

**PROPOSED ONEIDA PUMPED STORAGE FACILITY, ET AL.  
Public Meeting Evening on 10/25/2023**

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PROPOSED ONEIDA PUMPED STORAGE FACILITY  
BEAR RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 20)  
LICENSE AMENDMENT JOINT MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING  
Wednesday, October 25, 2023; 7:00 o'clock p.m.

BE IT REMEMBERED that the public meeting in above matter was taken at the Preston City Hall, Preston, Idaho, before DiAnn Erdman Prock, CSR SRL 963, CCR, Court Reporter and Notary Public, in and for the State of Idaho, in the above-entitled matter.

1 ATTENDANCE LIST

2 EVENING MEETING:

3 MARK STENBERG, PACIFICORP  
CONLEY BALDWIN, PACIFICORP

4 PAT GARI, WSP  
JACK KOLKMAN, PACIFICORP

5 TODD OLSON, PACIFICORP  
JEFF LOVINGER, PACIFICORP ATTORNEY

6 ERIC DUFFIN, CIRRUS ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS  
JUSTIN BARKER, CIRRUS ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

7 TANNER COX  
DAN KELLER, MAYOR OF PRESTON

8 RONALD COYLE  
JOHN HUTCHINS, PACIFICORP

9 BUFFY MORRIS, PACIFICORP  
NEAL ARTZ, CIRRUS ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

10 SHERI ELLIS, CIRRUS ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS  
TIM HEMSTREET, PACIFICORP

11 EVE DAVIES, PACIFICORP  
JAIME CAMPBELL, PACIFICORP

12 MARK SCANTON, BEAR LAKE WATCH  
BRITTANI WATTS

13 SUSAN WEST  
RALPH WEST

14 CHARLIE VINCENT, AMERICAN WHITEWATER  
JEFF SEAMONS

15 BROCK FREYER, WSP  
PAUL PURSER

16 SCOTT EVANS, CIRRUS ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS  
DAVID LONG

17 JANET LONG  
LESLIE POMAVILLE

18 LEE FRANKLIN  
MICHELLE FRANKLIN

19 SKYLAR BUCK, UTAH WATER RIGHTS  
RICO PORTUCCI

20 TANNER K  
SHARLA MCKAY

21 SCOTT SEAMONS  
STEVEN SMITH

22 BRENNA GARRA  
JENNIFER NORTON

23 DANIEL MCGREGOR  
CHRISTINA SPERRY

24 RANDOLPH SEAMONS

25

1 (The public meeting proceeded at  
2 7:00 p.m. as follows:)

3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 MARK STENBERG: There we go. It's  
5 7:00 o'clock.

6 Hey, good evening. Welcome everybody.  
7 And for the second time we've done this today. I  
8 think it's going to be a little better tonight than  
9 it was this morning.

10 Always, you know, get a chance to  
11 practice responding to questions and find out  
12 partway through the presentation, you know, things  
13 folks are interested in meeting about, and, you  
14 know, we talk about that, and hoping to move this up  
15 a little bit and help people with this type of  
16 information or this type of information a little bit  
17 better.

18 My name is Mark Stenberg with  
19 PacifiCorp, slash, Rocky Mountain Power up here.  
20 What we're going to do tonight, I've got an agenda.  
21 I have a few ad hoc remarks here first before we get  
22 into the introductions and the agenda and that  
23 stuff.

24 This morning we were about an hour and  
25 fifty minutes, so we were a little over our

1 ninety-minute target. We had lots of good  
2 discussion and lots of good comments this morning.

3 We've got a small group tonight which is  
4 perfect, the perfect size. I don't like it when  
5 we've got -- I told folks this morning, sometimes  
6 you'll have a public meeting in the night,  
7 everybody's here, you bring everybody and bring all  
8 our stuff, and one person shows up. And I had one  
9 of those, and the person that showed up at that one  
10 just came because they wanted to see who else came.  
11 They just wanted to see who came from the community.

12 So thanks for coming because this is all  
13 about getting input, seeing if, you know, how our  
14 ideas sound to folks, what kind of interest issues,  
15 folks see in that. Everything is very preliminary.  
16 That's something I'll emphasize, and Matt here as he  
17 goes through his portions of our presentation  
18 tonight, we will emphasize again and again.

19 This is preliminary. You know, we've  
20 got preliminary engineering. We're working through  
21 the first phases of environmental evaluation. We're  
22 just starting consultation, you know, with folks at  
23 this meeting to gather comments.

24 We're not coming in with fully baked,  
25 you know, oh, yeah, it's going to be this way, and

1 it's going to run just this way, and it's -- you  
2 know, that's not anywhere near where we're at with  
3 this proposal at this point.

4           And I know it can be frustrating  
5 sometimes because folks have questions like how is  
6 it going to run, Mark? Well, it could run like this  
7 or like this. You know, there's a lot of  
8 variability and a lot of detail that's not there  
9 yet.

10           This project we're probably running  
11 environmental studies and environmental social  
12 aspects of this ahead of engineering, you know, and  
13 you'll hear me tonight. You know, we're about maybe  
14 one percent engineering on this. You know, it's  
15 really conceptual engineering. We know how many  
16 megawatts, about how much water, where we'll put the  
17 reservoir, you know, these type of things, but, you  
18 know, details of how we get materials in to  
19 construct it, and we get them out, you know, there's  
20 a lot of just endless engineering details that have  
21 to be worked out, if we get there. All right?

22           So let's do introductions real quick.  
23 I'm Mark Stenberg. I work for PacifiCorp. I live  
24 in Pocatello. I've worked on Bear River stuff for  
25 eighteen years out here. I implement the Bear River

1 project license for the three projects: Soda,  
2 Grace, Oneida. All that environmental site of that,  
3 stick hold relations, land management, recreation  
4 sites, conservation hatchery program. That's all  
5 mine to shepherd and keep track of. That's my main  
6 role here. And now I'm working on storage siting.

7 Let's start here. Let's just everybody  
8 introduce themselves as we go through. We'll go row  
9 by row. We don't have that many people. It will  
10 just take a couple minutes.

11 Conley, do you want to lead off?

12 CONLEY BALDWIN: Conley Baldwin,  
13 PacifiCorp.

14 PAT GARI: Pat Gari, WSP consultant to  
15 PacifiCorp.

16 MARK STENBERG: Sir, would you like to  
17 introduce yourself?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't think so.

19 MARK STENBERG: No worries.

20 RANDOLPH SEAMONS: Randolph Seamons. I  
21 live here.

22 MARK STENBERG: All right.

23 CHARLIE VINCENT: Charlie Vincent. I  
24 represent American White Water --

25 THE COURT REPORTER: Can you speak up,

1 please? I can't hear you.

2 CHARLIE VINCENT: My name's Charlie  
3 Vincent. I'm here representing American White Water  
4 and I work on the Bear with Mark as part of the UCC  
5 for many years.

6 MARK STENBERG: So, and we'll talk about  
7 this. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that  
8 licenses our projects to operate requires us to  
9 prepare a transcript of these required meetings on a  
10 project.

11 So we have a court reporter here. She's  
12 going to prepare the transcript of the meeting and  
13 we'll have that, I don't know, a couple weeks down  
14 the road, and we'll post that up with the rest of  
15 our documents so folks can read the transcript, and  
16 that helps us keep track of comments, too.

17 JEFF SEAMONS: I'm Jeff Seamons. I'm  
18 here representing the public interest.

19 Where are we at?

20 STEVE SMITH: Steve Smith, landowner.

21 JACK KOLKMAN: PacifiCorp.

22 TODD OLSON: Todd Olson with PacifiCorp.

23 JEFF LOVINGER: I'm Jeff Lovinger. I'm  
24 an attorney with PacifiCorp.

25 ERIC DUFFIN: Eric Duffin with Cirrus

1 Ecological Solutions. We're a small consulting firm  
2 in Logan working with Mark. I'm working on the  
3 hydrology recreation.

4 JUSTIN BARKER: Justin Barker with  
5 Cirrus.

6 TANNER COX: Tanner Cox, resident.

7 DAN KELLER: Dan Keller, Preston. I'm  
8 the mayor of Preston.

9 RONALD COYLE: Ronald Coyle, Preston,  
10 just interested in this. I have been for a lot of  
11 years, just here to see what you've got to say here  
12 so.

13 SUSAN WEST: I'm Susan West, just a  
14 concerned citizen.

15 DAVID LONG: Just meeting what you have  
16 to say, David Long.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: What was that?

18 JANET LONG: David Long. Janet Long,  
19 just interested in what's going on.

20 MARK STENBERG: Excellent.

21 MARK SCANTON: Mark Scanton from Bear  
22 Lake Watch. Hi.

23 MARK STENBERG: Hi, Mark.

24 SHARLA MCKAY: Sharla McKay, resident,  
25 long time user of the canyon and what it has to



1 offer, so very interested in what's going on here.

2 MARK STENBERG: I see.

3 BRITTANI WATTS: Brittani Watts, and I  
4 just live in Bear Creek.

5 LEE FRANKLIN: Lee and Michelle  
6 Franklin, landowner.

7 PAUL PURSER: Paul Purser, resident.

8 MARK STENBERG: Let's go to you, Brock.

9 BROCK FREYER: Brock Freyer, WSP brand  
10 sort and geowork assessments and wetlands studies.

11 SCOTT EVANS: Scott Evans, Cirrus  
12 Geological Solutions.

13 RICO PORTUCCI: Rico Portucci, support.

14 LESLIE POMAVILLE: Leslie Pomaville,  
15 WSP.

16 JOHN HUTCHINS: John Hutchins,  
17 PacifiCorp.

18 SKYLER BUCK: Skyler Buck, Utah Water  
19 Rights.

20 BUFFY MORRIS: PacifiCorp.

21 CHRISTIAN: I'm Christian, I just use  
22 the river to fish.

23 NEAL ARTZ: Neal Artz, with Cirrus  
24 Ecological Solutions.

25 SHERI ELLIS: Sheri Ellis with Cirrus

1 Environmental Solutions and Cultural Resources  
2 Consultant.

3 TIM HEMSTREET: Tim Hemstreet with  
4 PacifiCorp.

5 EVE DAVIES: Eve Davies with PacifiCorp.

6 THE COURT REPORTER: I didn't hear her.

7 EVE DAVIES: Eve Davies with PacifiCorp.

8 MARK STENBERG: Eve Davies.

9 JAIME CAMPBELL: Jaime Campbell with  
10 PacifiCorp.

11 MARK STENBERG: All right. I thank you  
12 all. Appreciate it.

13 Okay. So just a couple of kind of help  
14 maybe set the foundation for discussion, comments  
15 that aren't in the presentation.

16 So, you know, why -- why pump storage is  
17 the one thing I want to lead with right now. Why  
18 are we having this meeting tonight? Why is  
19 PacifiCorp interested in creating basically a very  
20 large battery of stored water that we can move back  
21 and forth between the two reservoirs.

22 PacifiCorp, we keep, we call it,  
23 Integrated Resource Plan, IRP, you can see it on our  
24 website, and that has our vision, our energy vision,  
25 for the future, how we're going to, you know, serve

1 our customers, provide low cost power to our  
2 customers.

3 Also, you know, our targets for  
4 decarbonization, how PacifiCorp is going to get out  
5 of greenhouse gas-emitting energy sources. And kind  
6 of regardless of how you feel about climate change  
7 and those things, it's a path that, you know, our  
8 corporation is on. We're going to be out of -- you  
9 know, we are going carbon free down the road. Okay?

10 As we do that, you know, we have to  
11 bring other renewable energy sources online,  
12 primarily wind power, solar power. Those two  
13 resources are what we call variable, right? Because  
14 they don't run like a coal plant.

15 Coal plant, you get it tuned up, you get  
16 it running, you can just run and run and run. Solar  
17 power works during the day, doesn't work at night,  
18 right? That's variable. Wind power works when the  
19 wind blows, works less when the blows less. That's  
20 variable.

21 So we need to be able to store that  
22 power, and when you're driving around and see solar  
23 farms, you may see here and there like CONEX boxes  
24 set out in solar farms right now, and some of that  
25 is lithium batteries, battery storage going in in

1 solar farms, and that's one way to store power.

2 Pump storage hydro, and we'll have a  
3 diagram of it later, you know, it's very similar to  
4 a hydroelectric plant. We move water from a lower  
5 location to a higher location so we're able to  
6 capture power when demand is low.

7 Or we have -- you know, say the wind's  
8 blowing all over everywhere we've got, you know,  
9 wind turbines at one time. We had surplus power.  
10 We could pump water up the hill, store it, return it  
11 at night, return it at other times during the day,  
12 wind falls off, cloudy day. We can balance that  
13 with these large storage facilities. Okay? It's  
14 part of our evolution to this green power future.

15 And what do I want to say about that?  
16 So we'll talk more about that. We've got a diagram,  
17 but that's the kernel of why we're here tonight to  
18 talk about that.

19 The company's interest in pump storage  
20 hydroelectric projects is looking for projects that  
21 we can implement fairly quickly. That may  
22 capitalize on existing facilities we have where we  
23 own land, where we have transmission, where we've  
24 got good adjacent topography.

25 We look for sites where we may have a

1 thousand feet of elevation. We move water up and  
2 down to generate power.

3 What else do I want to list? I lost  
4 track of where I was at.

5 Water rights, land ownership, existing  
6 facilities, transmission, water rights are all  
7 things that can make these projects kind of easier  
8 to put together.

9 And as you could probably imagine in  
10 today's environment, it's difficult to site new  
11 projects, right? So finding sites where we've got  
12 facilities so we can put these together  
13 economically, you know, it's a challenge, but we've  
14 got what we think is a fair site to work on at  
15 Oneida. It's all preliminary at this point. So  
16 that's the why with the question mark on it.

17 And just a little background on the Bear  
18 River hydroelectric project. So Federal Regulatory  
19 Commission licenses projects, and we have a license  
20 and we run Grace, Soda, and Oneida, and you're all  
21 probably familiar with those on the Bear River.

22 Those licenses have measures in them,  
23 you know, offsets, enhancements, mitigation, and  
24 those type of things. And on the Bear River, you  
25 know, we run a cutthroat trout conservation hatchery

1 program with Fish and Game. We fund Fish and Game  
2 to do that. We produce genetically correct  
3 cutthroat trout. They get stocked out at  
4 tributaries in the basin here.

5 We also run with this environmental  
6 coordination committee. Steve might have mentioned  
7 it or someone else. We do -- we provide funding  
8 through that committee for conservation easements in  
9 the area. You guys may be familiar with, like, the  
10 conservation easements that we've worked on in Mink  
11 Creek, that way.

12 We've been involved in about five  
13 thousand acres of conservation easements since 2006,  
14 I think, was our first one. We have done about a  
15 hundred and seventy habitat projects. If anybody  
16 has live water on your properties and you're looking  
17 for help with the fencing, stock water, those type  
18 of things, you know, my name is up here, get in  
19 touch with me. We've got a grant fund cycle coming  
20 up early next year for new projects. We do stuff  
21 for cutthroat trout and water quality.

22 The Oneida Canyon, you know, myself,  
23 I've been managing that landscape down there since  
24 2005 when I got here, and you know what you see in  
25 the Oneida Canyon, when you go up there now, it's

1 all PacifiCorp and BLM properties up there. Our  
2 licenses require us to have a comp plan, but it's a  
3 site plan. Tells us how we manage that landscape,  
4 how we monitor it every year, weed control, you know  
5 what we fence, how we manage the areas, you know,  
6 that whole package in there.

7 Our hydro license also has recreation  
8 measures, the rec sites. We maintain public access.  
9 White water flows we provide in the Black Canyon.  
10 We also have a summer goal flow in Oneida Canyon.  
11 Not a lot of people know that, but we try to target  
12 that nine hundred CFS between the main holidays  
13 daytime when we're moving irrigation water. Conley  
14 works on that.

15 I'm sure you're aware we have five  
16 hundred float tubers up there or more, you know, on  
17 a Saturday or a Sunday up there. Busy place.

18 Anyway, that's just a little context  
19 about some of the stuff we do, and so let me jump  
20 into this. We've got a small group tonight, so  
21 let's just do questions as we go along, and if you  
22 just pop your hand up, and Matt or I will recognize  
23 you.

24 Sir?

25 PAUL PURCER: I didn't mean to cut you

1 off.

2 MARK STENBERG: No. That's a good  
3 test.

4 PAUL PURCER: When you talk storage  
5 facility, you're talking about essentially another  
6 reservoir, or is it a closed storage facility?

7 MARK STENBERG: It would --

8 PAUL PURCER: My second question --

9 MARK STENBERG: Yup.

10 PAUL PURCER: -- you said pump water in  
11 between the two bodies or the two reservoirs.

12 Is that the new facility and Oneida or  
13 Oneida and another facility?

14 MARK STENBERG: So Oneida reservoir and  
15 the new higher reservoir, and we'll have a diagram  
16 and details. So if when we get to the details, if I  
17 don't answer your question then --

18 THE COURT REPORTER: I need his name.

19 MARK STENBERG: Oh, name. And also for  
20 her, I mean, when you speak, please identify  
21 yourself and we'll --

22 PAUL PURCER: Paul Purcer.

23 MARK STENBERG: Thank you, Paul.

24 Meeting purpose tonight. Inform why  
25 PacifiCorp is undertaking the proposed Oneida pump



1 storage facility. Hopefully I covered a bit of that  
2 there.

3 Communicate the process and schedule  
4 under which an application for the project approval  
5 is made. We'll talk about how we interact with  
6 FERC, how we interact with agencies and the public  
7 going through this process.

8 Invite participation from all interested  
9 parties to identify issues and concerns with the  
10 proposed project. So the way this will lay out, I'm  
11 going to talk about the proposed facilities, and it  
12 may seem as though it's kind of vague, but FERC in  
13 this initial consultation document, they want us to  
14 have a project description. They want to know. Is  
15 it steel? Is it whatever?

16 So there's a project description in  
17 here, and when you read it it may sound fairly,  
18 like, vague, but we're at about one percent  
19 engineering, and things will change and tweak as we  
20 go along.

21 MAYOR DAN KELLER: Mark, I don't want to  
22 go an hour and fifty minutes, but I wanted to ask --  
23 Dan Keller -- when I was at your tour today up at  
24 the dam --

25 MARK STENBERG: Yup.

1                   MAYOR DAN KELLER:  -- I thought I heard  
2    you say that you thought PacifiCorp does not own any  
3    land north of the dam.

4                   Did I hear that correctly?  I thought  
5    you did own land above the reservoir.

6                   MARK STENBERG:  Not much.  Yeah.  Let me  
7    clarify that.  I wish I had a map that --

8                   MAYOR DAN KELLER:  You're talking about  
9    the geographical nature.

10                  MARK STENBERG:  Yeah.  Most of our,  
11    like, dry land is from the dam down the canyon.

12                  MAYOR DAN KELLER:  Correct.

13                  MARK STENBERG:  And it ends right at  
14    where the Twin Lakes cycle comes through.  And above  
15    the concrete dam and the earthen dam, it's mostly  
16    BOR and private around the reservoir.  And we've got  
17    rights in the reservoir, and we own some land in fee  
18    in the reservoir, and as you go all the way up to  
19    where the, you know, where the river transitions to  
20    the top of the reservoir, we own some fee land up  
21    there.  It's not much, but we own some fee land out  
22    of the water up there.

23                  MAYOR DAN KELLER:  Okay.  I was curious  
24    about that statement.

25                  Thank you.

1 MARK STENBERG: So today, general  
2 housekeeping, emergency exit, the bathrooms over  
3 there.

4 Everybody please sign in so we can keep  
5 you in the loop. E-mails, if you don't want e-mail,  
6 just put an address and we'll keep you on the list.  
7 Okay? And anybody -- yeah just do that. Okay.

8 So today we're going to take you through  
9 this concept of this pump storage facility and the  
10 operations, potential operations, of it. We'll talk  
11 a little bit about Federal Energy Regulatory  
12 Commission, FERC license amendment process.

13 The process that we are in right now to  
14 consult and develop study plans, implement study  
15 plans, and then get to the goal is to get to an  
16 application to FERC to add this to the Bear River  
17 project.

18 I'm going to hand over at that point to  
19 Matt, and what the consultants have been working on  
20 is a couple things, many things, but a desktop  
21 gathering of existing resource information in the  
22 Oneida Canyon. From, you know, all kinds of study  
23 works, reports from Fish and Game just, you know,  
24 we'll go through that.

25 Resource issues identified to date.

1 We'll tell you what we think the resource issues are  
2 and what we've heard so far.

3 Ongoing studies. We'll check in with  
4 you, you know, and I'll probably actually when we  
5 get to that slide, like we did this morning, like,  
6 here's some other issues that we heard this morning  
7 that we're going to add to the list.

8 Ongoing studies. What resource studies  
9 are underway, ongoing proposed studies, information  
10 collecting.

11 Next steps. Hopefully at that point  
12 we'll have answered most of the comments and the  
13 questions.

14 We did site visit this afternoon, so we  
15 won't get into that too much.

16 Do you have questions about the agenda  
17 before we move on?

18 Sir.

19 RALPH WEST: Ralph West. Several  
20 questions here for a minute.

21 MARK STENBERG: Yeah.

22 RALPH WEST: Okay. For thirty some  
23 years, or whatever, this has been going on and on  
24 about a dam up there.

25 MARK STENBERG: Hmm.

1 RALPH WEST: It's been shot down several  
2 times, and you may address that tonight, I don't  
3 know.

4 And also, on that maintenance and water  
5 storage, I go from here to Soda Springs quite a  
6 bit.

7 MARK STENBERG: Uh-huh.

8 RALPH WEST: And I come through Grace,  
9 you've got a lot going through Grace, especially in  
10 the winter, leaks so damn bad you could save tons of  
11 water if you fixed that side pump.

12 MARK STENBERG: I agree.

13 RALPH WEST: You probably wouldn't need  
14 to build a dam.

15 That's just a -- that's just a question  
16 on how you're going to maintain it and so forth.

17 MARK STENBERG: Yup.

18 RALPH WEST: And here again, like I say,  
19 on this stuff has been going on for thirty years. I  
20 thought up the back a ways that they decided we  
21 have, and I don't know how to put it, but I guess  
22 eloquently we didn't want it.

23 MARK STENBERG: Yeah. And I can talk --  
24 and I don't want to keep people too long and -- but  
25 okay.

1 So Grace fall line --

2 RALPH WEST: Uh-huh.

3 MARK STENBERG: -- we are trying to  
4 figure that out. Okay? It's expensive. But Grace  
5 is a very valuable project to us, and hopefully  
6 sometime in the future, we'll figure something out  
7 there.

8 RALPH WEST: Is that in part of your  
9 replacement stuff?

10 MARK STENBERG: Not of this project. So  
11 we do -- we've been doing forever, you know, like  
12 three weeks outage every year on that. They go in  
13 and replace staves. They re-cork it, and extend the  
14 life of that.

15 So to your other question, about the dam  
16 process, right, so what we're proposing is not  
17 what's been proposed in Oneida Canyon before, just  
18 to be clear.

19 I was super involved in that last time  
20 around. And it was a really unique position for  
21 PacifiCorp and for myself, I love high power, to be  
22 in a position to be in opposition to a project. I  
23 worked on that since 2005 through 2015 almost.

24 You know Twin Lakes Canal Company's  
25 proposal there and, you know, our primary issue at

1 the time talked about our hydro license for our  
2 three projects, right? That's our business case,  
3 right?

4 How we run the projects, we entered into  
5 a settlement agreement to run Grace, Soda, Oneida  
6 thirty years. Company lands were going to be  
7 managed a certain way. We were going to manage  
8 recreation a certain way. And the Twin Lakes  
9 proposal was from another one hundred foot tall dam  
10 where that old geo exploration casing is.

11 You know, if drive up Oneida Canyon and  
12 watching the river, and when you're on that first  
13 jump PacifiCorp land after the Twin Lakes siphon,  
14 you can see that pipe, looks like a well casing,  
15 sticking up out of the river.

16 And that was way back when the Bureau of  
17 Reclamation was looking into the dam site there.  
18 And the proposal there for that site was a hundred  
19 foot tall dam, and it would flood the Oneida Canyon  
20 all the way back to the tail brace of the current  
21 hydro project. Okay?

22 Our issue with it was it just upset our  
23 whole business case for PacifiCorp's three projects.  
24 Okay? So we were in on that. Other people weren't  
25 for -- and other organizations for a lot of reasons.

1           What we're going to talk about tonight  
2   is not that. We're talking about going up the hill  
3   above Oneida dam, building a reservoir a thousand  
4   feet up the hill, and our initial simulation show  
5   you won't even be able to see the reservoir. You  
6   won't see the pipes coming down, and the new  
7   transmission lines. A new powerhouse and Old Camp  
8   that will pump, and we'll get into details of that,  
9   so it's different. It's not -- it's not the BOR  
10  proposal or the Twin Lakes proposal on that site.

11           Does that answer your question?

12           RALPH WEST: Yeah. I'll live.

13           MARK STENBERG: All right. Okay. Thank  
14  you. Awesome.

15           Okay. We'll move on.

16           Please remember to sign in. We  
17  introduce the PacifiCorp team. The consult team.  
18  Ask questions as we go along. Audio recording is  
19  going on.

20           So at this website. Do you want to take  
21  a picture of that? I'll get this presentation  
22  posted up and get it to our admins tomorrow, and it  
23  will be there in a day or two.

24           And also with that same location is this  
25  document. If you want to, you know, get into the



1 details of this document. Okay.

2 I feel like I'm burning up a lot of  
3 time. Sorry. PacifiCorp's proposal, you know I  
4 stated this, pretty straightforward. We'd like to  
5 amend our current hydro license for the Bear River  
6 to include an open loop, two-hundred-megawatt -- and  
7 we'll break this all down here in some subsequent  
8 slides -- two-hundred-megawatt pump storage  
9 facility, and to extend the Bear River license  
10 twenty years.

11 We have a current license to run the  
12 project. We have a settlement agreement around that  
13 that, includes a lot of the measures that I  
14 mentioned at the beginning of the talk. You know,  
15 our land management, our conservation hatchery, rec  
16 sites, boater flows, you know, all that stuff. So  
17 that's our goal.

18 I did mention the integrated resource  
19 plan and the why, you know, why are we doing this.  
20 Our, you know, our 2023 IRP, and it's on PacifiCorp  
21 website, PacifiCorp.com, you know, our vision for  
22 the west between now and 2042 and sets us on the  
23 path for these growth items.

24 Second bullet, that's what we're talking  
25 about here. And we're talking tonight about two

1 hundred megawatts of storage. You know, our growth  
2 projection is eight thousand megawatts of storage  
3 needed to get to our future here.

4 This includes batteries. I mentioned  
5 batteries co-located with solar standalone batteries  
6 and hydro pumped resources, and that's our focus  
7 tonight. Okay?

8 We could spend an hour talking about IRP  
9 stuff, so we won't. But just to orient, Bear Lake's  
10 up here. And we have our Bear Lake facilities that  
11 are separate from our hydroelectric facilities.  
12 Bear Lake facilities include Stewart Dam, Rainbow  
13 Canal, Mud Lake, Outlet Canal, Lifton Pumping  
14 Station. This is where we divert the Bear River  
15 irrigation storage, stored in Bear Lake, Mud Lake,  
16 and we moved it back to the Bear River. Soda Dam --  
17 let me get my pointer. Sorry.

18 Soda Dam, Last Chance, Grace Dam, and  
19 then Oneida down here just north of the town of  
20 Preston. You all know where we are.

21 So the proposal, let's spend a little  
22 bit of time on this. It's worth it to talk through  
23 this with a pointer. So there's two dams at Oneida  
24 that compose, you know, kind of in quotes the Oneida  
25 dam. There's the earthen dam that you see by the

1 road. That's where the Day-Use Area is and the boat  
2 launch. They're right above -- right at the  
3 southern end of the reservoir.

4 That earthen dike, thousand some feet  
5 long, forty feet tall roughly. And then there's the  
6 concrete dam sits over here. So the concrete dam is  
7 a hundred plus feet tall, sits there. So all of  
8 that, the two pieces of that make the dam.

9 The current powerhouse is right here,  
10 Oneida powerhouse. What happens, water runs into  
11 the reservoir, right? The intake structure is right  
12 where the cursor is. You can see that from the  
13 Day-Use Area. There's some super structure above  
14 it. It sits out there in the reservoir a little bit  
15 from the reservation dam.

16 There's a flow line. Oop, I'm too far.  
17 Sorry. Makes its way through the powerhouse and  
18 back to the river. Okay?

19 The pump storage proposal would operate  
20 independently of that system I just described of  
21 water moving through the reservoir, through the flow  
22 line, through the powerhouse, and back through the  
23 river. That can sit there and run, do its thing,  
24 pump storage project, move water up the hill, back  
25 down the hill, and do its purpose.

1           There's -- when this was constructed,  
2   there were two intake pipes, basically, through the  
3   bottom of the dam. Okay? One is utilized for the  
4   current powerhouse. The other one is just sitting  
5   there. So the proposal is we would use that second  
6   pipe that's already in the dam, come across the Bear  
7   River, this would be the new powerhouse pumping  
8   station, pipe's up the hill.

9           And this is where we were at today. We  
10   went up and looked at the site up the hill here  
11   today. So new upper reservoir. I haven't seen  
12   twenty-six acres all day. I might be wrong. It's  
13   three acres.

14           So new upper reservoir, twenty-three  
15   acres in size, concrete dam, three hundred and  
16   fifteen feet high. It's very steep up there. So  
17   top is small, but it's deep. Eleven foot diameter,  
18   fifty-eight hundred feet long steel penstocks, and  
19   that's from here to the pumping station and then we  
20   have about another thousand feet here.

21           New powerhouse. Two, hundred-megawatt  
22   reversible pump and generator, same piece of  
23   equipment.

24           JEFF SEAMONS: Mark, when you get  
25   done.

1 MARK STENBERG: Go ahead.

2 JEFF SEAMONS: You said you had two  
3 penstocks.

4 MARK STENBERG: Well, there are two.

5 JEFF SEAMONS: Inlets that were put in  
6 and installed.

7 Are they independent of one another?

8 MARK STENBERG: They sit side by side.

9 JEFF SEAMONS: Do they adjoin one  
10 another?

11 MARK STENBERG: They don't. They're not  
12 open to each other.

13 JEFF SEAMONS: Okay.

14 MARK STENBERG: But they both go into  
15 the reservoir in the same --

16 JEFF SEAMONS: Right.

17 MARK STENBERG: -- intake structure.

18 JEFF SEAMONS: Right.

19 THE COURT REPORTER: Your name?

20 JEFF SEAMONS: Jeff Seamons. Sorry.

21 MARK STENBERG: Is that --

22 JEFF SEAMONS: Well, that -- yeah. That  
23 helps.

24 MARK STENBERG: Okay. Lower reservoir.

25 Proposing to use the Oneida development, four

1 hundred and eighty acres. We would need a new  
2 substation in Old Camp and about a half mile of  
3 transmission line to connect that to the existing  
4 Oneida pump substation.

5 New permanent and temporary access roads  
6 to be determined and kind of back to my first  
7 comment, this is preliminary. One of the things  
8 that will be on Jack's plate will be, you know, a  
9 transportation road, construction study, access  
10 study, you know, and work with everybody to figure  
11 out -- figure that out. Okay?

12 Ownership. Land ownership. Here's  
13 the --

14 PAUL PURSER: Sorry. Can you go back to  
15 that other map?

16 Paul Purser again.

17 MARK STENBERG: This is the slide  
18 that -- go ahead.

19 PAUL PURSER: Can you just show me in  
20 correlation to this new project, where is the  
21 current bridge that you walk across like where the  
22 houses and stuff are?

23 MARK STENBERG: You bet. So --

24 JACK KOLKMAN: Kind of the bottom of  
25 that slide.

1 MARK STENBERG: Right here. Hold on.

2 PAUL PURSER: That's where the boat  
3 launch bridge is.

4 MARK STENBERG: It's about here.

5 PAUL PURSER: Thank you.

6 MARK STENBERG: Yeah. Yeah. So Old  
7 Camp is up here, and this is Old Camp right in this  
8 area here. Yeah. That house, wetland ponds, you  
9 know, all up there. Okay.

10 Any other questions on where water is  
11 flowing on this slide? Anybody?

12 (NO audible response.)

13 MARK STENBERG: Okay. Land ownership.  
14 So we start at the top.

15 This is on private property up top here.  
16 You know, where we worked with the owners for study  
17 plan access up there so we can come and go, conduct  
18 resource studies up there.

19 We've got Bureau of Reclamation lands.  
20 These purple lands, those are managed by BLM. We  
21 call them -- typically refer to them as BLM lands,  
22 but they are BOR, managed by BLM and PacifiCorp.

23 And you can see some of our facilities  
24 right now were that on the BOR lands, like the  
25 concrete dam, earthen dam, you know, et cetera.

1 Okay?

2 So the FERC boundary, all of these FERC  
3 projects have a boundary, and it's an exhibit that's  
4 given to FERC, but we would occupy potentially  
5 another, say, thirty-four acres of federal land in  
6 this project, and our current estimate is about  
7 thirty-five acres of private land up top here that  
8 does include a two hundred fifty foot planning  
9 buffer just around the current footprint here.

10 Again, everything is preliminary, so  
11 things may move around a little bit.

12 So --

13 RALPH WEST: Yeah. Ralph West.

14 MARK STENBERG: Sir.

15 RALPH WEST: Okay. Is that -- are you  
16 still going to be backing it up toward the Thatcher  
17 side of that, where you come in from Thatcher there  
18 at the river bridge?

19 And, if so, is it getting wind or are  
20 you going to wipe out, say, the hot springs pool  
21 that's back in there and come this way further with  
22 it or --

23 MARK STENBERG: So --

24 RALPH WEST: There's a hot springs  
25 swimming.



1 MARK STENBERG: Yup. Yup. Yeah.

2 And I've actually been involved with  
3 them off and on a little bit over the years, and  
4 tell you a funny story that happened a number of  
5 years ago. Take a moment.

6 God, it was -- Buffy, were you there  
7 when their surveyor called you? That was you, not  
8 Claudia?

9 So we get this call from the surveyor  
10 the hot springs resort's for sale, it's changing  
11 hands. And we get this call, and it's like, Hey,  
12 you know, we're doing a survey for the owner of the  
13 hot springs to sell the resort. We got the survey  
14 all laid out here. It looks like you own, like,  
15 half of the swimming pool, PacifiCorp, and some of  
16 the hot pools out in this area here.

17 And we're, like, really? I don't think  
18 so. You know, that's not land we've ever, like,  
19 claimed, right?

20 So we get the deeds out, and we get our  
21 surveyor, and we get these crack surveyors that work  
22 for us and, yeah, you know, Mark and Buffy, the deed  
23 shows you guys have, like, a third of the swimming  
24 pool at the hot spring, and some of these smaller  
25 pool in this land area.

1           And we're like we don't really want to  
2 be involved in that, right? So we talked to the hot  
3 springs owner and the surveyors and all this, but  
4 long story short, we just -- we decided that the  
5 intent of our original survey was just to acquire  
6 submerged lands at that location.

7           So we fixed our legal description to  
8 release claim for this old deed to half the swimming  
9 pool and stuff at the hot springs. It was like ten  
10 years ago.

11           But, yeah. So far hot springs  
12 fluctuations happen. I've seen it when we've had  
13 the reservoir down ten, twelve feet, and that hot  
14 pool comes down. I don't know if it's the current  
15 group. We've reached out to them earlier this year.  
16 We're still trying to get in touch with the owner  
17 there. Just consultations ongoing.

18           But we're aware, when we were down six  
19 feet, we were doing study work the other month -- I  
20 didn't measure it, but I went and peeked in. It was  
21 down four or five feet.

22           So there was this relationship. It's  
23 not one to one, but it's an issue that, you know, we  
24 need to talk about and have.

25           RALPH WEST: You are going to buy up far

1 with it, though.

2 MARK STENBERG: What will happen with  
3 pump storage. Let me show this diagram here, and  
4 I'll get to your question in a little more  
5 roundabout way.

6 So the diagram there, it's from the U.S.  
7 Department of Energy. So our setup would be similar  
8 to that. We're going to create an upper reservoir,  
9 penstock's downhill, and a pumping and a pipe into  
10 the reservoir.

11 So the reservoir sits there like it is  
12 right now, you know, at our normal operating level.  
13 And Matt will talk about the water resources there  
14 throughout the year, and there's fluctuation  
15 throughout the year.

16 When we pump, so let's say two point  
17 four. Two feet point four. I'll get rid of the  
18 rest of the digits there. So we're at two point  
19 four, and when we pump the upper reservoir, we take  
20 water out of the reservoir so water will go down,  
21 and we'll generate and come back up.

22 So, you know, a full daily cycle and  
23 Conley will talk about this in a little bit, but  
24 it's kind of the full cycle where we'll get to  
25 Oneida in the morning and be at two point four feet.

1 During the day, we've got production stuff going on,  
2 solar, you know, we come down our six feet or so,  
3 and then we generate at night, and it comes back up.  
4 Okay.

5 Conley will talk about what's more  
6 likely going to happen is during peaks and lulls and  
7 surplus power during the say, it's probably going to  
8 move more like this during the day and have smaller  
9 ups and downs, or even rests where we don't need it.  
10 We've got full, we don't need power, or we don't  
11 need power to pump it back up and kind of rest force  
12 a little bit there until it's needed.

13 LEE FRANKLIN: Is that an assurance or  
14 is that water going to go up and down five to six  
15 feet every twenty-four hours?

16 MARK STENBERG: We don't have that level  
17 of detail at this point.

18 LEE FRANKLIN: That's incredibly  
19 important --

20 MARK STENBERG: Yup, uh-huh.

21 LEE FRANKLIN: -- because that water  
22 going down five or six feet and coming back up five  
23 or six feet, that's like -- that's like a  
24 significant tide in the homeowners association. You  
25 know, and you're going to do that at the rate of two

1 thousand cubic feet per second, and the end flow  
2 into the upper end of that reservoir only averages  
3 less than a hundred cubic feet a second.

4 So the current at the upper end of the  
5 reservoir will be tremendous. That river is almost  
6 going to dry up upstream when you are pulling water  
7 over the fourteen hours to put it up there.

8 MICHELLE FRANKLIN: And something we  
9 didn't talk about this morning, we didn't talk about  
10 safety and recreation, what is it going to be like  
11 to be swimming, or on a paddleboard, or in a  
12 canoe --

13 MARK STENBERG: Right.

14 MICHELLE FRANKLIN: -- when that water  
15 drops?

16 MARK STENBERG: One of the questions,  
17 and we're going to be working on this  
18 two-dimensional model to look at sediment transport,  
19 is also a current, what's going to happen with the  
20 current? We talked about that internally. We don't  
21 have answers to that right now.

22 And we're also talking about what can we  
23 do in the upper range of the reservoir to  
24 potentially, you know, mitigate draw down and kind  
25 of brainstorming some things in that area.

1           LEE FRANKLIN: So in actuality, you're  
2 not going to flood out the Maple Grove Hot Springs.  
3 You're going to take all the water away from them by  
4 dropping it six feet. Whatever that is --

5           MARK STENBERG: When we drop six feet,  
6 yeah, it looks like their pool goes down four or  
7 five feet. I'm not the hot springs operator.

8           LEE FRANKLIN: The distance from the  
9 bank to the water --

10          MARK STENBERG: Right.

11          LEE FRANKLIN: -- increases  
12 significantly.

13          MARK STENBERG: At a full cycle, you'll  
14 be down six feet. So things we're brainstorming on,  
15 and it's an issue, definitely. And like I said, we  
16 don't have the answers to everything tonight. You  
17 know, we're trying to get concerns in, make sure we  
18 understand them, get the research behind them, and  
19 try to answer questions.

20                 We're not coming in here tonight fully  
21 baked for sure.

22                 Jeff, and then I'll --

23          JEFF SEAMONS: Jeff Seamons.

24                 Through the relicensing we have a kind  
25 of an understanding of what the downramp does to the

1 soils, you know, in the river system, and --

2 MARK STENBERG: Below Oneida.

3 JEFF SEAMONS: -- below Oneida, but the  
4 same effect could still happen within the Oneida  
5 reservoir when it's drawn down with those sediments  
6 that have settled in and the channel that's been  
7 created --

8 MARK STENBERG: Uh-huh.

9 JEFF SEAMONS: -- we could have a  
10 sloughing of the material, you know --

11 MARK STENBERG: Sure.

12 JEFF SEAMONS: -- into the river.

13 MARK STENBERG: Yup. And Matt's going  
14 to -- Matt will take us through one of the studies.  
15 He's going to take us through a suite of studies  
16 that we're going to be working on, Jeff, and one of  
17 them is bank stability, erosion soil study, so we  
18 can figure out what is going to happen there.

19 You know, a lot of Oneida, you know, is  
20 interesting. I was out there, it's down six feet, a  
21 lot of it is just steep, talus slopes. Maybe kind  
22 of a favorable situation for a project like this.

23 But then when you get to the hot springs  
24 and the bluff, you've got more sediment, you've got  
25 those emergent wetland areas and stuff that's, you

1 know, more at risk there to get the fluctuation.

2 Sure.

3 So let me go through this here. Let me  
4 do a quick time check. Okay.

5 CHRISTIAN SPERRY: Yeah. I was just  
6 going to ask: How do you anticipate that the flows  
7 will change in the river beneath the reservoir, and  
8 also if they're going to change, how substantial  
9 will it impact the ecosystem?

10 MARK STENBERG: No. So it's all in the  
11 reservoir. All right? Everything below is  
12 regulated through the current powerhouse, and as I  
13 said earlier, that operation can remain essentially  
14 independent of the storage project. You know, we  
15 will still be a thousand CFS all summer long coming  
16 into the reservoir. We've got a thousand CFS going  
17 out of the powerhouse. Both flows are happening  
18 down there. You know, it's just like it is.  
19 Reservoir is doing its pump storage thing above it,  
20 you know.

21 THE COURT REPORTER: I need his name,  
22 please.

23 MARK STENBERG: Name, please.

24 CHRISTIAN SPERRY: Christian.

25 MR. STENBERG: Last name, please.



1 CHRISTIAN SPERRY: Sperry.

2 MARK STENBERG: How do you spell your  
3 last name?

4 CHRISTIAN SPERRY: S-p-e-r-r-y.

5 MARK STENBERG: S-p-e-r-r-y.

6 LEE FRANKLIN: Lee Franklin, again.

7 The volume of the water would not be  
8 affected, but the quality of the water could be  
9 significantly affected because we're going to have  
10 all this unusual current in the reservoir, and  
11 that's an unknown at this point.

12 MARK STENBERG: It is an unknown. Yeah.  
13 We're doing our sediment study. We're going to be  
14 doing our pathometry. We're going to put this model  
15 together so we can look at current and sediment  
16 movement.

17 Justin and I worked through this at  
18 Ashton. We rebuilt the Ashton dam. 2010, 2011.  
19 Same crew went out. We mapped sediments in the  
20 reservoir. We did put this whole model together so  
21 we could look at different flow rates through the  
22 reservoir and the elevations and model where all the  
23 sediment would go and how it would move. It's going  
24 to be interesting, you know, and we're going to work  
25 through that.

1           We're also doing metals testing in the  
2 sediment. DQ asked us to do that, so we're going to  
3 do metals testing in the sediment samples and see  
4 what's accumulated in the reservoir, you know, and  
5 see if we've got an issue there, too.

6           I'll move on. I think we've covered it  
7 all.

8           LEE FRANKLIN: Mark, do you want to get  
9 through this first and then let us ask the  
10 questions?

11           MARK STENBERG: It's going to be quicker  
12 in a minute.

13           JEFF SEAMONS: Do you want us to ask  
14 questions as you go?

15           MARK STENBERG: I just did a quick time  
16 check, and we're at 7:45. We've been at it  
17 forty-five minutes, and we've covered a tremendous  
18 amount of ground. I think we're in good shape.

19           FERC, I mentioned FERC, Federal Energy  
20 Regulatory Commission, independent government agency  
21 that regulates nonfederal hydroelectric projects.

22           They authorize construction and the  
23 operation of them. They inspect them. We have to  
24 submit reports to them. They are our regulator.

25           So we're talking about a capacity

1 amendment for this. It's a process whereby you can  
2 add additional generations to a hydroelectric  
3 project through FERC, right?

4 It's not relicensing, like, we were  
5 talking about new dams in Oneida. It's not a  
6 licensing process. It's an amendment process.

7 It's similar to licensing. It has some  
8 differences. Short story, it's what's required to  
9 add something like pump storage. Okay. We're in  
10 part of that process right now. And it's -- I think  
11 everybody has got my cell phone number from the  
12 notices we mailed out, e-mailed out. Anybody wants  
13 to talk about process, call me, e-mail me.

14 We talk about process because this isn't  
15 something that the average person, you know, is  
16 involved in FERC process that much. All the  
17 scheduled stuff we're on right now -- so let me talk  
18 about schedule real quick. I didn't do that.

19 So September 18th -- we have four  
20 different mailing lists, so on September 18th of  
21 this year, we e-mailed my Bear River environmental  
22 coordination committee. And they're the ones that  
23 work on grant funds, and conservation hatchery, and  
24 those things with PacifiCorp on the current  
25 projects.

1           They got an e-mail notice that we filed  
2 this with FERC, and we posted it on our website  
3 FERC. We left a copy at the Franklin County  
4 Library.

5           FERC also keeps a service list for our  
6 project. Anybody can tell FERC: Hey, how can you  
7 get a service list? So when things happen, you get  
8 a notice. So we pulled the FERC service list. Some  
9 had a e-mails. Some just addresses. We got  
10 e-mailed or they got it mailed address of this.

11           We also built a mailing list of all of  
12 our neighbors at all three projects, and all we have  
13 from those records is hard copy, so we sent a letter  
14 to everybody that's a neighbor to our hydroelectric  
15 projects, all three of them, that we filed this with  
16 FERC, and where it was available at the PacifiCorp  
17 and FERC website.

18           And there's another list that I've got  
19 that's just other interested folks in southeast  
20 Idaho. We used it -- it's from our Dry Canyon  
21 project we were looking at over there. So I  
22 provided notice to all of them, too, just as  
23 interested folks. A hundred and twenty-nine  
24 different notices went out, either by e-mail or  
25 letter, about this. And that kicks off the process

1 for us.

2 That's why I'm talking about it with  
3 this slide. This starts the process, and then this  
4 meeting tonight could be no sooner than thirty days  
5 from when this was sent out, and no later than  
6 sixty, and we're at thirty-seven days here tonight.  
7 There was a social media post about a hasty meeting.  
8 We put this data out thirty-seven days ago, and  
9 we're following FERC's regs to be here tonight with  
10 you.

11 On October 9, we provided the required  
12 notice to FERC about this meeting. We had two -- we  
13 did a press release that was picked up by two news  
14 channels. We did Friday night spots on it. We did  
15 newspaper ads that we're required to do, and we  
16 e-mailed and mailed everybody again with the details  
17 about this meeting.

18 So our goal is to be transparent,  
19 inclusive. We want to hear comments. We want to  
20 have the hard questions asked. You know, we've got  
21 our own questions about the project, and we need to  
22 hear your hard questions and try to work through  
23 these things, so....

24 JEFF SEAMONS: Mark? Jeff Seamons.

25 MARK STENBERG: Yep.

1                   JEFF SEAMONS: So the twenty-year  
2 extension to the license will add twenty years to  
3 the current license.

4                   MARK STENBERG: Yup.

5                   JEFF SEAMONS: Is that correct?

6                   MARK STENBERG: Yup.

7                   JEFF SEAMONS: Okay.

8                   MARK STENBERG: And FERC allows a  
9 license extension request when you've got large  
10 capital improvements.

11                  JEFF SEAMONS: But on the other hand,  
12 didn't the ECC recommend just a thirty-year license?

13                  MARK STENBERG: Yup. Yup.

14                  JEFF SEAMONS: And FERC issued just a  
15 thirty-year license.

16                  MARK STENBERG: Yup.

17                  JEFF SEAMONS: Due to the fact that the  
18 ECC recommended the thirty-year license to the  
19 commission.

20                  MARK STENBERG: Yup. And we were party  
21 to the settlement, too, and it's in the settlement.  
22 So what I'm working on, Jeff, with the ECC, and  
23 we're real preliminary, the ECC group, they're the  
24 only ones that can modify the settlement agreement.

25                               And Jeff Levinger and I started

1 one-on-one conversations with them and had some  
2 group conversations with ECC, and this is all super  
3 preliminary, but we're talking about what  
4 modifications, you know, we could make to the  
5 settlement agreement so that folks would like it for  
6 another twenty years.

7           There's lots of good things in there,  
8 you know, management of Oneida Canyon. If we can  
9 extend that settlement agreement twenty years,  
10 everything doesn't have to get -- you know, go  
11 through licensing of the Bear projects.

12           We have a settlement pretty much, I  
13 think. Most people are favorable to the current  
14 settlement agreement. We look at the land  
15 management, recreation, water management.

16           If we start licensing in 2027, you know,  
17 we'll probably go through the integrated licensing  
18 process, and Jeff and I have history working through  
19 that together, you know, and who knows what will  
20 come out of that?

21           So if you're a stakeholder that is  
22 favorable to the current settlement agreement, my  
23 opinion, my personal opinion, that it would be in  
24 your interest and your agency's interest to figure  
25 out what tweaks you'd like to it and keep it for

1 twenty years versus going through an IOP process for  
2 the Bear River projects.

3 JEFF SEAMONS: I just don't think it's a  
4 quid pro quo event, you know, that it's an event --  
5 the relicensing is an event for the public interest  
6 to get involved, you know.

7 MARK STENBERG: Yeah.

8 JEFF SEAMONS: And maybe through the  
9 ECC, I don't know. I haven't been to -- I haven't  
10 attended a meeting for a while up there, and I'm  
11 not, you know, privy to what's been going on, but I  
12 would assume that those predecessors to the ECC  
13 members that are working now would have had a better  
14 picture, you know, of what they wanted to see happen  
15 in the thirty-year term rather than going to a,  
16 say -- I guess it would be a fifty-year term.

17 MARK STENBERG: Uh-huh, yup. And it's  
18 going to be, you know, we can't force anybody to  
19 agree to that.

20 JEFF SEAMONS: That's true.

21 MARK STENBERG: They're all agencies  
22 with their own directives, right? And it will be up  
23 to them to figure out: Hey, I'd like to see this  
24 tweaked this way, and I'd be happy with another  
25 twenty.



1 I do want -- I'm happy to talk to you,  
2 Jeff, more about that because there's a lot of  
3 complexity around that conversation.

4 JEFF SEAMONS: Yeah.

5 MARK STENBERG: Three-stage process.  
6 That's what we're required to go through. We're in  
7 the first stage. We've issued the top, grayed-out  
8 bullet, initial consultation document.

9 We're at the second bullet. We're  
10 conducting a joint agency public meeting/site visit  
11 today. I'm on the timeline.

12 Interested parties. Third bullet.  
13 That's the sixty-day. That's FERC's timeline for  
14 comments back on this, and Matt will talk about kind  
15 of what FERC recommends for a format for comment or  
16 study request.

17 So sixty days, that sixty-day period  
18 falls on December 26. Just throwing that out there.  
19 That's FERC's timeline from the meeting today.

20 So this was out thirty-seven days ago,  
21 and then we've got sixty more days for folks to  
22 digest and comment on it.

23 Okay. Second phase. Complete  
24 reasonable and necessary studies. Usually one or  
25 two field seasons, and Matt will talk about what we

1 started this year. We wanted to get a jump on  
2 things.

3 And then we draft this license amendment  
4 application after studies and consultation on study  
5 results and working through, you know, what types of  
6 things might be acceptable to avoid impacts, to  
7 mitigate for impacts, or other enhancements that  
8 could happen.

9 Enhancements might be things that we  
10 agree to do that are not necessarily related to  
11 direct impacts, and we have the current Bear River  
12 license that has enhancements in it. And we do  
13 things that aren't directly tied to environmental  
14 impacts from the project. Okay?

15 We give all this to FERC, including the  
16 consultation record, so we keep track of everybody  
17 that's been involved with us, and we can keep you in  
18 the loop. Okay.

19 I'm going to propose, just for the sake  
20 of time, this is the schedule. It's the same stage  
21 one, you know, we've completed the ICD. We've got  
22 it out. We've provided notifications. We've  
23 published the public notice of this meeting, having  
24 the meeting. That's that slide.

25 Next step out there, which would be

1 comments on this document, and comments come to  
2 PacifiCorp. Everybody is welcome to file with FERC,  
3 too. Doesn't bother me at all. By the process,  
4 though, comments should come to us, but you're  
5 welcome to file them with FERC, too.

6 We'll consult with folks on comments  
7 once we get them after the comment period. Follow  
8 up and talk about how we're, you know, going to  
9 address them, if we think they're relevant, don't  
10 understand them, follow up with folks.

11 Perform field studies. We've started  
12 some field studies. Actually, quite a few this  
13 year. As reports are done, we'll circulate draft  
14 study reports. We'll be putting them up on the  
15 website. We'll be soliciting comments on draft  
16 reports.

17 This next one will prepare draft license  
18 amendment application. Final study reports,  
19 consultation records, you know, all the way to go  
20 for.

21 That whole package gets a ninety-day  
22 review period before it goes to FERC, and then we  
23 hand it over to FERC, and then they take it from  
24 there, and that's the third stage.

25 Give it to FERC. FERC may ask us

1 additional questions. FERC will issue a notice  
2 accepting application, ask for comments on it again.  
3 We just ask you for comments on it with the  
4 ninety-day period we give it to FERC, FERC will ask  
5 you again for comments.

6 There will be an environmental  
7 assessment, environmental impact statement, and FERC  
8 will make decisions. Okay.

9 MATT BURAK: Okay. Thank you, Mark.

10 So my name is Matt Burak. I'm with WSP.  
11 I'm managing -- project managing the licensing  
12 portion of this proposed project for PacifiCorp.

13 What we're doing now is essentially  
14 scoping of the issues. So we're soliciting feedback  
15 from everyone, general public, research agencies,  
16 what they think the primary issues are that  
17 PacifiCorp will need to collect additional  
18 information on to form an analysis of project  
19 effects.

20 And to do that, first we need to have an  
21 understanding of what the existing environment is,  
22 what are the resources that are present in the area.  
23 And FERC has specific resource areas to look at, and  
24 these are those here: Geology and soils, water  
25 resources, fish and aquatics, and et cetera. Those

1 are all listed in section four of this large  
2 document we've prepared that summarize the existing  
3 environment.

4 The next slides are going to focus on  
5 kind of salient findings from our preliminary  
6 information-gathering activities, so -- but and the  
7 document, of course, is described in much more  
8 detail.

9 So as for geology and soils, the  
10 proposed project is located on alluvial fan  
11 deposits, sedimentary rocks, quartzite, landslide  
12 deposits, and fill boulder gravels.

13 There are no mapped active faults in the  
14 project footprint. In the basin, relief so the  
15 topography of the area ranges from about forty-five  
16 hundred to nine thousand feet.

17 Soils in the area, the most common ones  
18 are Hondoho stony surface-Ricrest complex and  
19 Polumar-Ireland complex. Those types of soils have  
20 low to moderate erosion, and that refers to sheet  
21 and real erosion. So sheet erosion refers to kind  
22 of uniform flow of water over the soil surface, so  
23 just think of sheet of rain going over the soil  
24 surface. And real erosion refers to when water  
25 creates kind of a gully in the soil surface and

1 mobilizes the particles that way, kind of like a  
2 little channel.

3 Water resources. This is kind of  
4 subdivided into two areas: Water quantity and water  
5 quality.

6 Here water quantity refers to how much  
7 water is flowing through the river or in the  
8 reservoir. So mean monthly flows is kind of a one  
9 metric in a way that's described. And they range in  
10 the Bear River from about five hundred CFS to a  
11 little over a thousand CFS.

12 Instantaneous flows refers to kind of  
13 what's the flow in the river at any given moment,  
14 and that ranges from seventy to a mere thirty-five  
15 hundred CFS. Typically, the highest flows occur in  
16 July, the low flows occur in the fall and the  
17 winter.

18 As for the Oneida Reservoir, it's got a  
19 surface area of four hundred and eighty acres,  
20 approximately five miles in length, got a normal  
21 pool elevation of 4,882.2 feet, and its elevation  
22 varies about one to two feet from month to month,  
23 and can vary plus or minus four feet throughout a  
24 given year.

25 It has a useable storage capacity of

1 almost eleven thousand acre feet of water and has a  
2 hydraulic retention time, so how long it takes kind  
3 of a water molecule from entering the upper  
4 reservoir to exit the reservoir of about six days to  
5 do that.

6 And it has an average depth of  
7 twenty-four feet and a maximum of about eighty-five  
8 feet, which would be near the dam.

9 The water of the Bear River and the  
10 Oneida Reservoir are used primarily for hydropower  
11 generation, irrigation, and supports cold-water and  
12 warm-water biota. And is used for recreation:  
13 Fishing, boating, and swimming.

14 Its water quality supports cold water  
15 salmonid spawning, primarily contact recreation,  
16 industrial water, and agricultural water uses.

17 There's two assessment units that IDEQ,  
18 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, uses to  
19 assess and designate these uses. One is upstream of  
20 Oneida Reservoir and that extends from Oneida  
21 Reservoir to Alexander Reservoir and there's a  
22 downstream unit which starts at the tailwater of  
23 Oneida. Both are classified as high quality waters  
24 presently.

25 And previous and ongoing monitoring

1 indicates that Oneida Reservoir is a sink for total  
2 suspended solids and total phosphorus.

3 Right now, existing water quality data  
4 is rather limited. Water temperature ranges from  
5 half a degree to mere twenty-five degrees Celsius  
6 over the year.

7 The reservoir undergoes over short-term  
8 stratification, so that refers to when there's a  
9 less dense, warmer layer of water on the surface and  
10 a colder, denser layer of water, termed the  
11 hypolimnion, near the bottom.

12 Turbidity -- I'm sorry, and dissolved  
13 oxygen within that low, deep, cold water layer, the  
14 hypolimnion can get to near zero. Turbidity refers  
15 to kind of the cloudiness of the water, and it's  
16 higher in the in-flow section and lower near the  
17 dam.

18 And if you think about that, turbidity  
19 makes sense because as the flow decreases as the  
20 river hits the reservoir, sediment particles settle  
21 out. They don't -- they're no longer mobile in the  
22 water column, so water becomes more clear as you get  
23 towards the dam.

24 Bear River minimum water temperatures  
25 are about 1.3 degrees Celsius. Maximum summer water



1 temperature is about 22 degrees Celsius. Chronic  
2 water temperature standard for the salmonid fish is  
3 typically exceeded in several months. That means  
4 kind of a chronic means like a continuous exposure  
5 to a substance, in this case the water temperature  
6 would result in mortality, injury, reduced growth,  
7 repair reproduction or other adverse effects.

8 And dissolved oxygen levels are above  
9 state standards generally, and total phosphorus  
10 sometimes do not meet state standards presently.

11 As for fish and aquatic resources, so  
12 what fish are present, what other aquatic organisms  
13 are present, and what habitat supports those  
14 organisms. In the reservoir these habitats include  
15 talus slopes with large boulders and mud flaps.  
16 Downstream in the river, the habitat includes  
17 riffles, glides, pools, cobble gravel, and boulders  
18 as the primary substrates.

19 Oneida Reservoir is primarily managed as  
20 a sport fishery. Dominant species include walleye,  
21 carp, smallmouth bass, and perch.

22 Downstream sections of the Bear River  
23 are managed as a sport fishery stocked with  
24 nonnative rainbow trout. Other dominant species  
25 include Utah sucker, smallmouth bass, and mountain

1 white fish.

2 Presently, as part of the settlement  
3 agreement, there's enhancement measures to promote  
4 Bonneville cutthroat trout populations.

5 There's no diadromous fish present, so  
6 there's no fish species that migrate between fresh  
7 water and the ocean. There's no designated  
8 essential fish habitat present, so that refers to  
9 federally protected habitat for fish.

10 Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries  
11 Conservation and Management Act, there's benthic  
12 macroinvertebrates present. The most common ones  
13 are oligochaetes, so you got your worms, and your  
14 chironomids, your midges.

15 And at present there's no known fish  
16 entrainment or turbine mortality studies that were  
17 conducted at Oneida, so that's a potential  
18 information gap right there.

19 LEE FRANKLIN: I think you just said  
20 that it would be -- there will be increased water  
21 flow and that will increase the turbidity of the  
22 water, and the water gets cleaner the slower the  
23 flow is and it gets closer to the dam.

24 MATT BURAK: Yes, at present.

25 LEE FRANKLIN: So if we increase the

1 flow, that's going to make the water more turbid,  
2 and that will, therefore, increase the temperature  
3 of the water as well, which is already in the summer  
4 over.

5 MATT BURAK: That's something we're  
6 going to look into.

7 LEE FRANKLIN: So we're like guaranteed  
8 to make the fish worse because we're going to  
9 increase the temperature of the water.

10 MATT BURAK: Well, we don't know that  
11 for sure.

12 MARK STENBERG: We don't know that until  
13 we model it and get our water quality modeling work  
14 what's going to happen with the temperature or  
15 sediment, until we get our sediment study done and  
16 our model.

17 That's a good question. We don't have a  
18 good answer for that yet.

19 JUSTIN BARKER: Those temperatures that  
20 we were looking at there, those were temperatures  
21 that in the general time of the Bear River, those  
22 are inflows to the Oneida Reservoir. The same with  
23 the turbidity, you know, because the suspended load  
24 coming into the Bear River, you know, that's four  
25 miles upstream of where the intake is. There's no

1 way that any flow coming back through the dam is  
2 going to interact with any of those suspended --

3 THE COURT REPORTER: Speak up. Those  
4 suspended --

5 MATT BURAK: Suspended sediments  
6 interact.

7 JUSTIN BARKER: The suspended load  
8 coming in from the Bear River is not going to be  
9 affected by water coming in and out of the dam.

10 THE COURT REPORTER: I need your name.

11 JUSTIN BARKER: Justin.

12 MARK STENBERG: We could potentially  
13 through our fluctuations, et cetera, we could  
14 resuspend sediments in the headwater area, and  
15 that's what we're going to be looking at and figure  
16 that out. And that may be, you know, a temporary  
17 period of time or, you know, we're going to figure  
18 that out.

19 JUSTIN BARKER: Not all of them come in  
20 in a transport model.

21 MARK STENBERG: Exactly.

22 JEFF SEAMONS: Yes. Jeff Seamons.

23 We're essentially introducing an  
24 unnatural river into the bottom end of the Oneida  
25 Narrows reservoir running two thousand -- excuse me,

1 running two thousand CFS out approximately and then  
2 back in approximately into the -- into the  
3 reservoir.

4 The turbidity or the actual physical  
5 presence of the flow and the effects upon the  
6 sediment that has settled out and is down at that  
7 portion of the dam is also going to be affected.

8 I mean, we're going to -- you're going  
9 to create a dead pool of just turbid, filthy water  
10 right there at that intake structure that's going to  
11 go down into the water through the penstock of  
12 Oneida, and we're going to push all those solids  
13 down through along with the phosphorous.

14 And, I mean, we've got two river systems  
15 here. We've got one coming in and one going out,  
16 and then we're creating an unnatural river system  
17 coming back into Oneida at the lower end.

18 MARK STENBERG: Jeff, one of the things  
19 we're going to look at with this, you know, we've  
20 got to get our model built to look at this to look  
21 at what's happening up in the headwater, the  
22 transport model for sediment, and also down at the  
23 dam. We may end up, you know, we may find, hey,  
24 we've got to armour a portion of the reservoir so  
25 water can go up, in and out without stirring up

1 stuff right there.

2 But keep in mind that the maximum  
3 capacity of the current is three thousand CFS, so at  
4 times there's three thousand CFS running through  
5 there, which is what you have in the summer. You've  
6 got a thousand CFS going through the plant, got two  
7 thousand CFS going up the hill. That's the same  
8 current. The difference, though, is the reservoir  
9 is not down.

10 We could be pulling three thousand just  
11 like we're running three thousand in, you know, in  
12 spring run off or something, but we've got the  
13 reservoir going up and down and three thousand  
14 coming through.

15 But good questions. I don't want to  
16 rush past this, but we just -- that's why we're  
17 going to build a transports model so we can look at  
18 sediment transport, and we can have an informed  
19 discussion on this.

20 JEFF SEAMONS: And I would also suggest  
21 that you implement a heat transport model also for  
22 the project. The reservoir has the potential of  
23 being a heat sink with the solar energy, you know,  
24 produced onto the barren reservoir bed, the ruffraff  
25 rock, the concrete will affect concrete. You've got

1 the mile -- two-mile-long twin penstocks that are  
2 going to conduct solar energy, and you've got the  
3 pumping, two-stage pumps that are going to create  
4 heat pumping the water two hundred feet up the hill  
5 also, which are -- and then we're going to force --  
6 put it back into the reservoir right next to the  
7 inlet of the Oneida Narrows power plant, and say,  
8 well, the temperature of the river is going to be  
9 fine. It's not. There's no way that that is going  
10 to be below state standards or even come close to,  
11 you know, meeting state standards.

12 And that's going to -- that's going to  
13 impact the water qualities certificate for the  
14 license.

15 MATT BURAK: So to summarize your  
16 concern, the effects of project operation on water  
17 quality downstream of the Oneida and Bear River.

18 JEFF SEAMONS: Right. Right. Correct.  
19 Heat and turbidity and the solids that are settling  
20 out and plus the phosphorus.

21 MATT BURAK: Uh-huh.

22 JEFF SEAMONS: That's one thing that  
23 really needs to be addressed, and that's a big  
24 concern.

25 MATT BURAK: Okay.

1           JEFF SEAMONS: Especially -- especially  
2 where the settlement agreement was negotiated around  
3 Bonneville cutthroat trout recovery. And, you know,  
4 and the sustaining that species of cold water  
5 salmon.

6           MARK STENBERG: Thanks, Jeff.

7           JEFF SEAMONS: Okay.

8           MARK STENBERG: No. It's good. It's  
9 all stuff --

10          JEFF SEAMONS: We can talk.

11          MARK STENBERG: It's all stuff we're  
12 working on. We just don't have answers, and we  
13 appreciate the thoughtful comments and the concern.  
14 As we get to the issue listed, yeah.

15                 So thanks.

16          RALPH WEST: Ralph West.

17                 If and when all this comes about, how  
18 soon do you expect to have all your, you might say,  
19 ducks in a row to start it, and when you do, how  
20 long, and how long is going to take to build it?

21          MARK STENBERG: So kind of roundabout,  
22 so if we got to, say, an application to FERC in  
23 early 2025, right? FERC could take a while to work  
24 through their whole process.

25                 Hear back from FERC, still have a lot of



1 engineering to do, Jack, for a period of time, and I  
2 wouldn't think we're going to go full engineering  
3 when we don't have an order to build. I don't  
4 know.

5 But what was the target, say, for  
6 construction, three-year construction?

7 JACK KOLKMAN: Three to four.

8 MARK STENBERG: What was that?

9 JACK KOLKMAN: Three to four.

10 RALPH WEST: So you'd like to, whatever,  
11 get the okay or whatever you do if you do it, you'd  
12 like to have that by 2025.

13 MARK STENBERG: Well, to be able to make  
14 application to FERC if -- you know, if we get that  
15 far, right.

16 MATT BURAK: Uh-huh. So go ahead. Were  
17 you finished?

18 RALPH WEST: Yeah.

19 PAUL PURSER: We don't know, at least in  
20 my opinion, and maybe this is common knowledge,  
21 maybe not, but every time the river fluctuates  
22 fishing shuts off, right? The fish quit biting.  
23 It's terrible. They need a couple days to  
24 reacclimate to their new water level and  
25 surroundings as that makes an impact on not only

1 fishing, but the fish themselves.

2 And currently one of your slides said  
3 the water in the reservoir fluctuates four feet over  
4 a month period maybe, and now you're talking about  
5 fluctuating a year.

6 LEE FRANKLIN: A year.

7 PAUL PURSER: So now you're talking  
8 about fluctuating five feet every day.

9 LEE FRANKLIN: Or six.

10 PAUL PURSER: I'm sorry, but are you  
11 kidding me? You guys are intelligent people. You  
12 know -- you've done similar studies, and you know  
13 what happens to the river.

14 I'm sitting here trying to bite my  
15 tongue, but I can't even believe you're considering  
16 this. How is that going to impact me as a  
17 fisherman? You say it's for recreation. I'm out  
18 there on my little ten-foot pontoon. It would be a  
19 disaster.

20 And what about the fish? Who cares  
21 about them. They're going to be in a constant flux  
22 of hazardous environment.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: What was your name  
24 again?

25 PAUL PURSER: Paul Purser, P-u-r-s-e-r.

1 MARK STENBERG: Paul, one of the things  
2 we don't have good answers for right now is how the  
3 reservoir fishery is going to respond.

4 I have been talking to Idaho Fish and  
5 Game about this proposal since March. You know, and  
6 they definitely are -- you know, the recreational  
7 fishery is definitely in their focus. The walleye  
8 they stock there every year. Smallmouth bass, those  
9 items.

10 You know, I don't have good answer to  
11 that tonight, you know. I got your notes here.  
12 I'll be talking to Pat Kennedy about this a lot  
13 going forward, so I appreciate you bringing it up.  
14 I don't have an answer for you so sorry.

15 MATT BURAK: So moving on to wildlife  
16 and botanical resources.

17 Wildlife resources in the vicinity with  
18 the proposed project consist of various species of  
19 mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles that are  
20 characteristic of --

21 THE COURT REPORTER: Slow down.

22 MATT BURAK: -- the Semiarid Hills and  
23 Low Mountains ecoregion of the Northern Basin  
24 and Range ecoregions.

25 There's seven upland habitats present,

1 the most dominant one -- the most prevalent one is  
2 the sagebrush steppe. There's some noxious weeds  
3 that are present, three plant species listed as  
4 noxious species by the State of Idaho are found in  
5 the current Oneida project boundary.

6 Currently there's weed control in place  
7 to manage those noxious weeds. The project is  
8 located within Game Management Unit Number 77.  
9 Right now there's no -- there's no information  
10 indicating there's big game migration routes or  
11 stopovers in or around the project.

12 There's a land management and buffer  
13 plans included presently to prevent degradation of  
14 riparian and wetland conditions and minimize impacts  
15 from dispersed camping and dispersed vehicular  
16 access.

17 MARK STENBERG: Hey, Matt, I think  
18 it's -- I'd like to go back to Paul's comment for a  
19 second.

20 Paul, I appreciate you bringing that up.  
21 That's a great example of, you know, the purpose of  
22 this project. So concerns raised and issues raised.  
23 You know, we're going to talk to the resource  
24 managers, the resource agencies. We're going to  
25 look for data, studies, similar situations, learn

1 what we can about the question and come back.

2 Similar for everything else we talked about, right?

3 If we find, you know, a resource  
4 impacts, right, and then we're going to start that  
5 conversation of how could we avoid it, right? Well,  
6 we don't build the project is one way to avoid  
7 impact.

8 Or if you really want to build the  
9 project, here's some things we can do to mitigate  
10 that impact. And just brainstorming a while  
11 tonight, but say we find out, oh, you know, this is  
12 going to impact that warm water, sport fishery and  
13 the reservoir, right? And angling opportunities are  
14 not going to be, let's just say they're not going to  
15 be what they are right now.

16 How can we enhance, say, flat water,  
17 warm water, you know, sport fishing opportunities in  
18 Southeast Idaho? And then you brainstorm with our  
19 partners: How can we make it better in other  
20 places, then, right? And then you go down that path  
21 of: How can we mitigate for this? Is there ways we  
22 can help that other flat water recreation to have  
23 access, improve fishing, you know, things like that  
24 that we can brainstorm, you know, and see if that's  
25 something that would be palatable to company, to

1 Firth, you know, to people in the package, you know,  
2 everything -- that's kind of the process everything  
3 works through here. Okay?

4 LEE FRANKLIN: Mark, if it would be  
5 maybe sort of kind of acceptable to sacrifice Oneida  
6 but improve something else? Is that -- that doesn't  
7 seem like a good idea to me.

8 Is that what you said?

9 MARK STENBERG: Yes. Kind of, yes.  
10 Yes.

11 And, you know, this is the hard thing.  
12 You know, this is the hard spot we're in, you know.  
13 I would love to come to a meeting and somebody say,  
14 like, Mark, I got the best pump storage site for  
15 you; then I call Tim right then and say, Tim, I got  
16 this great site somebody just told me about. You  
17 know, it's by our transmission line. It's got lots  
18 of elevation. The landowners got water rights we  
19 can use, and there's no sage grouse, pigmy rabbit,  
20 mule deer, elk, sport fishery. You know, it would  
21 be great.

22 I say elk. I'm complaining a little  
23 bit, but we're trying to find a site, and we're  
24 trying to work through the process here and study  
25 the resources, study the issues, see what we can

1 learn about it, answer questions, and then see, you  
2 know, on that -- what we talked about was avoidance,  
3 mitigation, and enhancement, and see how we can work  
4 through resource issues.

5 JENNIFER NORTON: Are there other  
6 studies being done outside the company, like, for  
7 part of the park studies being conducted on  
8 microbiological resource and food chains such as  
9 wild birds and the bug ecology and disturbance of  
10 water that would impact those things?

11 I'm just curious to know if there are  
12 other studies being done that are not connected to  
13 this project, like objective studies on these like  
14 microbiologies.

15 MARK STENBERG: Sure, like the food web  
16 for, say, walleye or something like that, right?

17 JENNIFER NORTON: Uh-huh.

18 MARK STENBERG: Justin, there's all  
19 kinds of research out there.

20 JUSTIN BARKER: There's a lot of  
21 university research that's going on. There's, you  
22 know, dissertations and thesis throughout the Bear  
23 River.

24 JENNIFER NORTON: Yeah.

25 THE COURT REPORTER: I need names.

1 ERIC DUFFIN: Eric Duffin. I guess as a  
2 hydrologist and, you know, my training is to  
3 identify problems and not to hide them, so not in  
4 any way are we doing something to try to cover up  
5 this plant or --

6 JENNIFER NORTON: Yeah. We're talking  
7 like --

8 ERIC DUFFIN: We're presenting nonbiased  
9 information.

10 JENNIFER NORTON: Right. Yeah. Fish is  
11 one thing, you know, but I'm talking about, like,  
12 the whole picture: Birds, bugs. Like, how is this  
13 impacting all of the wildlife that is diminishing,  
14 particularly the bird population. And, you know,  
15 when you disturb one, you disturb bugs and algae and  
16 other smaller food webs, complex, delicate things  
17 that birds -- so, yeah, Fish and Game, of course.  
18 Like fish. We like fish. We like the fish  
19 hatcheries, but what about the foundational and  
20 native ecology.

21 THE COURT REPORTER: I need your name.

22 JENNIFER NORTON: Jennifer Norton.

23 LEE FRANKLIN: Mark, since we are  
24 talking agriculture about mitigating problems, if  
25 this was done as a closed-loop system, that



1 eliminates kind of all the issues that we talked  
2 about except we haven't talked about construction,  
3 environmental impact construction, but going forward  
4 that would mitigate everything if the water was  
5 taken and put into the system and closed, not put  
6 back into the river, you would eliminate that. I  
7 know it costs more.

8 MARK STENBERG: And we have to find a  
9 spot for it. That's the thing is the footprint, of  
10 course. Cost and footprint. If we were down in  
11 Oneida Canyon, you know, trying to build a -- when  
12 we do the quick math here, so say we're trying to  
13 build a four hundred acre lower reservoir in Oneida  
14 Canyon, then we're going to have the songbird  
15 habitat on the river, riparian loss, wetland loss,  
16 all that to work through, too. It's a tough thing  
17 to move around.

18 MAYOR DAN KELLER: Mark, that would be a  
19 ride if you pose that.

20 MARK STENBERG: Oh, yeah.

21 MAYOR DAN KELLER: So that's more of  
22 what Ralph West said earlier, that ain't going to  
23 happen.

24 MARK STENBERG: Right. Yeah. Build the  
25 lower reservoir.

1 MAYOR DAN KELLER: Yeah.

2 MARK STENBERG: Jeff brought up the  
3 opposition that happened, you know, two times in the  
4 past for the Oneida Narrows location, right, for a  
5 second dam down there.

6 So where was I going with this?

7 So just, you know, as a side topic, too,  
8 that's kind of interesting, so the Bear River -- I  
9 haven't mentioned at this meeting, so, yeah, I know  
10 Jeff knows this, that segment of the Bear River  
11 that's in our FERC boundary, the Oneida dam down to  
12 the Twin Lake side column, that's the longest  
13 free-flowing publicly accessible piece of the Bear  
14 River. That's it right there.

15 And the reason it looks so great down  
16 there, and you've got the wildlife and the habitat  
17 and the recreation we do is because of this licence  
18 that PacifiCorp has to run the Oneida project,  
19 right?

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Can you speak up?

21 MARK STENBERG: Yeah. Sorry.

22 We have the Oneida dam, generate power  
23 there. That's the enhancement package, right?  
24 That's the mitigation. We built these reservoirs  
25 back a hundred years ago. We're managing lands

1 around them, mitigation. We're managing wildlife  
2 habitat around them, mitigation. And providing  
3 recreational enhancements.

4 Other projects, you know, we pay to  
5 stock fish. We do these kind of things, and so we  
6 have this whole package that is the Oneida Canyon,  
7 the reservoir, everything below it, you know, I've  
8 been managing that landscape below the dam since  
9 2005. That's been my job.

10 It looks the way it does because of  
11 PacifiCorp's commitments to manage that per our  
12 agreements over time. Specifically.

13 LEE FRANKLIN: Kudos to PacifiCorp for  
14 doing that.

15 MARK STENBERG: Yeah. I remember a long  
16 time ago, you know, I was at a stakeholder meeting  
17 and we were getting really beat up, and you guys are  
18 great tonight. Thank you. I've been in some rough,  
19 rough public meetings. And, you know, on us. And  
20 they were just -- you know, I wish you guys would  
21 just go away with your hydro projects, you're  
22 killing us.

23 And we were -- you know, we were just  
24 talking about local access and fishing and trying to  
25 get an understanding and figure out where we had

1 common ground so we could work for mutual gain  
2 there. And I made the comment that said, yeah, you  
3 know, let's talk about what this would look like if  
4 we weren't here, right? We have all this just local  
5 access and we do our thing.

6 And someone said: Well, wait a minute.  
7 This would probably all be private property. We  
8 wouldn't have any public access.

9 And that was really interesting. That  
10 was, like, a conversation from twenty years ago, and  
11 that was very interesting. Thing about that, on  
12 that reach of the Bear River below the Oneida dam,  
13 it's FERC boundary, it's BLM, we manage all of stuff  
14 down there. Without the Oneida project, what would  
15 be the status down there? Would we have all that  
16 public access without PacifiCorp and Oneida dam?

17 There's lots of things. I guess where  
18 I'm getting to with this is with projects, there's  
19 lots of stuff that we can do that could be a benefit  
20 around there, you know. Local jobs. We have to  
21 have enhancement. There's recreation. There's lots  
22 of things that could come with this.

23 You know, I've been involved through  
24 PacifiCorp's funding of conservation now five  
25 thousand acres of conservation easements, a bunch of

1 it in Mink Creek, other places up here. We helped  
2 Fish and Game buy several hundred acres of the gorge  
3 from WMA several years ago. There's a lot of things  
4 that can come along with a project like this. There  
5 were benefits.

6 I don't mean to soapbox you there.

7 BROCK FREYER: Brock Freyer. I just  
8 wanted to confirm the studies of one of the  
9 resources to be studied will be --

10 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear you.  
11 Stand up.

12 BROCK FREYER: I was just looking for  
13 confirmation going back to the basis of the food  
14 chain that benefits the macroinvertebrates are going  
15 to be studied, and that's with association with this  
16 project outside of that, Justin is the expert, but  
17 there might be others, but it is one of the  
18 resources that's catalogued and inventoried for this  
19 process.

20 SUSAN WEST: I'm Susan West. I've got a  
21 question. How much would it cost to build this and  
22 is it going to raise our electric rates?

23 TIM HEMSTREET: I'll take this. Tim  
24 Hemstreet with PacifiCorp.

25 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear you.

1 TIM HEMSTREET: Tim Hemstreet.

2 So the cost of this project, we don't  
3 know yet because it's not fully scoped, but it would  
4 likely been in the hundreds of billions of dollars.  
5 They will never been resources where all of us  
6 choosing the least cost impacts we can, so we are  
7 going to have to add in resources over the next  
8 twenty years as we transition --

9 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear.

10 TIM HEMSTREET: -- our generating  
11 resources, so as we do that, we will be making  
12 choices for which resources to pick to do that in  
13 the most cost effective manner.

14 As we transition our generation fleet,  
15 that will likely result in cost increases because we  
16 are retiring old stuff that's old but paid off, and  
17 there will be new resources, and that will cost  
18 money. But this resource will complete, among other  
19 resources, to make sure that if you look at this  
20 project, it will be because it's part of the least  
21 cost alternative for making sure our customers get  
22 power in a safe and economical way.

23 MATT BURAK: Okay. As for wetland,  
24 riparian, and littoral resources, there's nine  
25 wetland and waterway U.S. Fish and Wildlife

1 Inventory Classes that occur in the area. The most  
2 prevalent are lacustrine and riverine and  
3 palustrine.

4 For rare, threatened, and endangered  
5 species, there's several that have the potential to  
6 occur in the project area. Those are the wolverine,  
7 Ute-ladies' tresses, the Monarch butterfly, but  
8 there's no federally designated or proposed critical  
9 habitat in the area.

10 State species of greatest conservation  
11 concern with habitat found near the project include  
12 one mammal, the silver haired bat, twenty-two birds,  
13 two hundred amphibians, six invertebrates.

14 Bald eagles have historically nested at  
15 Oneida, and golden eagles have been observed.  
16 There's potential habitat for six BLM special status  
17 plant species.

18 For recreational land use resources, the  
19 area is a popular camping, boating, fishing,  
20 hunting, picnicking, swimming, and bicycling area.

21 There's five recreational facilities at  
22 the project presently. That's Maple Grove  
23 Campground, Oneida Day-Use Area, Oneida Campground  
24 and the Oneida Narrows Put-In and Take-Out areas.

25 Land uses include conservation lands,

1 project operation lands, and developed recreation  
2 land.

3 Static and visual resources, the area is  
4 currently characterized by forested hills, mountains  
5 in the distance, range lands, and agricultural lands  
6 with dispersed homes, ranches, and small towns.

7 There was a visual assessment conducted  
8 in 2003 that included partially developed  
9 landscapes -- I'm sorry -- that concluded that  
10 there's partially developed landscapes, low to  
11 moderate viewer sensitivity to development.

12 And Class III scenic classification,  
13 visual character of the landscape is partially  
14 retained and changes to the landscape do not  
15 dominate the view of the observer.

16 As for cultural and tribal resources,  
17 the area has a rich prehistory and history of human  
18 occupation up to fourteen thousand, five hundred  
19 years before present.

20 Indigenous groups associated with the  
21 area include the Northern Shoshone,  
22 Shoshone-Bannock, and the Northwestern Band of the  
23 Shoshone Nation.

24 The Oneida dam was constructed in 1923.

25 There's three archaeological sites, six



1 historical structures, one linear historical site  
2 present near the proposed facility.

3 There's a cultural resource management  
4 plan under the current Bear River license, that's  
5 the Historical Properties Management Plan. There's  
6 no specific tribal resources identified within the  
7 proposed facility, but there's continuing ongoing  
8 coordination with Tribal Nations or ties to the  
9 area.

10 Kind of a standalone resource is  
11 socioeconomic resources. So land ownership is  
12 primarily federal with some private and state lands.  
13 Employment is probably in the private sector with  
14 some public sector employment. And the mean median  
15 household income is about fifty-seven thousand.

16 So resources that we identified to date  
17 include geology and soils, so operation -- those are  
18 included operational effects on shoreline erosion,  
19 and we're also undergoing geotechnical  
20 investigations to support engineering design.

21 As for water resources, operational  
22 effects on existing water quality.

23 MARK STENBERG: Matt, pause for a  
24 second, because it's a little bit late.

25 So when I started, this is our, you

1 know, high level understanding of issues -- all  
2 right? -- that we're at.

3 So I've got a list of things I've been  
4 meeting some other issues come up tonight. This is  
5 what we came into the meeting with our understanding  
6 of issues around each of these, you know, topic  
7 areas. Okay? I just want to -- yup.

8 MATT BURAK: So when we speak to, like,  
9 an issue, like, for instance, operational effects on  
10 existing water quality. That doesn't mean we're  
11 going to look at doing one study. We're going to  
12 look at specific -- like center transport,  
13 operational effects on reservoir stratification.  
14 Could be multiple different studies that allude to  
15 the overall operational effect of water quality.

16 JEFF SEAMONS: Jeff Seamons. Which  
17 would include the river habitat also.

18 MATT BURAK: Yeah.

19 MARK STENBERG: And the transport  
20 model.

21 JEFF SEAMONS: And the transport. And  
22 then heat, also heat.

23 MATT BURAK: So under fish and aquatic  
24 resources, water level fluctuations on benthic  
25 macroinvertebrates.

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Slow down, please.

2 MATT BURAK: They're little bugs that  
3 live in the sediment.

4 For wildlife botanical resources,  
5 construction effects on wildlife and their habitats.  
6 Operational effects on wildlife, introduction and  
7 spread of invasive species.

8 For wetlands, riparian, littoral  
9 resources, habitat change from construction and  
10 operations, mainly from water level fluctuations.

11 For RTE species, species displacement  
12 and habitat loss from construction and operation.

13 For recreation and land use, reservoir  
14 water level fluctuations and access, construction  
15 operational effects on fishing, boating, and hunting  
16 opportunities.

17 For aesthetic and visual resources,  
18 temporary construction effects related, for example,  
19 to noise and dust. New infrastructure across the  
20 landscape, and exposed reservoir shoreline, so how  
21 does that affect the visual character of the area.

22 For cultural resources and tribal  
23 resources, we haven't identified any issues to date,  
24 but pending ongoing results and additional  
25 consultation with the tribes, we didn't identify any

1 socioeconomic resource issues.

2           With that said, in preparation of the --  
3 of this initial consultation document and to support  
4 ongoing license amendment process, we're presently  
5 undergoing some field studies, and those are listed  
6 here, and the next few slides will go over what  
7 those goals are for each study and some data  
8 collection and some preliminary results thus far.

9           So we undertook wetlands and waters  
10 mapping, and that goal is to determine the types and  
11 quantity, and distribution of wetlands present in  
12 the project area. This was done in September, so  
13 data collection is complete, but analysis is  
14 ongoing.

15           Some preliminary results conclude that  
16 there will probably be temporary impacts to the  
17 wetlands likely to occur along the lacustrine fringe  
18 and the upper reach of the existing Oneida  
19 Reservoir.

20           These impacts would likely occur as the  
21 wetlands adjust to temporal and spatial variations  
22 water levels. The effects of the proposed operating  
23 regime on the wetlands, so the daily water level  
24 fluctuations will be a focus of the ongoing study.

25           We're also doing some shoreline erosion

1 mappings. And that goal is to identify and  
2 characterize existing areas of erosion along the  
3 shoreline of the Oneida Reservoir. Like the  
4 wetlands study, the field data was completed in  
5 September, so that is complete, but analysis is  
6 still ongoing.

7 In general, the Oneida Reservoir  
8 shoreline appears to be stable and naturally  
9 armored.

10 There are some relic erosional features  
11 that were noted during the survey, and these areas  
12 were isolated and were considered generally healed.

13 There is potential for erosion below the  
14 established shoreline in areas with shallower slopes  
15 and recent depositional features associated with  
16 finding materials and subsurface and subsurface  
17 water inputs, seeps and springs.

18 For our ongoing water quality monitoring  
19 study, the goal is to collect updated baseline water  
20 quality information in the area to support an  
21 analysis of project effects and evaluate consistency  
22 with Idaho DEQ water quality standards.

23 Data collection is ongoing and it's been  
24 going on for quite some time now. We're collecting  
25 data on water temperature, dissolved oxygen,

1 turbidity, total suspended solids, total phosphorus,  
2 and reservoir sediment.

3           And as Mark stated earlier on, that  
4 includes metals and sampling for metals in the  
5 sediment samples.

6           Some preliminary results, the reservoir  
7 does stratify with the thermocline present around  
8 fifteen meters of depth. Above this thermocline DO  
9 is at or above the state water quality standard, but  
10 below a thermocline, DO typically decreases below  
11 the state water quality standard.

12           And that's something that's very typical  
13 in water that's been stratified, both reservoirs and  
14 naturally occurring lakes, too.

15           Total phosphorus is generally less than  
16 five one-hundredths of a milligram per liter at both  
17 steppes and total suspended solids is typically less  
18 than five milligrams per liter. And sediment  
19 samples have been collected and results are pending  
20 for the metal testing.

21           A wildlife survey was conducted, and the  
22 goal was to determine the wildlife species that are  
23 present, including special status species, what  
24 habitats are in the area, and the potential effects  
25 the projects would have on them.

1                   Data collection is complete, and  
2                   analysis, like the other studies, are ongoing.

3                   Our biologist did find a new bald eagle  
4                   nest near the powerhouse and suspension bridge.

5                   Wetlands at the upstream end of the  
6                   reservoir have a high biodiversity presence of  
7                   sensitive species, and those are listed here.

8                   There's potential impacts may occur  
9                   during the breeding season from water level  
10                  fluctuations and sediments.

11                  For federal threatened and endangered  
12                  plants, noxious weed surveys, our goal is to  
13                  determine if Ute-ladies' tresses were present, and  
14                  BLM sensitive species are present in the area, and  
15                  what the potential impacts -- what would potential  
16                  impacts be on the rare orchid of project  
17                  construction and operation if it's present in the  
18                  area.

19                  Do an inventory of noxious weeds in the  
20                  area and assess the potential for the spread and  
21                  introduction of these noxious weeds. Data  
22                  collection was complete earlier this fall, and the  
23                  analysis is ongoing.

24                  Some preliminary results indicate that  
25                  there's no threatening endangered species that are

1 around the Oneida Reservoir around the proposed  
2 upper reservoir site and the penstock alignment.

3 There are some noxious weeds and  
4 invasive weeds present at the upper reservoir  
5 location, and along the proposed penstock and around  
6 the Oneida Reservoir, and those are listed there.

7 For our recreation assessment, this  
8 study is still ongoing. Its goal is to assess the  
9 potential impact of construction and operation the  
10 project would have on the recreational facilities  
11 and activities.

12 Some of the ongoing field data  
13 collection is mapping boating hazards and  
14 recreational uses being monitored by trail cams and  
15 traffic counters.

16 For our aesthetic assessment, our goal  
17 is to determine the visibility and visual contrast  
18 of the proposed including operations on the existing  
19 landscape. Data collection is complete. Analysis  
20 is still ongoing.

21 Some preliminary findings indicate that  
22 the upper reservoir is likely not visible from key  
23 observation points around the existing Oneida  
24 Reservoir and downstream of the Oneida in the  
25 narrows section.



1           A portion of the penstocks are visible  
2 as well as effects from water level fluctuations,  
3 and some portion of the new generating pumping  
4 station would be visible as well.

5           And part of this study involves doing  
6 some visual simulations, so the top picture is what  
7 the condition of a viewpoint of the penstock  
8 alignment is presently, and this bottom picture is  
9 what the -- the simulation, and you can see the  
10 penstock going right across the hill there. That's  
11 what it would look like.

12           We are planning on doing a culture  
13 resource assessment, and the purpose is to collect  
14 information on culture resources on the lands within  
15 the proposed project area that are potentially  
16 impacted by construction operation.

17           Still waiting to commence field work,  
18 but we're conducting consultation with Tribal  
19 Nations and other parties. To define the area of  
20 potential effects is the first step in this process,  
21 so that process is still ongoing.

22           In addition to some of the other studies  
23 that we envisioned doing and that we've heard today,  
24 we also envision performing a baseline fishery  
25 survey, bathymetry survey, and a benthic

1 macroinvertebrate survey.

2 THE COURT REPORTER: And a --

3 MATT BURAK: Benthic macroinvertebrate  
4 survey.

5 So part of the whole FERC process is  
6 having the public be involved in it, and the next  
7 opportunity for that is to provide comments and  
8 study requests to PacifiCorp, and that's to be done  
9 within sixty days. That's the regulation step by  
10 the FERC, and the clock starts today, so sixty days  
11 from today.

12 And that date is Tuesday, December 26th,  
13 so that's an important date to mark. If you would  
14 like to file a study request with PacifiCorp, FERC  
15 does have study request criteria to follow in  
16 creation of those study requests, and those are  
17 listed here. And to help proponents of the study to  
18 develop those requests, FERC has a nice document to  
19 guide everyone, and that's at this link below.

20 So if you have your phone, you can take  
21 a picture of this so you could know the criteria and  
22 then.

23 JENNIFER NORTON: Is this not in the  
24 booklet? Are you saying this is only here?

25 MATT BURAK: Not in here.

1 JENNIFER NORTON: Is it in here?

2 MATT BURAK: No.

3 MARK STENBERG: This presentation will  
4 be up on our website in a day or two. I'll get it  
5 over the same spot that the initial consultation  
6 documents are posted, so you'll be able to go in and  
7 review work.

8 THE COURT REPORTER: Your name again? I  
9 need her name again.

10 MATT BURAK: Do you mind telling us your  
11 name again?

12 JENNIFER NORTON: Jennifer Norton.

13 MATT BURAK: Jennifer Norton.

14 So when framing the study request,  
15 because this is an amendment proceeding, when  
16 reviewing amendments, FERC would concentrate on  
17 proposed modification to determine the dam safety,  
18 environmental operation and other effects.

19 So the two kind of amendments here is  
20 the proposed pump storage, and the second one is the  
21 licenses extension. So the study requests should  
22 focus on those two aspects. All right.

23 So now is the time for more comments and  
24 questions, and the website that Mark was speaking to  
25 is right here at the bottom, so if you want to just

1 take a picture with your phone, you can reference it  
2 for later.

3 MARK STENBERG: And that will be the  
4 location that we'll put everything up as we move  
5 forward with our consultation study work. It will  
6 be -- everything will end up posted at that location  
7 as we go along.

8 MATT BURAK: And also there was a  
9 comment this morning about when would the public  
10 have continued involvement in the whole process.

11 And the process in the schedule that was  
12 shown here, which is also in the initial  
13 consultation document, there's a process plan in the  
14 schedule, and it comes in the form of -- it's  
15 presented in the form of a table here, and it tells  
16 and indicates which parties are responsible -- what  
17 the activities are and which party is responsible  
18 for.

19 So PacifiCorp will prepare a document,  
20 and then the next task would be state pulls comments  
21 on the document and gives you a time frame of when  
22 those comments would be due. So that would be  
23 another thing to reference. So and those deadlines  
24 are set by FERC.

25 MARK STENBERG: Yes.

1 MARK SCADDEN: Mark Scadden.

2 I glanced through the ICD fast.

3 MARK STENBERG: Yeah.

4 MARK SCADDEN: And what are the upstream  
5 effects from this project, and I'm speaking  
6 specifically about Bear Lake, to offset any impact  
7 imposed by this operation?

8 MARK STENBERG: That's a good question.  
9 I'm sorry, it's getting late. It's been a long day.

10 MARK SCADDEN: No.

11 MARK STENBERG: And I don't want to just  
12 off-the-cuff say I don't see an impact upstream or  
13 involvement with our Bear Lake facilities up there  
14 or Bear Lake, Mud Lake.

15 This is all down in Oneida, and Jeff's  
16 bringing up concerns about things moving out of the  
17 reservoir and those type of things. In my view at  
18 this point, you know, it seems pretty tight to the  
19 reservoir and the surrounding lands.

20 MARK STENBERG: Hey, will you guys join  
21 me in thanking our court reporter?

22 (Applause.)

23 MARK STENBERG: Thank you.

24 MATT BURAK: Yes, thank you.

25 MARK STENBERG: Other questions,

1 comments?

2 (No audible response.)

3 MARK STENBERG: Okay. Thank you  
4 everybody so much for coming tonight. I really  
5 appreciate the comments, the discussion, opportunity  
6 to meet folks.

7 That's my phone. That's my e-mail.  
8 Stay in touch. Okay.

9 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at  
10 8:50 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF IDAHO )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF BONNEVILLE )

I, DiAnn Erdman Prock, CSR, CCR, a duly  
commissioned Notary Public in and for the State of  
Idaho, do hereby certify:

That I took down in Stenotype all of the  
proceedings had in the before-entitled matter at the  
time and place indicated, and that thereafter said  
Stenotype notes were transcribed into typewriting at  
and under my direction and supervision, and the  
foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true and  
accurate record of the proceedings had.

I further certify that I have no interest  
in the event of the action.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 4th day of  
November, 2023.



DiAnn Erdman Prock  
Idaho CSR SRL 963, CCR  
Notary Public in and for  
the State of Idaho

My commission expires November 26, 2025.

**PROPOSED ONEIDA PUMPED STORAGE FACILITY, ET AL.**

**Public Meeting Evening on 10/25/2023**

**Index: 1.3..agriculture**

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