Yadkin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2197) Issue Advisory Groups Joint Meeting May 4, 2004

Alcoa Conference Center Badin, North Carolina

Final Meeting Summary

Meeting Agenda

See Attachment 1.

Meeting Attendees

See Attachment 2.

Introductions, Review Agenda

Jane Peeples, Meeting Director, said that joint meetings of each of the seven individual Issue Advisory Groups (IAG) was something discussed early in the process at the February 2003 IAG organizational meeting. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to update everyone on the work of each of the IAGs over the past year, to describe the study report review process, and to discuss next steps. Jane announced that Yadkin had tentatively scheduled public meetings in each of the five counties surrounding the Project for June 29-30 and July 1, 2004. Exact times and locations will be provided at a later date.

Jody Cason, Long View Associates, explained that Yadkin had received a request from the media for a list of the IAG members and the agency/organization represented. On April 13, 2004 Yadkin asked each IAG member for their permission to provide this information to the media and to post it on the Yadkin website. Jody said that she had heard from many of the IAG members, but not all. She said that she planned to redistribute the list, as edited, based on responses to date, for a final review before providing it to the media and posting it on the website.

Update on Status of Resource Studies and Operations Model

Wendy Bley, Long View Associates, reviewed the meeting agenda and provided an update on the status of the 20+ ongoing resource studies and the OASIS model development (see Attachment 3). She noted that the studies will be ongoing through the spring of 2005. Wendy said that study results will be included in draft study reports, which will be released as the studies are completed. Wendy reminded those in attendance that the purpose of the studies is to provide Yadkin with information to develop the license application, to provide accurate, science-based information about the effect of Yadkin Project operations on resource issues, and to provide an understanding of how various issues and interests at the Project interrelate and impact each other. The table below describes the status of each of the ongoing resource studies (more detailed information is available in Attachment 3).

Study	Consultant	Status
Surrounding Counties	Research Triangle Institute	Data collection underway; assessment to begin in
Economic Impact Analysis		summer 2004
National Register of	Thomason and Associates	Field work complete; preliminary results 3 rd quarter
Historic Places Eligibility		2004
Study		
Reservoir Fish and Aquatic	Normandeau Associates	Habitat mapping ongoing through summer 2004; draft
Habitat Assessment		report in 3 rd quarter 2004
Tailwater Fish and Aquatic	Normandeau Associates	Tailwater sampling to be completed in spring 2004;
Biota Assessment		draft report in 3 rd quarter 2004
Fish Entrainment	Normandeau Associates	Draft report 2 nd quarter 2004
Evaluation		
Habitat Fragmentation	Normandeau Associates	Study under discussion with resource agencies
Study		
Water Quality Monitoring	Normandeau Associates	Reservoir water quality data collection complete;
Study		tailwater and DO data collection through 2004; plans
		for additional study of options for improving tailwater
		DO; draft report in 3 rd quarter 2004
Sediment Fate and	Normandeau Associates	Draft report 3 rd quarter 2004
Transport Study		the second se
Avian Inventory	Center for Conservation	Field work ongoing; draft report 4 th quarter 2004
	Biology	
Wetland and Riparian	Normandeau Associates	Photo mapping of wetlands and upland land use
Habitat Assessment		completed by 4 th quarter 2004
RTE Species Inventory	Normandeau Associates	Surveys begin spring 2004; draft report 4 th quarter 2004
IEPP Inventory	Normandeau Associates	Fieldwork in 2004; draft report 4 th quarter 2004 Fieldwork in 2004; draft report 4 th quarter 2004
T-line Habitat Assessment	Normandeau Associates	Fieldwork in 2004; draft report 4 th quarter 2004
Recreation Use Assessment	Environmental Resources	Data collection nearly complete; draft report 3 rd
	Management	quarter 2004
Recreation Facility	Long View Associates	Fieldwork complete; study report 3 rd quarter 2004
Inventory and Condition		
Assessment		
Recreation Economic	Environmental Resources	Data collection through RUA nearly complete; study
Impact Analysis	Management	report 3rd quarter 2004
Regional Recreation	Long View Associates	Study plan with IAG by mid 2004
Evaluation		
SMP Comparison Study	Long View Associates	Completed and draft study report available in March
		2004
Project-wide Aesthetics	Environmental Resources	Data collection nearly complete; study report 3 rd
	Management	quarter 2004
Uwharrie National Forest	Environmental Resources	Data collection nearly complete; study report 3 rd
Aesthetics	Management	quarter 2004
OASIS model development	Hydrologics and PB Power	Working with Progress Energy on common
		streamflow dataset for both CHEOPS and OASIS
		models
Instream Flow Study	Progress Energy and	Data collection through 4 th quarter 2004; draft report
	Devine Tarbell	by mid 2005

Review and Discussion of Resource Study Report Review Process

Continuing, Wendy Bley outlined the study review process. She explained that as available, draft study reports would be e-mailed to the appropriate IAG for their review. A summary of the draft report will be posted on Yadkin's website. Wendy noted that the IAG would then have an

opportunity to meet with the consultant who conducted the study to review and discuss the draft report. A deadline for comments on the draft report would then be established. Next, the consultant will revise and finalize the study report, which will be distributed to the IAG, posted on the Yadkin website, made available in Yadkin's Public Reference Room, and filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as part of the license application. Yadkin will also schedule public meetings periodically to provide updates on progress.

Darlene Kucken, NC Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), asked when the next public meetings are scheduled. Wendy Bley said that Yadkin has scheduled public meetings in each of the five counties surrounding the Project on June 29-30 and July 1, 2004. Wendy said that Yadkin would probably schedule another round of public meetings in late 2004 or early 2005. Darlene asked if there would then be another round of public meetings prior to Yadkin filing its license application. Gene Ellis, APGI, Yadkin Division, answered that he was unsure and that it is possible that any subsequent public meetings (after the late 2004 or early 2005 meetings) would be after Yadkin filed its license application.

Ann Brownlee, Trading Ford Historic District Preservation Association, asked how a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) could be developed without cultural resources being included. Wendy Bley clarified that the SMP Comparison Study is a study that compares the existing Yadkin Project SMP with other southeastern SMPs.

Next Steps in the Yadkin Project Relicensing

Gene Ellis reviewed the three-stage relicensing process (see Attachment 3). He said that in September 2002 Yadkin distributed an Initial Consultation Document (ICD) and in January 2003 received comments and study requests. Yadkin formed seven IAGs in February 2003. Stage Two of the process includes the conduct of studies, the review of study results, and preparing and filing the license application. Gene noted that the April 30, 2006 application filing date is inflexible. During Stage Three, the FERC reviews the license application, conducts an environmental assessment, and issues a new license.

Gene said that Yadkin wants to clearly communicate its interests to the IAGs and to ensure its understanding of the interests of the IAG members. He said that many interests have been identified already. Gene described these interests as:

State and federal agencies; citizens of states – concerned for water quality and habitat throughout the basin; NC and SC agencies cooperate but have different interests with regard to water supply for their respective states

NC municipalities – Salisbury, Denton, Albemarle need water intakes for municipal water supply

Reservoir users/homeowners/businesses – want reservoir levels for recreational use and economic support of local businesses

Local governments – desire help in establishing region as tourist destination

Progress Energy – also part of Yadkin Pee Dee watershed and in relicensing process; operate Tillery and Blewett Falls dams

Economic development NGOs – desire economic development of the region

Industrial users – major employers need water supply to operate; assurance of consistent flow

SC municipalities – Florence, Myrtle Beach, Georgetown concerned about water supply for economic development; have no major reservoirs of their own to support drinking water or industrial use needs

Alcoa-Yadkin – maintaining an economically viable hydropower project and meeting state and federal (FERC) requirements

Gene said that further clarification of these broad interests is needed. He thought that the IAG forum could be used to clarify interests. Gene suggested that the appropriate time for a more formal conversation about interests is when the study results are published. Gene stated that the interest clarification process would lead to understanding and serve as a foundation for moving toward settlement negotiations.

Gene showed a project timeline for the Yadkin Project relicensing (see Attachment 3). Gene said that Yadkin would propose a settlement negotiations protocol sometime in the third quarter of 2004, which would lead to further negotiations planning through mid 2005. He anticipated beginning settlement negotiations in the second quarter 2005. Gene said that the final license application would be filed with FERC no later than April 30, 2006. He admitted that it is an aggressive time table, but he thought is possible to follow given the good working relationships that had been developed.

Gerrit Jobsis, SC Coastal Conservation League and American Rivers, asked Yadkin to consider providing a negotiations training session or workshop to afford those who may not have participated in a FERC relicensing before, an opportunity to achieve a common level of understanding. Gene said that he understood the need to discuss interest-based negotiations and how the negotiations will work.

Continuing, Gene said that a settlement can be achieved. He used APGI's Tapoco Project as an example. Gene noted that on Friday, May 7 APGI plans to file a comprehensive relicensing settlement agreement on behalf of the parties participating in the Tapoco relicensing. He said that several lessons had been learned from the Tapoco experience: wins can be achieved for the licensee, agencies, and other parties; settlement negotiations must be supported by facts and science; and a confidence in the analytical tools (OASIS model) is required. Gene stated that competing interests will require the participants to be flexible. He said the participants would need to work together to develop and support negotiations protocols. Gene reiterated that Yadkin would be working over the next couple of months to develop the details of the negotiations process.

In summary, Gene said that the IAGs would continue to work toward the completion of the resource studies and the OASIS model development. He said that the stage will then be set for interest clarification and settlement negotiations. Gene added that the Tapoco experience says that Alcoa is capable of working with the participants to find an appropriate balance. Given all of this, is asked the IAG members if they were interested in continuing.

Larry Jones, High Rock Lake Association, said that he had been upset by an e-mail that read "reaching agreement and consensus is not a goal of the IAGs". Larry said that the messages delivered today seemed to contradict the earlier statement. For clarification, Gene said that the IAGs will continue to track the progress of the resource studies and to identify interests. He noted however, that the group of people who actually participate in settlement negotiations could be different from the IAG membership. Jane Peeples added that the email Larry referred to was specific to the study review process and clarified that Yadkin never expected that the study reports would reflect a consensus of the IAG membership. Larry asked that Yadkin send out an e-mail clarifying that point. Jane said that she would make the distinction at the May 5 Recreation, Aesthetics, and Shoreline Management IAG meeting before the IAG began reviewing the very first draft study report.

Mark Oden, High Rock Lake Business Owners Group, commented that if the same IAG members do not participate in the settlement negotiations a lot will be lost in the transition. Larry asked if the High Rock Lake Association would be expected to nominate a different representative to participate in the negotiations. Gene said that a lot of these details would be discussed in the very near future and noted that Yadkin wants to maintain some flexibility.

Chris Goudreau, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, said that in reality it is very difficult to make a clear break from the work of the IAGs and settlement negotiations. He said that it would be beneficial to all to understand the negotiations process sooner rather than later. He said that negotiations would really begin at the May 5 Recreation, Aesthetics, and Shoreline IAG meeting, with the presentation of the first study results.

Ben West, US Environmental Protection Agency, said that the IAGs could learn a lot from specific examples. He suggested that Yadkin continue to share their experiences with the Tapoco relicensing. Mark Oden agreed and said that it is not necessary to "reinvent the wheel". Randy Benn, Yadkin counsel, said that Tapoco was very pleased with the outcome of the Tapoco relicensing. He said that Tapoco worked with the relicensing participants to identify interests, understand position versus interest based negotiations, develop a negotiations protocol, and name "authorized representatives" who participated in the negotiations. He said that Tapoco filed a license application in February 2003. Subsequent to this filing, Tapoco continued to work on settlement negotiations and in September 2003 executed five Agreements in Principles with many of the parties. The AIPs where then used as the basis for the comprehensive relicensing settlement agreement that will be filed with FERC in May 2004. Randy concluded that there is no magic to settlement negotiations, just hard work.

Randy Tinsley, City of Salisbury, asked Randy to estimate how many man hours it could take to participate in settlement negotiations. Steve Padula, Long View Associates, said that over the last year, participants probably met 2-3 days a month, with additional time spent preparing for the meetings. Randy Tinsley said that the time commitment could be onerous for local go vernments that might not have the resources to commit to such an involved process. Randy Benn recognized the reality of Randy Tinsley's comment and said that local governments are important players and therefore, it is sometimes necessary for the licensee to go to the local government. Randy Benn noted that several major cities and counties signed the Tapoco Project settlement agreement.

Darlene Kucken, who is also participating in Duke's Catawba Wateree relicensing, commented that Duke's meetings are professionally facilitated. She asked if Yadkin intended to have the settlement negotiations facilitated by a professional. Darlene also commented that the person participating in the settlement negotiations, on behalf of an agency or organization, would be fully responsible for reporting back to his/her constituents (i.e. not everyone can be at the negotiations table).

Gene Ellis said that the IAGs were based on the idea that there would be a single person representing a larger agency or organization to ensure that meetings are manageable and productive. He thought this same idea would carry forward into settlement negotiations. Gene said that Yadkin would have to think more about the idea of professional facilitation.

Chris Goudreau explained that at the Tapoco Project Long View Associates did a great job running the meetings, but as the process moved toward negotiations there was a question whether Long View could maintain an unbiased approach. He said that Tapoco ended up working with staff from FERC's Office of Dispute Resolution, which ended up being a step backwards. He commented that it is very important that the settlement negotiations be effectively facilitated, whether it is by internal or external staff. Donley Hill, US Forest Service, agreed with Chris that it is counterproductive not to have good facilitation. He added that Kearns and West, who are facilitating the Catawba Wateree meetings, are good at what they do.

John Ellis, US Fish and Wildlife Service, clarified that the authorities outlined in Section 18 of the Federal Power Act and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act are not up for negotiation, but could be reflected in a settlement agreement. John also noted that Dominion Power recently filed the Roanoke Rapids relicensing settlement agreement with FERC. He said that FERC rather than accepting the agreement as-is, changed a lot of the content of the agreement. Don Rayno, NC Division of Water Resources, advised the IAGs to get as much done as possible to avoid giving FERC all of the control.

Chris Goudreau, suggested that the process used for interest identification at Yadkin be more systematic and structured than the process used at Tapoco. Gene Ellis said that as the study results come in, the first thing to do will be to determine if the objectives of the study have been met and then begin discussing and identifying interests. Don Rayno said that it would also be important to make sure that the study provides the information needed to address the interests expressed.

Rather than having interest-based discussions being triggered by a discussion of study results in the individual IAG meeting setting, Ben West thought any interest-based discussion should be in a joint IAG meeting. He thought that the IAG members, in a joint meeting, could develop written statements of interest even absent study results. Gene said Yadkin would consider all of these comments when contemplating how to move forward.

Closing

In closing, Jane Peeples said that the meeting presentation (Attachment 3) would also be used for the public meetings scheduled for June 29-30 and July 1. She solicited feedback on the presentation. The meeting adjourned at about 2:15.

Attachment 1 – Meeting Agenda

Yadkin Project (FERC No. 2197) Communications Enhanced Three-Stage Relicensing Process

Joint Issue Advisory Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 4, 2004 Alcoa Conference Center Badin, North Carolina

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Preliminary Agenda

- 1. Introductions, Review Agenda
- 2. Update on Status of Resource Studies and Operations Model
- 3. Review and Discussion of Resource Study Report Review Process
- 4. Discuss Next Steps in Yadkin Project Relicensing Process

Attachment 2 – Meeting Attendees

Name	Organization	
Andy Abramson	Land Trust	
Ann Brownlee	Trading Ford Historic District Preservation Association	
Ben West	US Environmental Protection Agency	
Bob Smet	APGI, Yadkin	
Brandon Harland	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	
Chip Conner	Uwharrie Point Community Association	
Chris Goudreau	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	
Coralyn Benhart	Alcoa	
Danny Johnson	SC Department of Natural Resources	
Darlene Kucken	NC Division of Water Quality	
Darren England	NC Division of Water Resources	
Dean Vick	Concerned Property Owners of High Rock Lake	
Don Rayno	NC Division of Water Resources	
Donley Hill	US Forest Service	
Elizabeth Wilson	High Rock Business Owners Group	
Eric Horner	NC Division of Water Resources	
Gene Ellis	APGI, Yadkin	
Gerrit Jobsis	SC Coastal Conservation League and American Rivers	
Gifford Delgrande	Yadkin Pee Dee Lakes Project	
Greg Scarborough	Rowan/Salisbury Association of Realtors	
Jane Peeples	Meeting director	
Jean Sink	Concerned Property Owners of High Rock Lake	
Jody Cason	Long View Associates	
John Ellis	US Fish and Wildlife Service	
John Vest	Salisbury/Rowan Utilities	
Larry Jones	High Rock Lake Association	
Lawrence Dorsey	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	
Lee Hinson	Concerned Property Owners of High Rock Lake	
Mark Oden	High Rock Business Owners Group	
Marshall Olson	APGI, Yadkin	
Pete Petree	SaveHighRockLake.org	
Randy Benn	Yadkin counsel (LLGM)	
Randy Tinsley	City of Salisbury	
Ray Allen	City of Albemarle	
Ray Johns	US Forest Service	
Roy Rowe	Piedmont Boat Club	
Ryan Heise	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	
Steve Padula	Long View Associates	
Todd Ewing	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	
Wendy Bley	Long View Associates	

Attachment 3 – Meeting Presentation



































































