundary* 	None
Recreation	<p>Recreation site facility operations, maintenance, and monitoring of facility conditions*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor recreation site improvements throughout FERC Project Boundary Create online map series to delineate property boundaries for hunting and other recreation uses and/or exclusions Extend Cutler Canyon Marina boat ramp Evaluate maintenance needs for Benson and other marinas/reservoir access sites Evaluate and improve accessibility, where feasible, at several recreation sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water trail markers are vandalized. Add project facilities and lands and trails to the Avenza map app. Little Bear River access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steep bank to river - Improvements but keep for carry-in boat access Revise and update the Wetlands Maze education website and map, keep maps refreshed annually or biannually. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include maps on information signs. Waterfowl hunting structures/blinds need to be removed annually. Logan River launch improvements for getting in and out of kayaks (currently more suited for canoes).

RESOURCE	PACIFICORP'S PROPOSED PM&E MEASURES	QUESTION/COMMENT RECEIVED
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop HPMP (cultural resources, and ongoing inadvertent discoveries protocol)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include tribal histories/interpretation on information signs and website.
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to review and implement grazing management and agricultural lease program* Evaluate fence ends within the FERC Project Boundary, and extend where needed based on water levels Evaluate irrigation pump intakes within the FERC Project Boundary and extend where needed 	None
Fish and Aquatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan* 	None

**Longer-term measure that will be part of a management plan*

Additional Questions/Comments received (not suggested as PM&E measures):

- Sedimentation: Would continued constriction of the channel due to sedimentation cause problems under extreme high-flow events, such as occurred in the 1980s?
- Land Use: Note potential for proposed extended range operations to change ice formation on the reservoir, affecting recreation.

TABLE 4. ACTION ITEMS: CUTLER USR & AND DLA PM&E MEASURES WORKSHOP

DATE	ACTION ITEMS/PROCESS MILESTONES
September 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PacifiCorp files USR meeting summary
October 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder comments due on USR meeting summary• Early submission of comments encouraged to inform preparation of DLA
November 1, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PacifiCorp files DLA
November 2021 through January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cutler relicensing stakeholders review/file comments on the DLA (90-day comment period)
March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PacifiCorp files Final License Application

ATTACHMENT 1 – MEETING AGENDA

ATTACHMENT 2 – MEETING PRESENTATION