



DRAFT LICENSE APPLICATION

Volume II of IV

Exhibit E Appendix A- Part 3 of 3

Niagara Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. 2466)

October 1, 2021

Prepared by:



Prepared for:



An **AEP** Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

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A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping rectangles. A large red rectangle is on the left. A grey rectangle is at the top right. A black rectangle is at the bottom right. A light grey rectangle is at the bottom left, partially overlapping the red one.

Appendix A

Consultation Summary

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Salazar, Margaret

Subject: FW: AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project - Recreation Stakeholder Mtg Summary and Online Survey Link

Attachments: Niagara Rec Stakeholder Meeting Summary_04.20.21.pdf; Niagara Recreation Online Survey Sign.pdf

From: Kulpa, Sarah <Sarah.Kulpa@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 7:30 PM

To: rcaywood@roanokecountyva.gov; Lindsay Webb <LWEBB@roanokecountyva.gov>; Anita McMillan <amcmillan@vintonva.gov>; riverdancer1943@gmail.com; Amanda McGee <amcgee@rvarc.org>; Liz Belcher <LBELCHER@roanokecountyva.gov>; Doug Blount <DBLOUNT@roanokecountyva.gov>; pete@roanoke.org; dawn_leonard@nps.gov; Rhur, Roberta <robbie.rhur@dcr.virginia.gov>

Cc: Elizabeth B Parcell <ebparcell@aep.com>; Jonathan M Magalski <jmmagalski@aep.com>; Kulpa, Sarah <Sarah.Kulpa@hdrinc.com>; Yayac, Maggie <Maggie.Yayac@hdrinc.com>; Frank Simms <fmsimms51@gmail.com>

Subject: AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project - Recreation Stakeholder Mtg Summary and Online Survey Link

Good evening Niagara Hydroelectric Project Recreation Stakeholders,

I hope everyone is having a good start to your summer and enjoyed the holiday weekend last week. Attached for your review and files please find a summary of our virtual meeting on April 20th. The attached pdf also includes copies of the individual presentations. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments on the summary. Please also accept my personal apologies for the delay in getting this summary over to you; we've been busy kicking off this year's field season.

Attached you will also find the flyer with link and instructions to the online survey, which will run through this fall. Please share this information with your stakeholder and community groups.

On behalf of Appalachian Power Company, thank you again for your participation in this process, and have a great weekend.

Sarah Kulpa
Project Manager

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Meeting Summary

Project:	Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466)	
Subject:	Recreation Stakeholder Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday, April 20, 2021	
Location:	WebEx	
Attendees:	Amanda McGee (Blueway Committee) Anita McMillan (Town of Vinton) Bill Tanger (FORVA) Lindsay Webb (Roanoke County) Liz Belcher (Roanoke Valley Greenways) Roberta Rhur (VDCR) Nathaniel McClung (Town of Vinton) Pete Eshelman (Roanoke Regional Partnership) Richard Caywood (Roanoke County) Doug Blount (Roanoke County)	Jonathan Magalski (Appalachian) Elizabeth Parcell (Appalachian) Sarah Kulpa (HDR) Maggie Yayac (HDR) Kerry McCarney-Caste (HDR) Frank Simms (YES)

Appalachian and HDR Introduction

J. Magalski – Opening remarks, housekeeping items, and introductions

M. Yayac – Safety moment - distracted driving

S. Kulpa briefly discussed the relationship of recreation facilities and the FERC relicensing process, the difference between Project and Non-project Facilities and how they are included or not included in the FERC Project Boundary, and what is “required” under the license. Facilities that are required to be maintained during the term of the license are termed “Project” facilities. Non-Project facilities are near the Project Boundary but are not under FERC’s jurisdiction or typically maintained or operated by the licensee.

M. Yayac gave a high level overview of the Recreation Study presented in the Initial Study Report (ISR) and stated that there is one Project Facility and three Non-Project facilities as described in the Revised Study Plan for the Recreation Study. She showed the updated Existing Recreation Facilities Project Map and asked for comments.

B. Tanger voiced two concerns:

- 1) Roanoke River Trail – there is an informal trail off of the Roanoke River Trail that goes straight down to an area where boaters can put boats in closer to the dam.
- 2) In FORVA’S 2019 comments, they asked if there is a way to coordinate special releases from the Spring Hollow reservoir upstream.
 - J. Magalski asked where this reservoir is located. B. Tanger noted it would need to be a multijurisdictional effort. S. Kulpa mentioned that neither Appalachian nor FERC has the ability to require actions by another dam owner, but that Appalachian has the ability to coordinate operation of the Niagara Project (within the limits authorized by the license) with upstream releases that can be arranged or provided by others.

L. Webb asked HDR/ Appalachian to change the two yellow parcels (Virginia Recreation Facility Authority [VRFA] owned) just south of the bypass to orange because they are leased and considered Explore Park parcels (**Action Item**). M. Yayac agreed. **Update:** this edit has been made to the map.

A. McGee asked about whether this map would cover proposed recreation facilities. M. Yayac noted that this map is specific to existing amenities to get a baseline of the recreation facilities/opportunities in the Project area. S. Kulpa mentioned that the USR will take into account proposed recreation facilities, as applicable, and this meeting's intent is to understand what recreational opportunities stakeholders are pursuing or interested in.

M. Yayac went over the Recreation Study tasks status. She mentioned that YES has been on-site at the Roanoke River Overlook and Trail gathering survey data ahead of the Blue Ridge Parkway closure.

L. Belcher asked how users are supposed to find out about the online survey. E. Parcell mentioned that there are signs posted around the area; however, L. Belcher mentioned that people aren't likely to fill this out in the woods and will forget by the time they leave. P. Eshelman agreed. B. Tanger added that stakeholders could consider running advertisements in local newspapers. F. Simms noted that when interviewing people at the facilities – if people aren't interested in doing the survey at that time, he provides a handout with the information. A. McGee stated that it would be good to have the information in several places to remind people multiple times. L. Webb mentioned that Roanoke County currently has the link up on their social media page and includes it in their public newsletters. S. Kulpa stated that any help would be greatly appreciated in getting the word out for the recreation online surveys. E. Parcell will look into posting about the online survey on the Smith Mountain Facebook page.

Action Item: Appalachian to send an email to the core team with instructions and a link to the survey to help push that out to internal teams and stakeholder groups.

R. Rhur asked how much use the Project dam portage received and noted it's her understanding it is not very user-friendly. S. Kulpa stated the portage is useable but the location for the takeout may be the problem and asked the stakeholders for feasible alternatives or improvements for the portage. B. Tanger interjected that the way one gets into the river could be improved – as it is now, it's very steep and rocky – and mentioned that perhaps installing a cable at the take-out of the dam extending down to the downstream put-in (with a boat clip to slide the boats along) might be a solution on river-left. S. Kulpa noted that HDR/ Appalachian have no direct experience in installation of this type of system at portage sites; however, HDR/ Appalachian would be interested in learning about others' experiences/efforts at other facilities.

S. Kulpa went over upcoming ILP Milestones.

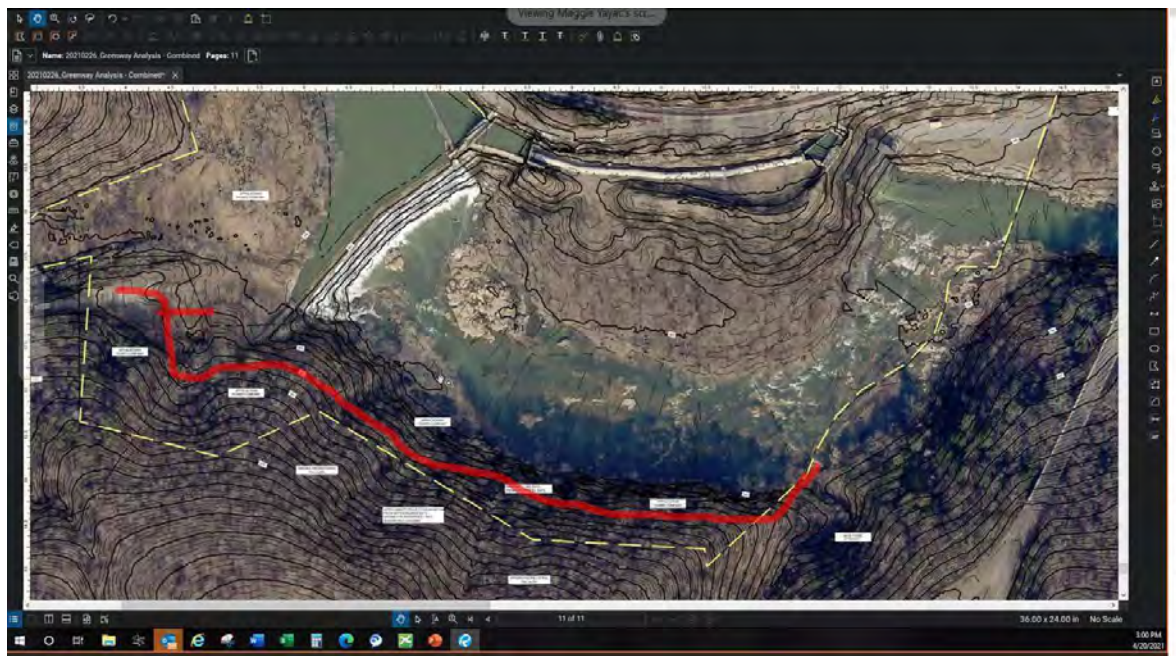
E. Parcell briefly discussed the April 2021 Site Visit with F. Simms.

M. Yayac showed a figure of the Project Boundary that included property owners (Roanoke Co. publicly available data) and topographic lines. L. Webb stated Dawn Leonard is a good contact for Blue Ridge/National Park Service (M. Yayac confirmed she was invited to this meeting). L. Webb also noted that Roanoke County has a 99-year lease on the VRFA parcels.

L. Belcher and B. Tanger talked about public access / roadblocks as far as access on river-right, including the biggest barrier to access the Holland Heirs property (3124 Highland Road – 46 acres).

B. Tanger noted that on river-right with improvements, boaters could take-out near the right abutment above the dam, follow a portage trail and put-in below the dam in the bypass, which could be constructed without access to Holland Heirs property. However, if a parking lot was constructed by the right abutment (which is one idea the stakeholders have) access to the Holland Heirs property would be necessary. J. Magalski stated that Appalachian would be interested to understand more details on this proposal and wondered if the trail would be possible because of the steep terrain.

L. Belcher drew on the map a proposed portage trail that may be possible on river-right and would not access National Park Service land (screenshot below). B. Tanger stated he wasn't so much talking about a trail but more of a short portage path to a put-in directly below the dam. F. Simms stated that during low flows, portaging on river-right into the bypass would be incredibly challenging due to the terrain. J. Magalski noted safety concerns with portaging directly below the dam.



Stakeholder Presentations (see attached slides for additional details)

L. Webb – Roanoke County

- Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018
- Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Recreational Planning Region
- Overview of Explore Park
- Future Riverside Village – Adventure Plan
- Recreational Use of the Roanoke River, including documented vehicle counts
- Proposed East Roanoke River Greenway traverses from Roanoke City to Explore Park
- Extend Greenway on south side of river (note there is a railroad on the northside) however, lots of residential properties to cross and rely on Appalachian for support to stay within their property as much as possible.

- S. Kulpa noted that if the Greenway were to be brought into the Project license (and boundary, and FERC jurisdiction) as a required development/enhancement, this would subject future expansion to FERC approvals and would place the burden of Greenway expansion and maintenance on Appalachian if the County were to no longer be able to pursue. Keeping the Greenway as a non-Project facility gives Appalachian and the County more flexibility and streamlines development process.
- Roanoke County Recreation Requests:
 - Support Explore Park
 - Support Roanoke River Greenway
 - Support Roanoke River Blueway
 - Support Trash and Debris Clean-up efforts

A. McGee – Roanoke River Blueway Committee

- Roanoke River Blueway – extends 45 miles and crosses many jurisdictions
- Water access ranked as third greatest need for recreation sources in the Roanoke region
- Economic development
- 13th Street Bennington – parking lot provides connection to Tinker Creek Greenway and is the last take-out on the Roanoke River above the dam. Planned improvements to portage.
- Tinker Creek improvements – Blueway is working on signage improvements at this location and across all access points.
- Downstream Blue Ridge Parkway Roanoke River Overlook
- Connectivity to Explore Park/Blueway disrupted by Niagara dam especially since the portage is not very easy to use. Also talked about poor signage and historical cart that may have move boats around.
 - Liz Parcell noted she helped with signage of the boat cart donated by FORVA, but unfortunately it was quickly stolen.
- Blueway request updates to existing portage – important to the region and water resources
- Greenway users should be considered recreation stakeholders

B. Tanger – FORVA Requests:

1. River-left – engineering solutions; perhaps a zip line/cable concept to transport boats from above to below the dam.
2. River-right – try to get access to Holland Heirs property but if not, engineering design to get a short switchback trail around river-right and portage into bypass.
3. River access off Roanoke River informal trail – people have been dragging boats and there is sloughing/erosion of the banks (informal trail). Would be helpful to formalize trail, with steps or switchbacks.
4. Coordinate additional flow releases from Spring Hollow (originally owned by Roanoke County, now managed by Western Virginia Water Authority) to then release at Niagara. Spring Hollow was built as a back-up for drinking water. (As follow-up to this discussion,

Appalachian's consultant located the Clifford D. Craig Dam at Spring Hollow Reservoir, which is operated by the Western Virginia Water Authority – geographic coordinates are 37.231224196 N, 80.1728163958 W. At full pond Spring Hollow Reservoir holds 3.2 billion gallons of water and has a surface area of 158 acres.

S. Kulpa asked Bill for his thoughts regarding tradeoffs/benefits between portage improvements on river-right or river-left, in terms of which may be more feasible and used by the public. B. Tanger noted that if measures (e.g., cable) could be installed at river-left to make that an easier portage, it may be the more cost-effective solution and receive more use because use of the put-in below the tailrace is not dependent on bypass reach flows. S. Kulpa confirmed that the existing portage trail does not require crossing the railroad tracks during portage on river-left.

Liz Belcher – Roanoke County

- Regional Perspectives of why Roanoke River Greenway is important. Concerned that Appalachian did not consider adding the greenway to the Recreation Inventory study.
 - S. Kulpa stated that Appalachian does not discount the importance of the Greenway and appreciates its value to the community, visitors to the area, and the County. However, the aim of the inventory was to address and understand use of the facilities more directly related to Project operations and amenities. As previously discussed, Appalachian does not believe it is in any entities' best interest to tie Greenway development to the license, which would at a minimum delay activities for the next phase to 2024. Appalachian will support development of the Greenway where it is not incompatible with uses of or present unacceptable public safety risk on lands owned by Appalachian.
- Progress on Roanoke River Greenway since 2018 – working with Appalachian on right-of-way for the Greenway along Appalachian's property has not produced results.
 - L. Parcell clarified she has been working with L. Webb to move along the process and it is her understanding Roanoke County is working on environmental permitting. The next phase of the Greenway expansion may require a conveyance (easement) of minor amounts of land within the Niagara Boundary. Appalachian is able to request approval of this conveyance from FERC in advance of the new license issuance, but that request does require detailed information about what is proposed in terms of construction activities/disturbance and protection measures.
- L. Belcher stressed that more users are coming to the region and use is going to increase in the next few years. We need to be planning for it.
- Trash management – can't get trash out of the water and carry it away plus cannot get a vehicle down there. This is a good opportunity to improve Appalachian's reputation.

S. Kulpa – Next Steps

J. Magalski requested slides of the presentations.

A. McMillian added that help from Appalachian with the trash would be appreciated. Also asked E. Parcell regarding improvements to the Niagara access road. E. Parcell noted there are no plans to open it up to the public. A. McMillan's concern was more for EMS to be able to get through. E. Parcell said she would follow up with emergency services to ask about their current access. **Update:** Emergency personnel have access/a key into the Project.

B. Tanger asked that the online survey instructions are provided as one-page PDF that he could hand out at meetings.

L. Belcher requested that Appalachian schedule a meeting with the County regarding the Greenway "Non-Project" status. E. Parcell said that she and L. Webb will continue to work together.

Meeting Agenda

Topic	Schedule
Welcome and Introduction	2:00 PM – 2:10 PM
Safety Moment	2:10 PM – 2:15 PM
ISR Recap and upcoming milestones, Recreation map updates and April site visit	2:15 PM – 2:45 PM
Roanoke County Presentation	2:45 PM – 3:00 PM
Blueway Presentation	3:00 PM – 3:15 PM
FORVA Presentation	3:15 PM – 3:30 PM
Greenway Presentation	3:30 PM – 3:45 PM
Discussion and Q&A	3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

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Niagara Hydroelectric Project

Recreation Stakeholder Meeting
April 20, 2021



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Recreation Facilities – Relationship to FERC License

- FERC's **policy** is to seek the ultimate development of the recreational resources of all projects, consistent with the needs of the project area and the primary purposes of the project and taking into account, among other things, Project economics.
- Licenses are issued with standard conditions **reserving FERC authority** to require the licensee to undertake additional recreational development, should circumstances warrant.
- The Commission requires licensees of most projects to submit for approval a **plan** for ensuring the development and maintenance of adequate public recreational facilities.

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Safety Moment – Distracted Driving Month

42,060 people are estimated to have died in motor vehicle crashes in 2020.

- The preliminary estimated rate of death on the roads last year spiked 24% over the previous 12-month period, despite miles driven dropping 13%.
- An estimated 4.8 million additional roadway users were seriously injured in crashes in 2020, with an estimated cost to society of \$47.4 billion.
- Here are some immediate life-saving measures that would put us on a road to zero deaths:

What action can you take?

Never drink and drive! Always have a designated driver or utilize a ride share option (such as Uber) if you will be drinking.

Never exceed the speed limit and follow all signage.

Silence your phone or stow it out of sight. Don't text and drive. Nothing is more important than your safety.

Click it or ticket! Always wear a seatbelt, no exceptions.

A helmet should always be worn when riding a motorcycle, regardless of whether it is a law or not.



Recreation Study

Study Goal: to determine the need for enhancement to the existing recreation facility, or the need for additional recreational facilities, to support the current and future demand for public recreation in the Study Area.

Existing Project and Non-Project facilities:

- Project Canoe Portage Trail (Project Facility) includes a take-out and put-in below the Niagara dam.
- Tinker Creek Canoe Launch (Non-Project Facility) is upstream of the Niagara dam.
- The Roanoke River Overlook and Trail (Non-Project Facility) includes a short-inclined trail and access to fishing in the bypass reach.
- Rutrough Point (Non-Project Facility) is 3RM downstream from the Niagara dam.

Recreation Facilities – Relationship to FERC License

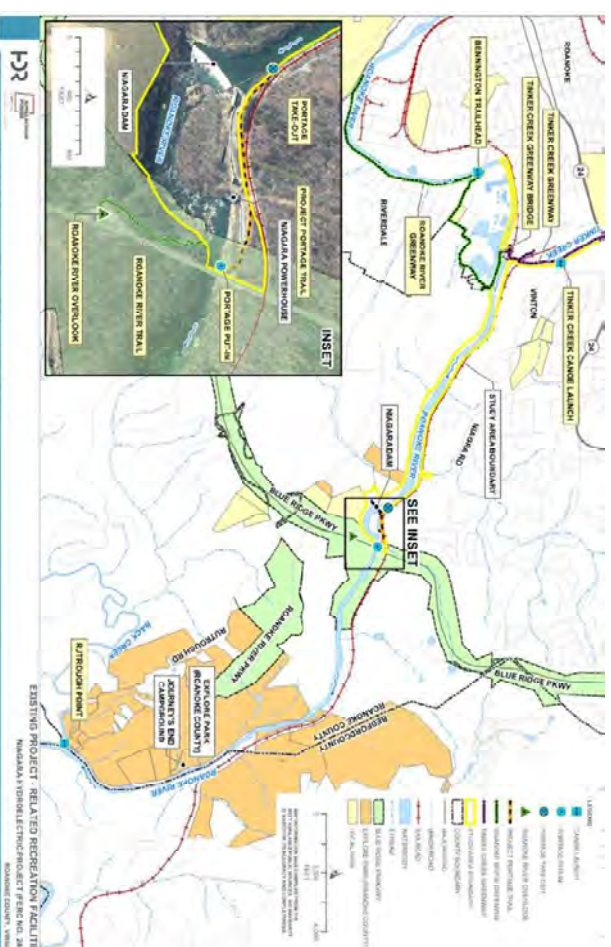
- **Recreation facilities**, is a comprehensive term which includes both infrastructure (i.e., parking, restrooms, access paths, docks, etc.) and amenities (i.e., boat launches, picnic areas, campgrounds, trails, etc.).
- While a variety of recreation facilities may exist within the project boundary, only those required by the license (or Recreation Plan) are considered Commission-approved (or “**Project Facilities**”).
- Typically, **Project Facilities** are incorporated into the **project boundary** and the licensee is ultimately responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the recreation facilities.
- Other recreation facilities at or in the vicinity of the project which are not necessarily required by FERC may include state parks, municipal and/or county agencies, and/or non-project uses at the project (“**Non-Project Facilities**”). The licensee is not responsible for operation and maintenance of such facilities.

Recreation Study

Study Status

- Appalachian has commenced the Recreation Study in accordance with the RSP and the Commission’s SPD.

Task	Status
Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment	Completed in January 2020.
Existing and Future Recreational Opportunities	Stakeholder meeting – April 20, 2021. Preliminary data provided. Survey has been extended through October 2021.
Recreation Visitor Use Online Survey	Postponed until May 2021.
Recreational Use Documentation	Completed (potential for one more visit to capture bypass reach minimum flow conditions in 2021).
Aesthetic Flow Documentation	Completed in November 2020. Continue to evaluate in 2021.
Recreational Flow Release Desktop Evaluation	



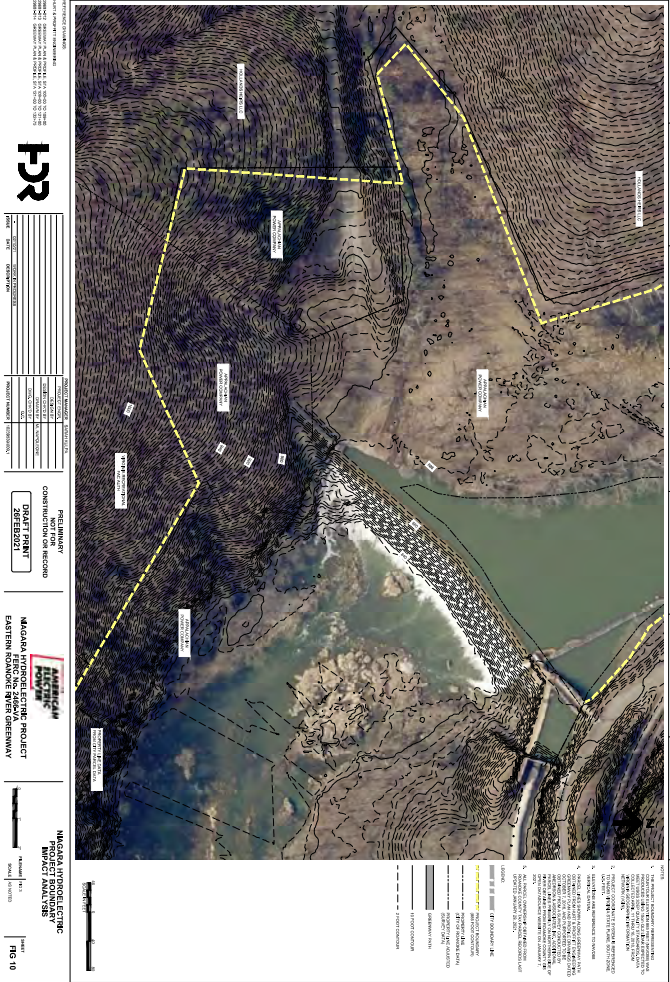
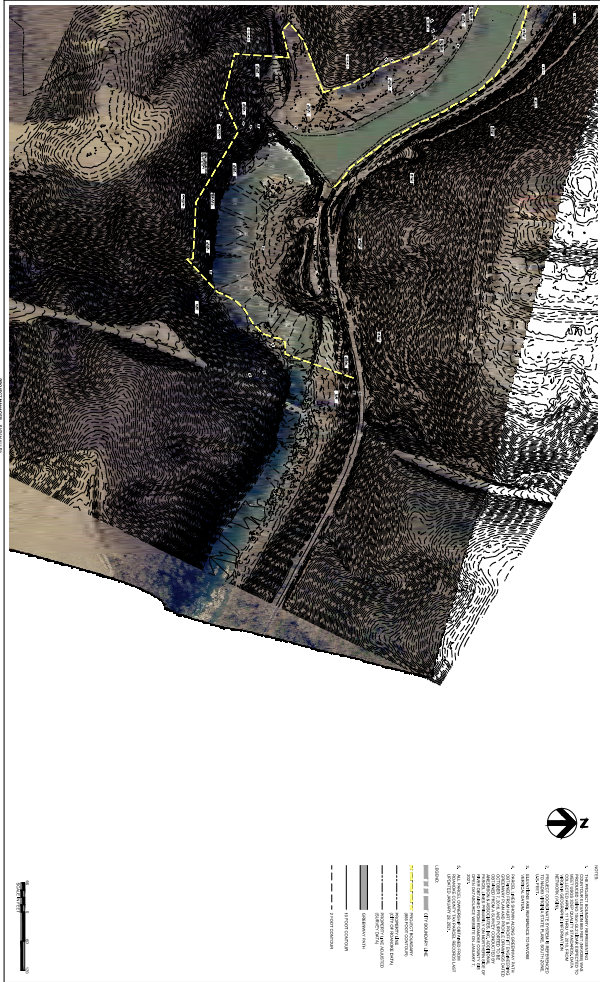


Former Laydown Area, Facing South Dam Abutment

Facing Away From South Dam Abutment – Towards Hill

Upcoming ILP Milestones

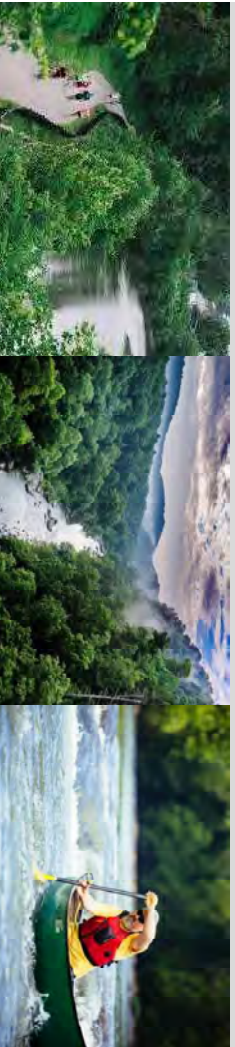
Date	Milestone
January 21, 2020	Appalachian Hosts ISR Meeting (18 CFR §§.15(c)(2))
February 5, 2021	Appalachian File ISR Meeting Summary (18 CFR §§.15(c)(3))
March 7, 2021	Stakeholders File Disagreements with ISR Meeting Summary (18 CFR §§.15(c)(3)) (if necessary)
April 6, 2021	Appalachian File Response to ISR Meeting Summary Disagreements (18 CFR §§.15(c)(5)) (if necessary)
May 6, 2021	FERC Provide Determination on Disputes (18 CFR §§.15(c)(6)) (if necessary)
Spring—Fall 2021	Appalachian Conduct Second Year of Studies
October 1, 2021	Appalachian File Draft License Application (DLA) (18 CFR §§.16(a))
December 5, 2021	Appalachian File USR (18 CFR §§.15(f))
December 20, 2021	Appalachian Host USR Meeting (18 CFR §§.15(f))
December 30, 2021	Stakeholders File Comments on DLA (18 CFR §§.16(e))
January 4, 2022	Appalachian File USR Meeting Summary (18 CFR §§.15(f))
February 3, 2022	Stakeholders File Disagreements with USR Meeting Summary (18 CFR §§.15(f)(4)) (if necessary)
February 28, 2022	Appalachian File Final License Application (18 CFR §§.17)
March 5, 2022	Appalachian File Response to USR Meeting Summary Disagreements (18 CFR §§.15(f)(5)) (if necessary)



Overview

- Virginia Outdoors Plan
- Roanoke County Strategic Plan
- Explore Park Adventure Plan
- Roanoke River Greenway
- Roanoke River Blueway
- Recommended Recreation Improvements

2



Niagara Dam Hydroelectric Project Relicensing (FERC No. 2466-034)

Recreation Stakeholder Meeting

April 20, 2021



Roanoke County Community Strategic Plan (2016)



Vision Statement

Roanoke County is a vibrant, innovative, and scenic community that values its citizens, heritage, and quality of life.

Keep Roanoke County Healthy, Clean and Beautiful

Outdoor Recreational and Natural Resources
Roanoke County's abundant outdoor recreational opportunities are seen as a means to market the County's high quality of life to young professionals, an increasingly important demographic for the region. Outdoor recreation that capitalizes on increasing the number of visitors to the area while providing healthy alternatives for visitors to help promote and sustain County's outdoor recreational advantages, especially amenities such as **hiking trails, greenways, and blueways.**

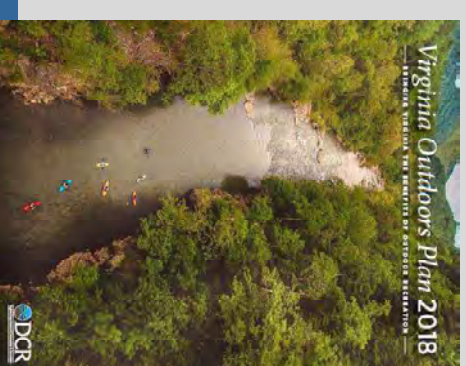


Environmental Stewardship
Environmental stewardship and protecting natural resources is important to keeping Roanoke County healthy, clean and beautiful. The scenic beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountain area, along with the regional streams and rivers, are an integral part of Roanoke County's natural resources. The County will continue to preserve and improve these irreplaceable features that are so vital to ensuring an attractive and healthy community for future generations.

Public Shared Use Quality of Life, Environmental Quality, Recreation and Economic Development
Public shared use quality of life, environmental quality, recreation and economic development focus groups were used to develop **KEEP ROANOKE COUNTY HEALTHY, CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL.**



Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018



Regional Focus

Table S1 Most-Needed Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Recreational Planning Region

activity	region	state
Natural areas	58	54
Trails	49	43
Water access	45	42
Parks	40	43
Historic sites	37	39
Scenic drives (driving for pleasure)	31	22
Picnicking, sports and other facilities	17	22

Source: 2017 Virginia Outdoors Survey

- Regional **Featured Projects** to be considered a regional funded project, a project must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Has statewide or regional significance.
 - Addresses top statewide or regional needs identified by the Virginia Outdoors General Survey.
 - Has involvement and support from multiple jurisdictions in the region.
 - Able to be initiated within the next five years.
- Featured projects for the Roanoke Valley-Allegheny region:
 - Promote and implement the James River Heritage Trail including the Upper James River Water Trail and the Allegheny Highlands Blueways.
 - Implement the Roanoke River Greenway and Blueway Plan.
 - Implement the Trike Creek, Ducks Creek and Dabnick Creek Greenways.
 - Implement the Allegheny Highlands Trails system.
 - Implement the Appalachian Trail Priority Landscape at Catoctin Valley and Medicine Rock.
 - Promote and implement the 2016 Explore Park Adventure Plan.
 - Promote Virginia's Blue Ridge River Center, an international Mountain Biking Association Silver Level Race Center.
 - Design and implement in-river kayak parks.
 - Develop the Acadia Initiative as a multi-jurisdictional effort to preserve large landscapes for the protection of wildlife migration and forest ecology.

3

Brief History of Explore Park

- Originally opened in 1994 by the Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority (VRFA) as a living history museum
- Closed in 2007 due to recession and declining State funds
- 99-year lease executed between Roanoke County and VRFA in 2013
- Roanoke County reopened the park in 2014
- Explore Park Adventure Plan adopted by the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors in 2016



Roanoke County Community Strategic Plan Annual Reports

Explore Park held two river clean-ups last year with more than 170 volunteers and staff removing over five tons of garbage from the along the park's waterways.

Explore Park also partnered with the Pathfinders for Greenways to repair over 10 miles of equestrian trails from Explore Park to Mill Mountain. This project is another example of partnering to increase the outdoor experience for a variety of recreation users across the Roanoke Valley.

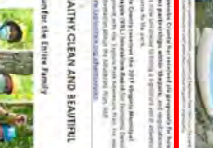
Explore Park Succeeds as a Center for Outdoor Recreation

In June, Roanoke County closed "Training Grounds" at Explore Park for a month-long renovation project. The project involved the removal of old equipment and the installation of new equipment, including a new climbing wall and a new rope course. The project was completed in August, and the park is now open for business.

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors approved a new plan for the park in 2016. The plan includes a new climbing wall, a new rope course, and a new playground. The plan also includes a new parking lot and a new restroom. The plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2016.

Explore Park also partnered with the Pathfinders for Greenways to repair over 10 miles of equestrian trails from Explore Park to Mill Mountain. This project is another example of partnering to increase the outdoor experience for a variety of recreation users across the Roanoke Valley.

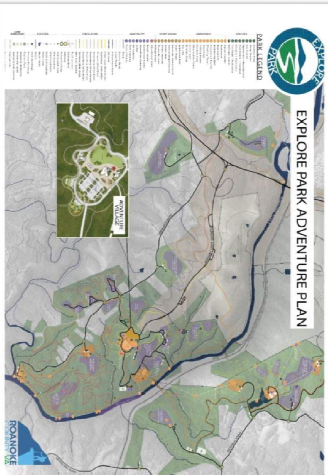
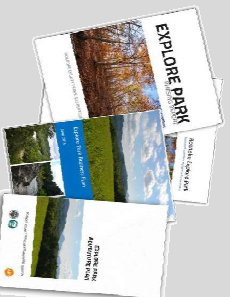
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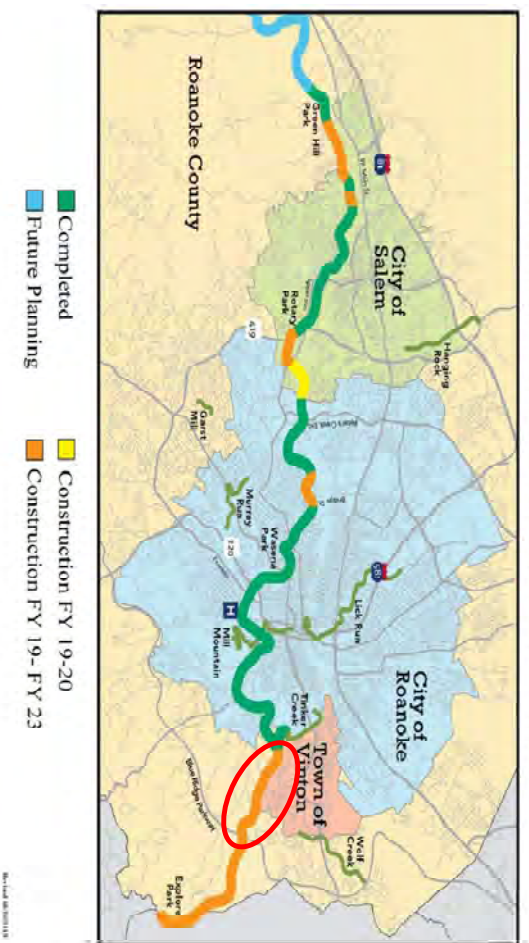
Explore Park Adventure Plan Fulfilling the Community's Vision

Key Amenities:

- In-River Kayak Park
- Roanoke River Greenway
- River Access/Blueway Improvements
- Bike Skills Park
- Disc Golf Course
- Aerial Park/Zipline
- Overnight Accommodations
- Food/Retail Operations



Roanoke River Greenway Status Map



Explore Park Recreational Use of Roanoke River

2019 Tubing & Kayak Rentals

Number of Bookings:

Customer Count: 722

2020 Tubing & Kayak Rentals

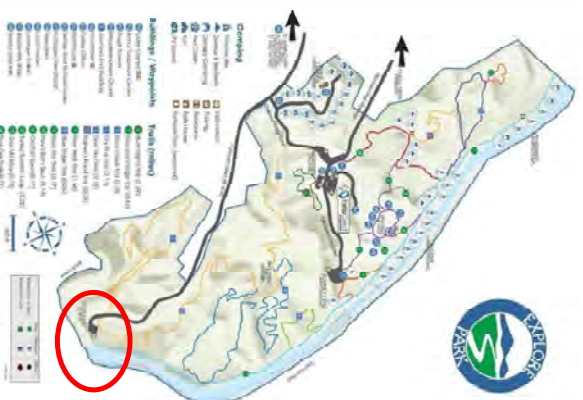
Number of Bookings: 621

Customer Count: 1,925

Rutrough Point Vehicle Counts

2019 14,166

2020 17,866

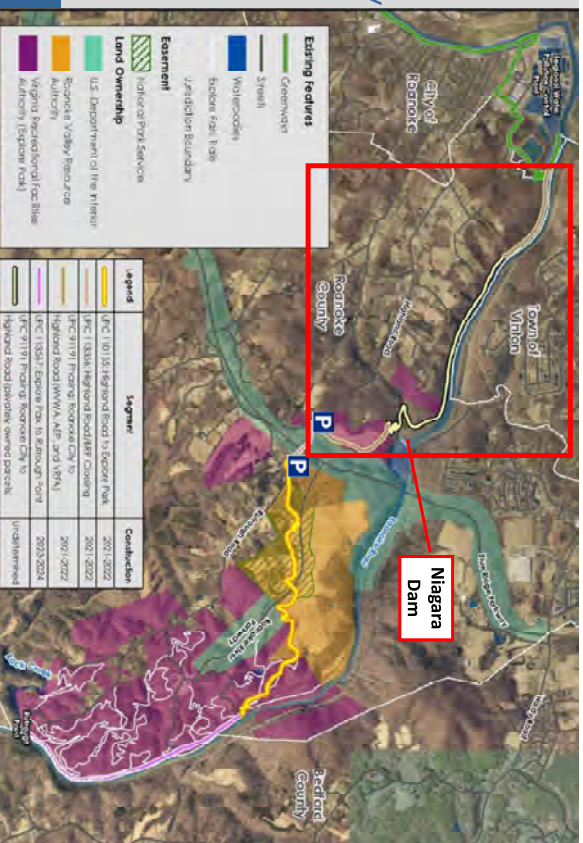


East Roanoke River Greenway (UPC 91191) Roanoke City to Highland Road

- Design/Engineering Plans are Complete
- Project Impacts proposed within Niagara Dam Hydroelectric Project Boundary and Appalachian Power Company owned land
- Phasing Construction:
 - Reducing scope on western and eastern termini due to right-of-way acquisition issues with private land owners
 - Construction anticipated 2021-2022
- Roanoke County will continue negotiating with property owners along Roanoke River



East Roanoke River Greenway Overview Map



Roanoke River Blueway

- Virginia Treasures Designation (2016)
- Governor's Environmental Excellence Award (2016)
- USA Today Reader's Choice 2021: Third "Best Urban Kayaking Spot"
- DCR Scenic Rivers – Roanoke River Qualified Designation (upstream of Blue Ridge Parkway)



Questions or Comments?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input!

ROANOKE COUNTY VA
PAKKS, RECREATION & TOURISM
 Lindsay B. Webb, MPA
 Parks Planning and Development Manager
 1206 Kessler Mill Road | Salem, VA 24153
 (540) 777-6328 | (540) 521-9907 (cell)



16

Potential Property Acquisition

Partnership Opportunity for Public Access to Roanoke River, located upstream of Niagara Dam

Grant applications have been submitted to DCR and VOF



13

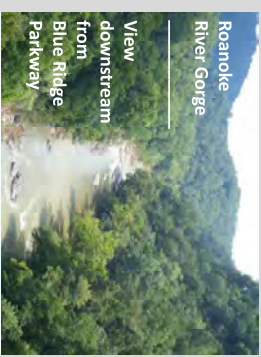
Summary of Recreation Requests

- **Support Implementation of the Explore Park Adventure Plan**
 - Recreation Flow Controlled Releases (i.e., summer and fall)
 - In-River Kayak Park proposed downstream of the Niagara Dam
- **Support Roanoke River Greenway**
 - Right of Way, Environmental, and FERC approvals needed
- **Support Roanoke River Blueway**
 - River-Left: improvements needed to existing portage put-in needed (i.e., floating dock) and portage take-out (i.e., with ramp or stairs) of the Niagara Dam
 - River-Right: Potential property acquisition could provide for development of a new public access facility with vehicular parking adjacent to the Niagara Dam
- **Support Trash and Debris Clean-Up Efforts**

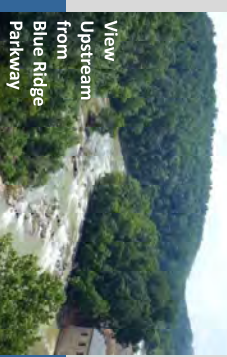
15

Roanoke River Gorge

View downstream from Blue Ridge Parkway



View Upstream from Blue Ridge Parkway





Filling a Regional Need

- In the Roanoke Region water access was ranked as the third greatest need for recreation resources
- Virginia Tourism Corporation 2014 Virginia Mountain Region Travel Profile for Roanoke shows a strong interest in nature-based tourism and recreational tourism offerings.
- Outdoor recreation supports health and wellness, economic development, and conservation goals.



April 20, 2021

Presentation to AEP
and Consultants for
the Recreation
Stakeholder Meeting



What is the Roanoke River Blueway?

A 45-mile stretch of the Roanoke River which begins in Montgomery County, stretching through the heart of the Cities of Salem and Roanoke before continuing on to the scenic Roanoke River Gorge in Roanoke County, the Roanoke River Blueway is a unique outdoor recreation opportunity in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

An opportunity runs through it

City leaders say the Roanoke River is an urban attraction, ripe for development



Blueways as Economic Development

- USA Today's 3rd Best Urban Kayaking Spot!
- Outdoor Recreation key draw for tourism in our region
- Promoting blueways supports outfitters and other local businesses
- Blueway connection to greenway a unique asset

4/16/2021

RoanokeRiverBlueway.org

Access Points

Roanoke River:

- East Montgomery County
- Wayside Park
- Green Hill Park
- West Riverside Drive
- Cardinal Justice Academy
- Eddy Avenue
- Salem Rotary Park
- Wasena Park
- Smith Park Low Water Bridge
- Launch at Reserve
- 13th/Bennington

Tributary Access:

- Tinker Creek
- Blue Ridge Parkway – Roanoke River Overlook
- Explore Park – Journey's End*
- Explore Park – Rutrough Point
- Hardy Road
- Jae Valley Park
- Mason Creek

RoanokeRiverBlueway.org



Program Achievements

- Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for Implementing the Virginia Outdoors Plan
- Virginia Treasures Designation for all access points
- Virginia Tourism Corporation Grant to leverage funding for promotion efforts
- ACA Designated Water Trail

4/16/2021

RoanokeRiverBlueway.org

Usage Numbers

Roanoke Mountain Adventures

- Tube Rentals Trips: 1482 = \$21,794.00
- Kayak Rental Trips: 534 = \$16,577.00
- Paddleboard Rental Trips: 126 = \$7,550.00
- Shuttles: 373 = \$6965.00
- Total water rentals: \$45,721.00

Blue Ridge Parkway/Fisherman's Trail Counter



Tinker Creek

- Improvements funded in part by AEP, DWR, and the Town of Vinton
- Managed and operated by the Town of Vinton
- Last takeout before the dam
- Signage improvements in progress here and other sites

RoanokeRiverBlueway.org



Explore Park – Journey's End and Rutrough Point



- Journey's End
- Popular for tubing
- Needs to be incorporated into our mapping/website

- Rutrough Point
- Last takeout in Explore Park
- Confluence of Back Creek (Iae Valley Park)
- Popular paddleboarding location

RoanokeRiverBlueway.org



13th/Bennington

- Connected directly to the Roanoke River Greenway
- Funding allocated by the Blueway Committee for improvements at this location
- 13th Street/Bennington parking lot provides connection to Tinker Creek Greenway (Underhill counting site)
- Last takeout on the Roanoke River above the dam

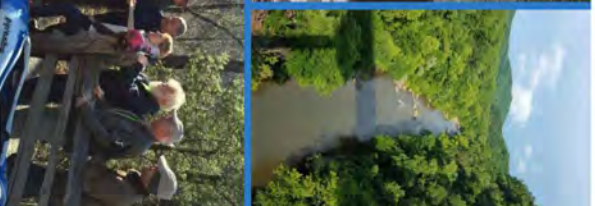
RoanokeRiverBlueway.org



Blue Ridge Parkway, Roanoke River Overlook

- Rehabilitation in 2015 by FORVA and Pathfinders for Greenways
- Ribbon cutting held February 2016
- Put in below the dam – best views of the dam

RoanokeRiverBlueway.org



Impacts of the Niagara Dam

- The portage!



For more information please contact Amanda McGee at amcgee@rvaic.org or visit

RoanokeRiverBlueway.org

**Roanoke River
BLUEWAY**

Future Improvements – Adventure Plan



Riverside Village

*As shown in Phase 5-projected Year 15



Takeaways

The Blueway Committee supports:

- Improvements to the Portage
- Study Access Above the Dam
- Include Greenway Users Amongst Recreation Stakeholders
- Access to the Bypass
- Reach/Recreational Releases

Salazar, Margaret

Subject: FW: AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project - Recreation Stakeholder Mtg Summary and Online Survey Link

From: Yayac, Maggie

Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 4:11 PM

To: Kulpa, Sarah <sarah.kulpa@hdrinc.com>; Rhur, Roberta <robbie.rhur@dcr.virginia.gov>; Pete Eshelman <Pete@roanoke.org>

Cc: rcaywood@roanokecountyva.gov; Lindsay Webb <LWEBB@roanokecountyva.gov>; Anita McMillan <amcmillan@vintonva.gov>; riverdancer1943@gmail.com; Amanda McGee <amcgee@rvarc.org>; Liz Belcher <LBELCHER@roanokecountyva.gov>; Doug Blount <DBLOUNT@roanokecountyva.gov>; dawn_leonard@nps.gov; Elizabeth B Parcell <ebparcell@aep.com>; Jonathan M Magalski <jmmagalski@aep.com>; Frank Simms <fmsimms51@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project - Recreation Stakeholder Mtg Summary and Online Survey Link

Pete and Robbie,

To close the loop on this one, our online survey developer has:

- Removed the text field above the map
- Added a second map to show a zoomed in image of the Project Area
- Revised Recreation Location note to say "Recreation Location Visited (Please Check All that Apply)"

Thanks for your input.

Maggie Yayac

D 704.248.3666 M 610.299.0959

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From: Kulpa, Sarah <Sarah.Kulpa@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 5:30 PM

To: Rhur, Roberta <robbie.rhur@dcr.virginia.gov>; Pete Eshelman <Pete@roanoke.org>

Cc: rcaywood@roanokecountyva.gov; Lindsay Webb <LWEBB@roanokecountyva.gov>; Anita McMillan <amcmillan@vintonva.gov>; riverdancer1943@gmail.com; Amanda McGee <amcgee@rvarc.org>; Liz Belcher <LBELCHER@roanokecountyva.gov>; Doug Blount <DBLOUNT@roanokecountyva.gov>; dawn_leonard@nps.gov; Elizabeth B Parcell <ebparcell@aep.com>; Jonathan M Magalski <jmmagalski@aep.com>; Yayac, Maggie <Maggie.Yayac@hdrinc.com>; Frank Simms <fmsimms51@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project - Recreation Stakeholder Mtg Summary and Online Survey Link

Thank you for the comments, Pete and Robbie. We'll work with our developer to get this front matter updated and let you know where that lands.

Sarah Kulpa

D 704.248.3620 M 315.415.8703

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From: Rhur, Roberta <robbie.rhur@dcr.virginia.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:27 PM

To: Pete Eshelman <Pete@roanoke.org>

Cc: Kulpa, Sarah <Sarah.Kulpa@hdrinc.com>; rcaywood@roanokecountyva.gov; Lindsay Webb

<LWEBB@roanokecountyva.gov>; Anita McMillan <amcmillan@vintonva.gov>; riverdancer1943@gmail.com; Amanda McGee <amcgee@rvarc.org>; Liz Belcher <LBELCHER@roanokecountyva.gov>; Doug Blount <DBLOUNT@roanokecountyva.gov>; dawn_leonard@nps.gov; Elizabeth B Parcell <ebparcell@aep.com>; Jonathan M Magalski <jmmagalski@aep.com>; Yayac, Maggie <Maggie.Yayac@hdrinc.com>; Frank Simms <fmsimms51@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project - Recreation Stakeholder Mtg Summary and Online Survey Link

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All:

Pete just said what I was thinking when I attempted the survey, he beat me to the comments, thanks for that :)

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 2:24 PM Pete Eshelman <Pete@roanoke.org> wrote:

Sarah,

1). If I go to the survey (https://hdrinc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_868Pdv5uC5hgmgZ) the instructions on the page are not clear. For example, it says "click to write the question text"...I'm guessing no one put an actual question here as this is placeholder text from a template?

2). And you cannot zoom in on the map. Seems we would want people to be able to zoom in on the project.

3). The next section says "Recreation Location (check on):. But what are we checking? It isn't clear as to what you want a person to do here.

It does become more clear when you move onto subsequent pages of the survey.

Pete

Pete Eshelman

Roanoke Outside Foundation,

Roanoke Regional Partnership

(540) 343-1550 x 104

(540) 392-6989 (cell)

Salazar, Margaret

Subject: FW: AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466) -Summary of RLP larval drift study conference call
Attachments: AEP Niagara RLP Survey Call Summary_20210607 DRAFT.docx

From: Kulpa, Sarah <Sarah.Kulpa@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 12:33 PM
To: McCloskey, John <john_mccloskey@fws.gov>; McCorkle, Richard <richard_mccorkle@fws.gov>; scott.smith@dwr.virginia.gov; ernie.aschenbach@dwr.virginia.gov; ernie.aschenbach@dwr.virginia.gov
Cc: Allyson Conner <Allyson.Conner@ferc.gov>; John Smith <John.Smith@ferc.gov>; Laurie Bauer <Laurie.Bauer@ferc.gov>; Jonathan M Magalski <jmmagalski@aep.com>; Elizabeth B Parcell <ebparcell@aep.com>
Subject: AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466) -Summary of RLP larval drift study conference call

Good afternoon,

A draft summary of the conference call to discuss the Roanoke Logperch larval drift study planned to be conducted in support of the relicensing of Appalachian Power Company's Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466) is attached. Please send comments and any suggested edits back to me by COB Wednesday, July 14. HDR will then work with Appalachian to finalize the meeting summary for inclusion in the consultation record for the Fish Community Study.

On behalf of Appalachian, thank you for your attention to this project, and we look forward to future discussions with this group related to this resource issue.

And have a safe holiday weekend!

Sarah Kulpa
D 704.248.3620 M 315.415.8703

hdrinc.com/follow-us

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Allyson Conner <Allyson.Conner@ferc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Allyson Conner; McCloskey, John; McCorkle, Richard; Jon Magalski; Elizabeth B Parcell; Kulpa, Sarah; scott.smith@dwr.virginia.gov; ernie.aschenbach@dwr.virginia.gov; John Smith; Laurie Bauer
Subject: Niagara Project RLP larval drift study conference call
When: Monday, June 7, 2021 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Webex

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Everyone was available Monday at 3pm and no schedules needed to be adjusted. Just click the link below and we should all be able to talk and/or see one another – should you choose that option 😊

-- Do not delete or change any of the following text. --

When it's time, join your Webex meeting here.

Join meeting

More ways to join:

Join from the meeting link

<https://ferc.webex.com/ferc/j.php?MTID=m99808c6d98ef6196f71044f271f5a186>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 199 577 8734

Meeting password: G3Npe3ATxg2

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-415-527-5035,,1995778734## US Toll

Join by phone

+1-415-527-5035 US Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#)

Join from a video system or application

Dial [1995778734@ferc.webex.com](tel:1995778734@ferc.webex.com)

You can also dial 207.182.190.20 and enter your meeting number.

Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial [1995778734.ferc@lync.webex.com](tel:1995778734.ferc@lync.webex.com)

If you are a host, [click here](#) to view host information.

Need help? Go to <https://help.webex.com>

From: Kulpa, Sarah
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:21 PM
To: McCloskey, John
Cc: Jonathan M Magalski; Elizabeth B Parcell; scott.smith@dwr.virginia.gov; ernie.aschenbach@dwr.virginia.gov; McCorkle, Richard
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466) -Summary of RLP larval drift study conference call

Thanks, John, for USFW's timely review and feedback. We look forward to further consultation with this group working toward the draft and final license applications for this project.

Sarah Kulpa
D 704.248.3620 M 315.415.8703

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: McCloskey, John <john_mccloskey@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:08 AM
To: Kulpa, Sarah <Sarah.Kulpa@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Jonathan M Magalski <jmmagalski@aep.com>; Elizabeth B Parcell <ebparcell@aep.com>; scott.smith@dwr.virginia.gov; ernie.aschenbach@dwr.virginia.gov; McCorkle, Richard <richard_mccorkle@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] AEP Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466) -Summary of RLP larval drift study conference call

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Sarah,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the draft summary of the conference call held on June 7, 2021 to discuss the Roanoke Logperch larval drift study planned to be conducted in support of the relicensing of Appalachian Power Company's Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466). We have no comments or suggested edits on the meeting summary. The meeting summary accurately reflects what was discussed on the call. We appreciate your efforts to address our concerns on this project.

John.

John McCloskey

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

6669 Short Lane

From: Kulpa, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:27 AM
To: ACHP - John Eddins; Catawba Indian Nation - Wenonah Haire; County of Roanoke - David Henderson; County of Roanoke - Lindsay Webb; County of Roanoke - Michael Clark; County of Roanoke - Richard Caywood; Delaware Nation - Eric Paden; Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway - Audrey Pearson; Friends of the Rivers of Virginia - Bill Tanger; Harold Peterson; Kevin Colburn - American Whitewater (kevin@americanwhitewater.org); Monacan Indian Nation - Kenneth Branham; NPS - Dawn Leonard; Roanoke County Parks - Doug Blount; Roanoke Regional Partnership - Pete Eshelman; Roanoke River Blueway; Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission - Amanda McGee; Roanoke Valley Greenway - Liz Blecher; Smith Mountain Lake Assn - Lorie Smith; Town of Vinton - Anita McMillan; Town of Vinton - Bo Herndon; Town of Vinton - Kenny Sledd; Town of Vinton - Nathan McClung; Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission - Paula Shoffner; USEPA - Matthew Lee; USFWS; USFWS - John McCloskey; USGS - Mark Bennett; VA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit - Paul Angermeier; VADCR - Jennifer Wampler; VADCR - Natural Heritage; VADCR - Robbie Ruhr; VADEQ - Andrew Hammond; VADEQ - Anthony Cario; VADEQ - Brian McGurk; VADEQ - Matthew Link; VADEQ - Scott Kudlas; Virginia Council on Indians - Emma Williams; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Rene Hypes; Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries - Scott Smith
Cc: Jonathan M Magalski; 'ebparcell@aep.com'; Salazar, Maggie; Hanson, Danielle
Subject: Niagara Hydroelectric Project (VA) -- Filing of ILP Study Progress Report
Attachments: Niagara Fourth Quarterly Progress Report_July 2021.pdf

Niagara Hydroelectric Project Stakeholders:

Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian), a unit of American Electric Power (AEP), is the licensee, owner and operator of the Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466) (Project) located on the Roanoke River in Roanoke County, Virginia. The Project is operated under a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The existing FERC license for the Project expires on February 29, 2024. Appalachian is pursuing a new license for the continued operation of the Project in accordance with FERC's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP).

Pursuant to the ILP, Appalachian filed the fourth ILP Study Progress Report with the Commission on Thursday, July 22. We are notifying stakeholders and distributing an electronic copy of this submittal (attached). The filing can also be viewed online at FERC's eLibrary and will be added to the Project's public relicensing website (<http://www.aephydro.com/HydroPlant/Niagara>) in the coming days.

Thank you for your continued interest in this Project. Should you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact Jon Magalski with AEP at (614) 716-2240 or jmmagalski@aep.com.

Thank you,

Sarah Kulpa
Project Manager

HDR
440 S. Church Street, Suite 900
Charlotte, NC 28202-2075
D 704.248.3620 M 315.415.8703
sarah.kulpa@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us



July 22, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Subject: Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466-034)
Fourth Quarterly Study Progress Report – Summer 2021**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian or Applicant), a unit of American Electric Power (AEP) is the Licensee, owner, and operator of the run-of-river 2.4 megawatt (MW) Niagara Hydroelectric Project (Project No. 2466) (Project or Niagara Project) located on the Roanoke River in Roanoke County, Virginia. The Project is currently undergoing relicensing following the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) Integrated Licensing Process (ILP).

This Fourth Quarterly Study Progress Report describes the activities performed since the Third Quarterly Study Progress Report which was filed on April 30, 2021, and includes activities expected to be conducted in quarter 3 (Q3) of 2021. Unless otherwise described, all relicensing studies are being conducted in conformance with the approved Revised Study Plan (RSP) and the Commission's Study Plan Determination (SPD).

Bypass Reach Flow and Aquatic Habitat Study

- Field data collection was completed during the weeks of June 28 and July 5. Once the field data has been analyzed, a two-dimensional (2D) aquatic habitat model will be developed. Preliminary modeling results, conclusions, and recommendations will be provided in the Updated Study Report (USR).

Water Quality Study

- Appalachian's consultant, HDR, reinstalled two continuous temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) data sondes in the bypass reach (one at the upstream monitoring location and the other at the downstream monitoring location) and a continuous temperature and DO data sonde in the tailrace during the week of June 28th. HDR has completed one download

on July 8 and a second download on July 20. HDR presently plans to download measurements from the equipment approximately every other week through October 2021.

- Appalachian plans to collect discrete water quality profile data at the forebay monitoring location during equipment checks and data downloads for the continuous monitoring instrumentation.
- Additional water quality data collected during the 2021 field season will be summarized, along with any conclusions or recommendations, in the USR in Q4 2021.

Fish Community Study

- As reported in Appalachian's previous progress report, a Larval Drift Study was planned for early spring 2021 to coincide with the Roanoke Logperch (*Percina Rex*) spawning window. Data collection efforts were scheduled to start at the beginning of April 2021 and continue for 10 consecutive weeks, ending in mid-June. The study requires (prior to field data collection) a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regional office. An application for the federal recovery permit was submitted in December 2020 by Edge Engineering & Science, LLC (EDGE) on behalf of Appalachian (Application ID: CS0003751, Permit ID:PER0002735). The timing of this application filing was discussed during the ISR, including with representatives of USFWS. The 30-day public comment period for the permit application was initiated by USFWS via public notice published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2021. The permit has not yet been issued.
- Due to this permit delay, Appalachian's subconsultant, EDGE, was unable to complete the Larval Drift Study as scheduled. On June 7, an informal conference call was held among FERC Division of Hydropower Licensing staff, staff from USFWS and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR), and representatives from Appalachian and HDR, to discuss process considerations for delaying the study until the spring of 2022 (i.e., after the filing of the final license application) or alternative approaches or measures. As follow-up to this discussion, and based on findings from adult and juvenile Roanoke Logperch surveys at the Project scheduled for completion this summer, Appalachian plans to further consult with the agencies regarding the Larval Drift Study in advance of or in conjunction with the filing of the draft license application.
- Appalachian did not receive approval from the USFWS to complete the adult Roanoke Logperch electrofishing sampling efforts in the Niagara bypass channel as presented in the RSP. In lieu of and in consultation with USFWS and VDWR, Appalachian completed the spring adult Roanoke Logperch survey in the bypass channel using snorkeling methodologies. The snorkel surveys and habitat assessment efforts in the bypass channel

were completed the week of June 28. Additional field sampling for adult and young-of-year Roanoke Logperch in the vicinity of the Project as presented in the RSP will be completed between August and October 2021.

- Appalachian will initiate the Turbine Blade Strike Evaluation for Niagara using the most recent version of the USFWS Turbine Blade Strike Analysis Model¹ and will also incorporate available historical information. A tentative list of species collected at the site to be used in the analysis was presented in the ISR. The analysis and reporting will be continued to be performed in Q3 2021 and results will be included in the USR.

Benthic Aquatic Resources Study

- Field data collection for the macroinvertebrate and crayfish community was completed between September and October 2020. A second benthic macroinvertebrate and crayfish field sampling effort was completed on June 2-4, 2021. The benthic macroinvertebrate and crayfish sampling is complete. While this sampling was initially scheduled for completion by May 31, prior to the end of the spring macroinvertebrate index period (May 31) as defined by VDEQ 2008, scheduling of the fieldwork was delayed due to the need to obtain a not likely to adversely affect determination (which was received on May 26, 2021) for the protection of Roanoke Logperch from USFWS, which extended to this sampling effort as well.
- Results of the laboratory processing, taxonomic identification, and data processing will be provided in the USR.

Recreation Study

- The Recreation Visitor Use Online Survey is on-going and will continue to be available in support of the Recreation Use Documentation survey. Appalachian provided minor updates to the online survey based on recent stakeholder feedback and included the most up to date Project map. Appalachian reshared the survey link with stakeholders in May, so that they could distribute to their users/groups. Appalachian also posted the survey link on the Claytor Lake and Smith Mountain Facebook pages, as well as the NextDoor application. (The notification was sent to 19 Appalachian serviced neighborhoods, translating to about 3,800 customers in the area of the Niagara Dam and corresponding Project area. These postings were done on June 7, 2021).

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2020. TBSA Model: A Desktop Tool for Estimating Mortality of Fish Entrained in Hydroelectric Turbines. Excel file dated December 9, 2020.

- As described in the previous progress report, driven by the then-pending closure of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Appalachian's sub-consultant, Young Energy Services (YES) was able to complete seven days of in-person survey (weekdays and weekends included) between the time period March 20 and May 11, resulting in twenty in-person surveys. The remainder of the facilities included in Recreation Use Documentation task began being surveyed by YES in May 2021, according to the schedule presented in the RSP.
 - Also as described in the previous progress report, as the alternative to in-person periodic observation of the portage from across the river, Appalachian installed a trail camera on May 26, 2021 in the vicinity of the portage put-in location to record activity during the Recreation Use Documentation timeframe. One download of the trail camera has occurred at the time of this progress report.
- Appalachian is presently evaluating recreation facility enhancements to be included in Appalachian's licensing proposal and plans to conduct additional stakeholder consultation related to potential enhancements in advance of or concurrent with the filing of the Draft License Application.

Wetlands, Riparian, and Littoral Habitat Characterization Study and Shoreline Stability Assessment

- The field work in support of the Wetlands, Riparian, and Littoral Habitat Characterization Study and the Shoreline Stability Assessment was completed during the week of June 21st and results will be provided in the USR.

Cultural Resources Study

- All field investigations for this study have been completed. Final results of the Cultural Resources Study will be filed with the USR.

If there are any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 716-2240 or via email at jmmagalski@aep.com

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Magalski
Environmental Specialist Consultant
American Electric Power Services Corporation

Subject: FW: Niagara Hydroelectric Project Roanoke Logperch Update
Attachments: RLP Method Update Memo_20210802.docx

From: Huddleston, Misty <Misty.Huddleston@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Kulpa, Sarah <sarah.kulpa@hdrinc.com>
Subject: FW: Niagara Hydroelectric Project Roanoke Logperch Update

FYI

Misty Huddleston, PhD
Associate, SR. Environmental Scientist
D 704.248.3614 M 865.556.9153

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Jon Studio <jastudio@edge-es.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 2:50 PM
To: richard_mccorkle@fws.gov; McCloskey, John <john_mccloskey@fws.gov>; Norman, Janet <janet_norman@fws.gov>; Pinder, Mike (DGIF) <mike.pinder@dwr.virginia.gov>; scott.smith@dgif.virginia.gov; Copeland, John <john.copeland@dwr.virginia.gov>; Angermeier, Paul <biota@vt.edu>
Cc: Huddleston, Misty <Misty.Huddleston@hdrinc.com>; John Spaeth <jpspaeth@edge-es.com>
Subject: Niagara Hydroelectric Project Roanoke Logperch Update

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

The attached memo (on behalf of EDGE [project consultant], HDR [project manager], and AEP [project owner]) provides a complete description of an updated survey method for the Niagara Hydroelectric Project. This methodological adjustment only pertains to 2021 Roanoke Logperch adult surveys and is contingent on approval from the Project's dive coordinator. Please respond with any questions or comments you may have. We appreciate your time.

Thank you,

JON A. STUDIO
Avon, Ohio
M: 440.413.4609
edge-es.com



Memo

Date: Monday, August 02, 2021

Project: Niagara Hydroelectric Project

To: Richard McCorkle, USFWS
John McCloskey, USFWS
Janet Norman, USFWS
Mike Pinder, VDWR
Scott Smith, VDWR
John Copeland, VDWR
Paul Angermeier, Virginia Tech

From: Jon Magalski, AEP
Jon Studio, Edge Engineering and Science
Misty Huddleston, HDR
Sarah Kulpa, HDR

Subject: Update to Summer RLP Adult Survey Methods

Appalachian Power Company (a unit of American Electric Power; AEP) is pursuing a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Niagara Dam Hydroelectric Project (Project) as their existing license (FERC No. 2466) expires in 2024. Roanoke Logperch (RLP) specific studies were developed in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) during the scoping process and presented in the Revised Study Plan (RSP) and approved by FERC in the Study Plan Determination. The field sampling methodology originally consisted of spring and summer backpack electrofishing for RLP in the Bypass Reach of the Roanoke River (below Niagara Dam) and summer backpack electrofishing at seven other locations in the Project area. It was noted in the RSP that completion of spring backpack electrofishing efforts would require a waiver of the VDWR Time-of-Year Restrictions (TOYR) for RLP with concurrence from the USFWS.

AEP, through their consultants HDR Engineering, Inc. (Project manager; HDR) and Edge Engineering and Science, LLC. (Project consultant; EDGE), submitted a request to the services for a TOYR waiver to complete the required RLP spring study in the Niagara Bypass Reach. A conference call was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, between AEP (Project owner), HDR, EDGE, other experts, and representatives of VDWR and USFWS to discuss the TOYR waiver request. The call resulted in a recommendation to eliminate backpack electrofishing methodology for the spring Bypass Reach sampling effort during the TOYR. The agencies agreed that the use of snorkeling survey methods would pose less of a potential effect on RLP (Not Likely to Adversely Affect) while allowing the field team to collect necessary and requested baseline information for Project-specific RLP studies. The agencies concurred that the waiver of TOYR was granted with a change to snorkel survey methods and a commitment to minimize instream disturbance during the survey effort to the extent possible.

The following snorkel methods were sent to Mike Pinder (VDWR) and Dr. Paul Angermeier (Virginia Tech) and agreed upon as an acceptable substitute. These methods were used to successfully complete spring adult RLP sampling in the Bypass Reach between June 28 and 30, 2021, where 9 adult and 1 juvenile RLP were observed.

Survey Methods

The general snorkeling survey methods are based on the line-transect methods and simple Emlen model described in Ensign et al. (1995), which are specific to RLP in the Roanoke River. The Bypass Reach sample location includes line transects running parallel to flow during typical seasonal flows. Roanoke Logperch are the only target species in the snorkel survey, but other fish species observed are noted as present.

Maximum visibility is determined by moving a Secchi disc away from a snorkeler underwater until it is no longer visible. Parallel lines are laid on the stream bed (spaced a minimum distance of 1.5 times the maximum visibility) so that full coverage is achieved, and overlap is reduced. Snorkelers begin searching at the downstream end of the reach and proceed slowly upstream, with the transect line in the center of their body, performing visual searches by looking from side to side for RLP. When an RLP is observed, a weighted marker is placed where the observation initially occurred. The spotter records juvenile, adult, or male adult (orange strip in first dorsal). Areas along each transect where habitat is deemed unsuitable (based on stream velocity, depth, and substrate size) will be skipped. After one full pass of each transect, the perpendicular distance between the transect line and each marker is measured and recorded. Further, the location of each marker is recorded with a sub-meter accuracy GPS unit along with depth, velocity, silt cover, and pebble counts.

Habitat assessment methods employed in the Bypass Reach and other sites follow those outlined in the RSP. A map of documented RLP sightings is overlain by habitat suitability data to identify the areas/habitats within the Bypass Reach that are being utilized by RLP adults during the spring and summer.

Update to Summer RLP Adult Survey Methods

Through coordination with and recommendations from the USFWS and VDWR personnel, the spring field sampling plan was amended to use snorkel methods in lieu of backpack electrofishing to survey for RLP in the Niagara bypass reach. In consideration of the initial approval by species experts, and successful employment of these methods in the Bypass Reach (June 2021), AEP is planning to use the snorkel methodology to complete the summer (August – October) 2021 adult RLP surveys in lieu of backpack electrofishing methods¹. No other deviations from the RSP are proposed at this time and the field effort will include snorkel surveys at a total of 8 sites – including the Bypass Reach. The change to the snorkel survey method is expected to improve our ability to locate adult RLP in the study boundary while minimizing stress to these federally protected fish.

Literature Cited

Ensign, W.E., P.L. Angermeier, and C.A. Dolloff. 1995. Use of line transect methods to estimate abundance of benthic stream fishes. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*. 52: 213-222.

¹ The switch to snorkel methodology is contingent upon approval of the dive plan by AEP's dive coordinator.

September 8, 2021

To: Attached Section 106 Consultation Distribution List

Subject: **Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466)
Cultural Resource Study Report
Consultation Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
of 1966, as amended**

Dear Consulting Parties:

This letter represents consultation with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and federally recognized Indian tribes (collectively “Consulting Parties”) regarding the enclosed cultural resource study report. The report has been prepared in support of the ongoing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) relicensing of the Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466) located in Roanoke County, Virginia.

Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian or Applicant), a unit of American Electric Power (AEP), is the Licensee, owner, and operator of the run-of-river 2.4-megawatt (MW) Niagara Hydroelectric Project (Project No. 2466) (Project or Niagara Project), located on the Roanoke River in Roanoke County, Virginia. The Project is located about at approximate river mile 355 on the Roanoke River, approximately 6 miles southeast of the City of Roanoke. The reservoir formed by the Project is approximately 2 miles long and includes the confluence with Tinker Creek.

The existing license for the Project was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) for a 30-year term, with an effective date of April 4, 1994, and expires February 29, 2024. Accordingly, Appalachian is pursuing a new license for the Project pursuant to the Commission’s Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), as described at 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 5. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) requires the Commission to take into account the effects of issuing a new license for the continued operation of the Project on historic properties and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment¹. This consultation, including the enclosed cultural resources study report, represents part of Appalachian’s ongoing Section 106 consultation efforts for the Project.

¹ 54 United States Code § 306108

² 36 C.F.R. Part 800

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the regulations implementing Section 106², the Commission has determined that issuing a new license for the Niagara Project is considered an undertaking with the potential to effect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Appalachian filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) and associated Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Commission on January 28, 2019, to initiate the ILP. The Commission issued Scoping Document 1 (SD1) for the Project on March 26, 2019. SD1 was intended to advise resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders as to the proposed scope of FERC's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project and to seek additional information pertinent to the Commission's analysis.

On April 24 and 25, 2019, the Commission held public scoping meetings in Vinton, Virginia. During these meetings, FERC staff presented information regarding the ILP and details regarding the study scoping process and how to request a relicensing study, including the Commission's study criteria. In addition, FERC staff solicited comments regarding the scope of issues and analyses for the EA. Pursuant to 18 CFR §5.8(d), a public site visit of the Project was conducted on April 24, 2019.

Concurrent with the January 28, 2019, PAD and NOI required by the ILP, Appalachian requested designation as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation pursuant to Section 106. The Commission granted Appalachian's request by notice dated March 26, 2019. While Appalachian is authorized to consult in an informal capacity, the Commission remains legally responsible for all agency findings and determinations under Section 106.

On November 6, 2019, Appalachian filed a Revised Study Plan (RSP) with the Commission describing the studies that the Licensee is proposing to conduct in support of relicensing the Project, including a Cultural Resources Study. As described in the RSP, Appalachian preliminarily proposed to define the Study Area/APE to include lands within the FERC-approved Project boundary. It also includes any lands outside of the Project Boundary where cultural resources may be affected by Project-related activities that are conducted in accordance with the FERC license.

On September 1, 2020, Appalachian submitted a letter to the Virginia SHPO, federally recognized Indian Tribes, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and other interested parties requesting concurrence on the definition of the APE and to ascertain whether properties of cultural significance (e.g., Traditional Cultural Properties [TCPs]) might exist within the APE. If no response was received from Indian Tribes, follow-up emails were sent in September and October 2021. Responses were received from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (Virginia SHPO), Catawba Indian Nation, Delaware Nation, Monacan Indian Nation, and Pamunkey Indian Tribe. There was no response from the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Cherokee Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, or the Archaeological Society of Virginia. As a result of the consultation, no TCPs were indicated as being within the APE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Archaeological fieldwork was conducted on October 13 and 14, 2020, by Terracon Consultants, Inc. Five different areas within the Project boundary considered to have the highest potential for containing archaeological resources were examined, including the area containing previously recorded site 44RN170, a presumed rockshelter. In addition to the archaeological investigations, geomorphological investigations were conducted by Seramur & Associates from April 20–22, 2020. Fifteen hand auger borings were placed in various locations along the Roanoke River and Tinker Creek. The sediment encountered above the water table in the 15 borings was interpreted as historic alluvium with no potential to contain intact buried prehistoric cultural deposits, including site 44RN170. Based on these results, Terracon recommended the Project would have no effect on historic properties and that no additional cultural resource investigations are warranted for the proposed undertaking.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

There are four previously recorded aboveground historic-age resources within the Project boundary—the Niagara Powerhouse Station and Dam (080-0095); the Blue Ridge Parkway Historic District (080-5161); the Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge (080-5161-0444); and the Virginian Railroad (128-6160). The Blue Ridge Parkway and Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, the Virginian Railroad is potentially eligible, and the Niagara Powerhouse and Dam were determined to be ineligible. None of these resources are currently being affected by Project operations.

REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE

At this time, Appalachian is seeking concurrence from the Consulting Parties on the recommendations contained in the enclosed cultural resources study report. Appalachian respectfully requests that the consulting parties provide written concurrence within 30 days of the date of this letter (e.g., on or before October 8, 2021). If there are any questions regarding the enclosed study or the relicensing process, please do not hesitate to contact me at me at (614) 716-2240 or by email jmmagalski@aep.com.

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Magalski
Environmental Specialist Consultant
American Electric Power Services Corporation

Attachment: Niagara Hydroelectric Project Section 106 Consultation Distribution List

**Niagara Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2466)
Consulting Party Distribution List**

Federal Agencies

Ms. Kimberly Bose
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State Agencies

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State Historic Preservation Officer
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