

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project Joint Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Project Overview
- Natel Energy Presentation
- Process Plan and Schedule
- Environmental Resources and Issues
- Study Plan Development

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Dam Dimensions - 15 ft High, 875 ft Long
- Impoundment – 316 Acres, El 511 ft msl
- Tailwater Elevation – El 497 ft msl
- Canal Headgate – 22 ft wide
- Transmission Line Length – 500 ft
- Project Capacity – 3.8 MW
- Annual Energy Generation – 13,500 MWH

**Existing Scott's Mill Dam Site**



# Right Bank of James River



## Possible Configuration for Finished Installation





# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Traditional Licensing Process Approved
- Designated FERC Representative:
  - Endangered Species Act Consultation
  - Section 106 of NHPA Consultation
- Electronic Use of Email and Project Website
  - [www.scottsmillhydro.com](http://www.scottsmillhydro.com)
- Meeting Summary in 15 Days
- Comments on Study Plan Due February 2, 2015

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Essentially Run of River Downstream of Dam
- Coordination with Upstream Reusens Project
- Considering 3 Foot High Flashboards at Dam



# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- USGS Gage at Holcomb Rock
  - 87 Years of Data
  - Average Flow 3,630 cfs
- Water Quality
  - Elevated Levels of Bacteria and PCBs
  - River Does Not Support Recreational Use or Fish Consumption
  - Monitored at Percival's Island (d/s Scott's Mill)
  - Water Temperature Range – 3.5 to 29.5 C
  - Dissolved Oxygen – 7.9 to 13.4 mg/l
  - Turbidity – 1.8 to 210 NTU

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

## Issues

- Water Rights
- Water Supply
- Sediments – Test for Toxicity
- Water Quality?

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Supports Warm Water and Non-game Fish
  - Smallmouth Bass, Muskellunge, Catfish, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass
- Diadromous Fish
  - American Shad, Alewife, Blueback Herring, Striped Bass, Lamprey, American Eel
- VDGIF Annual Survey
- History of Disease But Not Recently
- High Angling Pressure

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

## Issues

- Fish Passage
- Impingement and Entrainment
- Local Effects on Fish Habitat
  - Impoundment Fishery
  - Immediately Downstream

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Steep-sided Slopes
  - West Side – Disturbed with 20-30 ft Woody, Riparian Buffer
  - East Side – Less Human Alteration, Rocky Hill, Young Mature Hardwood Species by Shore
- Wildlife – Deer, Turkey, and Other Typical Mammals

Issues?

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Daniel Island, Alluvial Island Downstream of Dam
- Treasure Island and Woodruff Island

## Issues

- Effect of Water Level Fluctuation on Impoundment Wetland Resources

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project Rare, Threatened and Endangered

- James River Spiny mussel
- Northern Long-eared Bat
- Several State Threatened Species

## Issues

- James River Spiny mussel

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- James River - State Scenic in Certain Reaches
- Significant Angling (Primarily Local)
- SCORP
  - Hiking and Walking Trails
  - Fishing, Swimming, Beaches
  - Natural Areas
  - Bicycling Trails
  - Historic Areas
  - Canoeing/Kayaking



# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

## Issues

- Portage on East Side of James River

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Industrial/Urban Setting
- View from Roadway on East Side
- Flow Over the Dam
- Little Exposed Shoreline

## Issues

- Flow Over Dam

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- James and Kanawha Canal
  - Few Portions of Canal Exist
  - Canal Right of Way
- Scott's Mill Dam

## Issues

- Historic Properties Management Plan

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Amherst and Bedford Counties and Lynchburg Per Capita Income Level Below State Average

## Issues

- Construction Employment
- Construction Spending

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Decommissioning
- Reduction in Carbon Dioxide and Other Emissions

# Scott's Mill Hydroelectric Project

- Goals and Objectives and Information to be Obtained
- Resource Management Goals
- Public Interest Considerations
- Describe Existing Information and Need for Additional Information
- Nexus Between Project and Effects on Resources
- How Study Methodology is Consistent with Accepted Practice
- Consideration of Level of Effort and Cost