

MEETING SUMMARY
CUTLER RELICENSING STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP
JUNE 25, 2019

RIVERWOODS CONFERENCE CENTER
LOGAN, UTAH

Meeting Summary
Cutler Relicensing Stakeholder Workshop
Riverwoods Conference Center
Logan, Utah
June 25, 2019

This workshop is the second in a series of public workshops being held by Rocky Mountain Power in support of Cutler Hydroelectric Project relicensing. This workshop included afternoon and evening sessions staffed by PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power representatives and consultants. The same information was covered at both sessions.^{1 2} A total of 24 participants attended, including interested individuals and representatives from federal, state, and local agencies; non-governmental organizations; and academia (see Attachment 1).

The purpose of the workshop was: 1) to provide stakeholders with information about the FERC scoping process and PacifiCorp's stakeholder engagement and 2) to get initial study plan input from stakeholders.

Welcome and Introduction

The sessions opened with a review of the workshop's purpose and agenda and included team members introductions.

Updates and Announcements

Updates and announcements included the following:

- A review of the updated Cutler relicensing timeline.
- A review of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process.
- Advised that a comment to PacifiCorp is not the same as a comment to the FERC (i.e., in order to be heard by both, one must comment to both).
- Informed participants how to register for the FERC docket and provided direct assistance in the lobby during the workshop. Comments to FERC should be submitted to the FERC docket.
- Advised participants of PacifiCorp's email address for the relicensing process, cutlerlicense@gmail.com. Comments to PacifiCorp should go to this address.

¹ The workshop agenda is available on PacifiCorp's Cutler webpage, here: https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/hydro/cutler/06252019_CUT_Agenda.pdf

² A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on PacifiCorp's Cutler webpage, here: https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/hydro/cutler/07032019_CUT_PP.pdf

- Provided a reminder that comments on the Pre-Application Document (PAD)/Scoping Document 1, are due to FERC by July 29, 2019.
- Informed participants that a full drawdown of Cutler is planned by PacifiCorp in October 2019. Davies offered to provide additional information to those interested or concerned.

Question: *To what extent do comments to PacifiCorp make it to FERC?*

Gaddis: The collaborative process may affect what stakeholders feel they need to comment to FERC on. The team will try to reflect comments back to participants—through notes, additions to the study plans, the project’s consultation record, and the relicensing document itself. Development of study plans will be collaborative and FERC will also see any comments directly. Davies added that participants must submit any comments to FERC directly to FERC—the PacifiCorp process is “extra.” However, PacifiCorp has found collaboration with stakeholders from the beginning of the relicensing process very helpful. Holmes noted that this is very much the beginning of the process, and those interested will have several opportunities to participate over the coming years.

Stakeholder Situation Assessment

Gaddis reviewed his findings from the stakeholder situation assessment thus far. A detailed summary³ was posted in the room for review and comment. Gaddis said he has conducted 20 interviews thus far, with a few more to go. He noted that not everyone on the email list will be contacted for an interview.

Kickoff Workshop Summary

A kickoff workshop was held February 13, 2019, attended by about 50 people. It included a presentation on the Cutler project and the FERC relicensing process.

Participants at that workshop expressed interest in collaborating on the study plans and a list of potential study topics was recorded at that workshop. Study topics were subsequently screened using the following criteria:

Study proposals must:

- Have a “nexus” to project
- Relate to public interest or specific resource agency goals
- Relate to an appropriate study area/area of potential effects
- Avoid academic questions
- Use commonly accepted study methods
- Reference existing data or studies, if available

³ The Stakeholder Situation Assessment summary is available on PacifiCorp’s Cutler webpage, here: https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/hydro/cutler/06252019_CUT_SIT_ASSESS.pdf

Davies reviewed the results of the study topic evaluation⁴. Topics in green (see footnoted link) represent a new study that requires new data to be obtained. Topics in yellow represent information that will be included but do not require formal study. Topics in red indicate information that will not be included. Pratt said it is still possible to change topics in yellow to green and said workshop participants may provide comments at this workshop or submit a comment to FERC.

Study Plans Moving Forward

Accordingly, a list of eight study plans was developed for Cutler Relicensing, including:

- Recreation
- Threatened and Endangered Species (Ute ladies'-tresses orchid)
- Sedimentation
- Shoreline Habitat Characterization
- Hydraulic Modeling
- Fish and Aquatic (including benthic macroinvertebrates and mussels)
- Land Use
- Cultural Resources

Davies also noted that this list only covers studies that require new or additional information be developed or collected; some study plans (i.e., Water Quality) will simply analyze existing information.

Round Robin and Breakout Sessions

Annotated outlines for each of the 'new information' study plans were developed for review and comment at this workshop. The annotated outlines⁵ were posted on flipcharts at stations established around the meeting room, one for each study plan. Workshop participants were asked to break into small groups to review and provide comments on the annotated outlines. Groups rotated among the stations until all participants had an opportunity to visit each station. Comments were recorded directly on the flipcharts and are transcribed below. Breakout groups were then held on the top study plans of interest.

Recreation

- What is the timing of the fluctuations? Will someone be left in the middle of Cutler Reservoir and Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge high and dry? Will you have high water and low water trails? Seasonal access and fluctuations - double whammy.

⁴ The study topic evaluation summary is available on PacifiCorp's Cutler webpage, here: https://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pcorp/documents/en/pacificorp/energy/hydro/cutler/06252019_CUT_TOP_EVAL.pdf

⁵ Annotated outlines are available on PacifiCorp's Cutler webpage, here: <https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/cutler.html> Click on "Relicensing Public Meetings"

- Downstream recreation activities. Willard Spur and Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge - hunting, boating, bird watching? Coordination with downstream management. Formal process for opening/shutting gates. Know the timing and volume of water to Willard Spur or Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge so folks can react?
- Will there be a notification/warning system for downstream water fluctuations?
- Add a waterfowl rest area to replace Logan lagoons, which are being eliminated.
- How will the impact of reservoir fluctuations effect downstream recreational opportunities, specifically at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Bear River National Wildlife Refuge [i.e., Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge]?
- Increased reservoir fluctuations could affect the refuge's ability to manage water levels for recreational opportunities (hunting, fishing, bird watching).
- Please review the document Logan River Task Force Conservation Action Plan.
- Waterfowl - add a rest area.
- Can we get a food source for waterfowl and upland game (e.g., low waterfowl numbers due to poor food sources)?
- Define recreation activities below the dam. What is acceptable and what is not?

Threatened and Endangered Species

- Please include monarch butterfly (milkweed) and firefly habitat, cows present or not, or hayed.
- Is there a water quality impact on plants?
- Are there effects to other species of interest, such as the bobolink, which may be present?
- Are there impacts to wildlife downstream in the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge and the Great Salt Lake?

Sedimentation

- Nutrients - phosphorus and nitrogen. Nasties (e.g., mercury)?
- How does the interaction of falling water levels and sediment impact water quality as pollutants can become concentrated? Then what happens when it [the reservoir] fills back up?

- Floc - interstitial movement? Will detritus activity organics function with reduction in shoreline?
- How will sedimentation affect downstream control structures and water management operations?
- Have we reached equilibrium on sediment?
- Look at the heavy metals and industrial contaminants.
- How will total phosphorus, total nitrogen and total suspended solids effect, on downstream as mobilizing downstream.
- What is the feasibility of dredging for maintaining adequate water supply for agricultural communities and for hydropower?
- We would like to see a study of sedimentation passed to canals with the different proposed styles of operation. Sedimentation in canals below Cutler in recent years.

Shoreline Habitat Characterization

- How will reservoir fluctuations effect wetland and aquatic vegetation? Will it expose roots and be detrimental?
- Population studies of nesting birds. Great Salt Lake dynamics - idea: Cache Valley/Cutler are "overflow"/"buffer" habitats that ameliorate habitat loss over long periods of time. Protocol over decades.
- *Phragmites*, Russian olive.
- Before & after: Weed infestation due to operations. If vegetation helps with sedimentation, what then? Will water quality at low water impact vegetation in a good or bad way? Nutrients feed *Phragmites*. Show water quality changes with fluctuations and impacts to biota. Could water become concentrated?
- Study area should include impacts to Great Salt Lake and Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge downstream (such as timed water flows and its impact on migratory birds or exposed lake bed on the Great Salt Lake and air [quality] impacts/dust storms).
- Weed control (goatsrue, hemlock) near Swift Slough. Talk to County Weed Department or adjacent landowners about known infestations.
- Will there be more robust monitoring of Russian olive, tamarisk, etc, in the next relicensing?

- Explore aquatic weeds and algae transfer from Cutler Dam to Bear River canals. It has increased in recent years.
- There is a need to study [what effect] the proposed reservoir elevation and discharge will have on downstream river stage and discharge. Specifically, consider the USFWS Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge structures and how constant sudden river stage changes may impact refuge water management operations.
- USU for bird habitat. Invasive species control. Recreation.
- Consider necessary extended timeline of bird studies; unlikely to know by license. Need post-license implementation studies.

Hydraulic Modelling

- Bear River Canal Company would like to see a study of the accuracy of current measurement practices for canal operation. As part of this, an assessment of the possibility of weirs being installed for irrigation releases.
- If variable elevation operation is desired, a study of the effects of accurate releases for irrigation should be done to establish that the resulting variability would not exceed acceptable operational capacity of irrigation companies.
- A study to understand what elevation is needed with current sediment for hydropower and how much hydro is needed for Cutler to remain profitable.
- Would like a study of the impact the proposed reservoir elevation and discharge changes will have on downstream river stage and discharge. Specifically consider the USFWS discharge structure and how constant sudden river stage change may impact refuge water management operations.
- Drone footage of restriction points.
- Drawdown vs. inflow and outflow and water surface elevation throughout reservoir.
- How often will water quality data be collected? When will it be provided?
- Drawdown needs to be stepwise so that you can generate calibration points for the model. Key points that need to be measured at each step include water surface elevation upstream and downstream of bridges, downstream and upstream of Wheelon Dam, and multiple points in the reservoir to make sure calibration is representative. Model then needs to be evaluated with hydrographs from 2011, 2009, 2017, 2018 (dry), and others to determine operational impacts including upstream elevations, velocities, and shear stresses.

Fish and Aquatic

- Fish populations downstream and impacts from planned water releases, etc...?
- Water quality impacts on bugs, clams, fish, and plants during low water. Big issue killing fish because of pelican food!
- Temporal - impacts over time. May not mobilize phosphorus or sediment first couple of drawdowns but could impact over time.
- What about the impacts on fish species vs operational modifications? Compared with existing distributions?
- When will water chemistry information be released to stakeholders?

Land Use

- Small pumpers on east side and upriver - floating intakes? for drawdown.
- Sand (clay) bars. Use drawdown as calibration points.
- How long does it take for the response of the reservoir to drawdowns and inflow/outflow deficiencies?
- Bear River Canal Company would like to see better measurement on canals (now it is all based on channel sized gaging). Bear River Canal Company is willing to grant PacifiCorp right-of-way for new gage.
- Effect on sewage treatment (fluctuation).
- Is the project necessary? Can PacifiCorp stabilize without this fluctuation (without start/stop)?
- How would drawdown affect operations at Bear Lake?

Cultural Resources

- Focus on visible areas, even if it's impacted in an adjacent field, it could have non-impacted component in the reservoir area.
- Photodocument Wheelon. Access may be an issue. Could use a drone?
- Could photodocumentation be shared with other agencies?
- Does this account for downstream?

Breakout Sessions

The top study plans of interest were hydraulic modelling and sedimentation. Top issues for each were reviewed with the group as a whole.

Hydraulic Modelling

- How operations in the reservoir may affect irrigation
- Adequacy of current measurement practices for canals
- Impact of the proposed drawdown to irrigators
- Modelling boundaries – extend upstream and downstream
- Calibration data – look at upstream and downstream conditions
- Sample sedimentation before and after the planned drawdown

Sedimentation

- Focused on phosphorus and mobilization
- Hazardous waste was mentioned in some comments, but many focused on mobilization
- Whether dredging is planned

Closing Questions/Comments

Question: *What is the timeline for draft study plans and comments?*

Davies: Study plans will be drafted this summer and filed with FERC in September; there is a set comment period for study plans, both initial proposed and final versions.

Question: *Is it fair to say that not every comment here will be included in the study plans?*

Davies: Yes, the studies will be focused on what we need to complete the required analyses for the license documents.

Question: *Will there be meetings with subgroups?*

Answer: It depends on the topics and resources of interest, but we will continue to invite comments from all stakeholders at every step/stage of the process, similar to the meetings to date.

Question: *Will stakeholders have more than one opportunity to comment?*

Davies: Yes, PacifiCorp will propose studies, stakeholders may then comment, then FERC will issue its study plan determination. Conditioning agencies also have certain authority.

Question: *How will FERC decide when there is disagreement between PacifiCorp and stakeholders?*

Hogan: The key to effective study plans is to obtain good data that will serve everyone's purpose.

Wrap up and Next Steps

- Provided email address for any additional comments to PacifiCorp (cutlerlicense@gmail.com).
- Provided web address for PacifiCorp's Cutler webpage (<https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/hydro/cutler.html>). Meeting materials will be posted here. *[Note: URL revised July 25, 2019 due to a PacifiCorp website update.]*
- Offered participants assistance in signing up for Cutler's FERC docket.

ATTACHMENT 1

ATTENDEES

**CUTLER RELICENSING
JUNE 25 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ATTENDEES**

ENTITY	NAME	TITLE
Federal		
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Cleland, Robin	Office of the General Counsel
	Hogan, Ken	Fish Biologist (OEP)
	Melick, Khatoon (by phone)	Environmental Engineer (OEP), FERC Project Lead
	Olcott, Kyle	Outdoor Recreation Planner (OEP)
	Wolcott, Kelly	Environmental Biologist (OEP)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dunphy, Mike	Deputy Project Leader, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
State		
Utah Dept of Environmental Quality/Division of Water Quality	Allred, Mike	Watershed Scientist
Local/Municipal		
Logan City	Richards, Tyler	Environmental Engineer
Academia		
Utah State University	Endter-Wada, Joanna	Professor Dept of Environment & Society
	Welsh, Lisa	Post-Doc Fellow Dept of Environment & Society
Non-Governmental Organizations		
Bear Lake Watch	Cottle, Claudia	Co-Executive Director
Bridgerland Audubon Society	Dixon, Bryan	BAS member
The Nature Conservancy	Neville, Ann	Utah Northern Mountains Regional Director
Utah Rivers Council	Carter, Jon	URC staff member
	Rich, Graham	Grassroots organizer Bear River Coalition
Wasatch Wigeons	Burgess, Troy	President
Water Conservancy District		
Cache Water District	Daug, Nathan	Executive Director
	Simmonds, Jeanie	Board of Trustees
Irrigation/Canal Companies		
Bear River Canal Company	Holmgren, Charles	Board Member, landowner
	Nielson, Trevor	General Manager
Logan Cow Pasture Water Co.	Fuller, Katie	Registered Agent
Interested Parties		
Houser, Lance	Franson Civil Engineers	
McCarrel, Coral and Bill	Landowners	
Jenson, Lloyd	Landowner	

**CUTLER RELICENSING
JUNE 25, 2019 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ATTENDEES, CONTINUED**

NAME	TITLE/AFFILIATION
Rocky Mountain Power/PacifiCorp	
Baldwin, Connely	Hydrologist
Davies, Eve	Principal Scientist, Relicensing Project Manager
Edwards, Stewart	Engineer
Eskelsen, Dave	Public Relations
Kolkman, Jack	Plant Director
Morris, Buffi	Property
Mortensen, Mike	Senior Engineer
Olsen, Todd	Director of Compliance
Consultants	
Barker, Justin	RedFish Environmental
Cary, Ben	Kleinschmidt Associates
Duffin, Eric	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
Gaddis, Ben	Ben Gaddis Consulting
Gangemi, John	River Science Institute
Holmes, Nuria	Kleinschmidt Associates
Hugentobler, Miriam	Project Coordinator
Kester, Lindsey	SWCA
Pratt, Scott	PMG Vegetation
Shrier, Frank	SWCA
Stewart, John	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
Westerberg, Bryan	PMG Vegetation
Westover, Matt	Cirrus Ecological Solutions