



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project
No. 2685-026

Scoping Meetings

Gilboa, New York
July 7, 2014 (eve)

Cobleskill, New York
July 9, 2014 (morn)

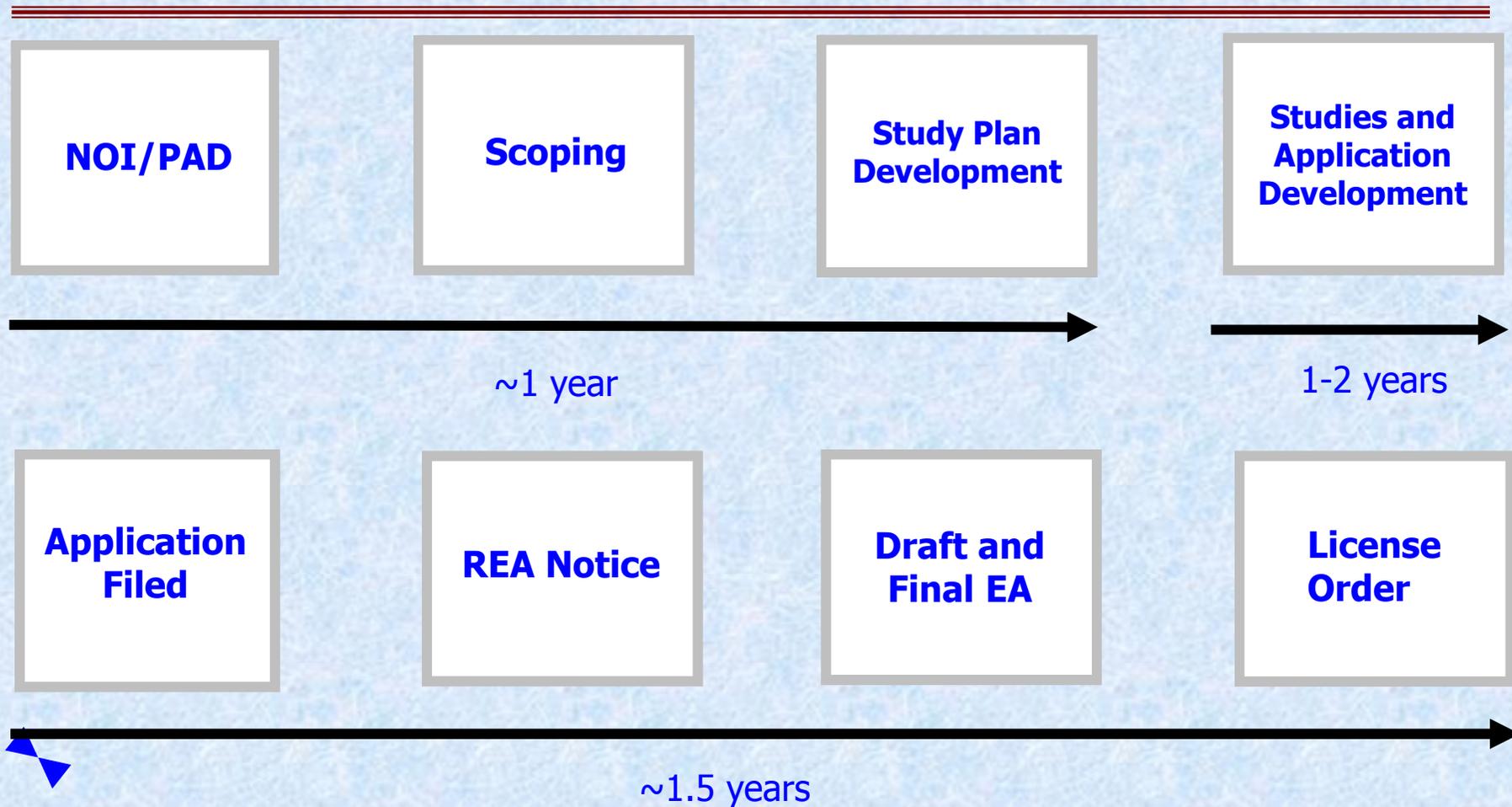
Agenda

- Introduction
- Process overview
- Purpose of scoping
- Request for information and studies
- Submitting your comments and keeping informed
- Project overview - New York Power Authority
- Discussion of issues
- Wrap-up--review of important dates and any additional questions/comments

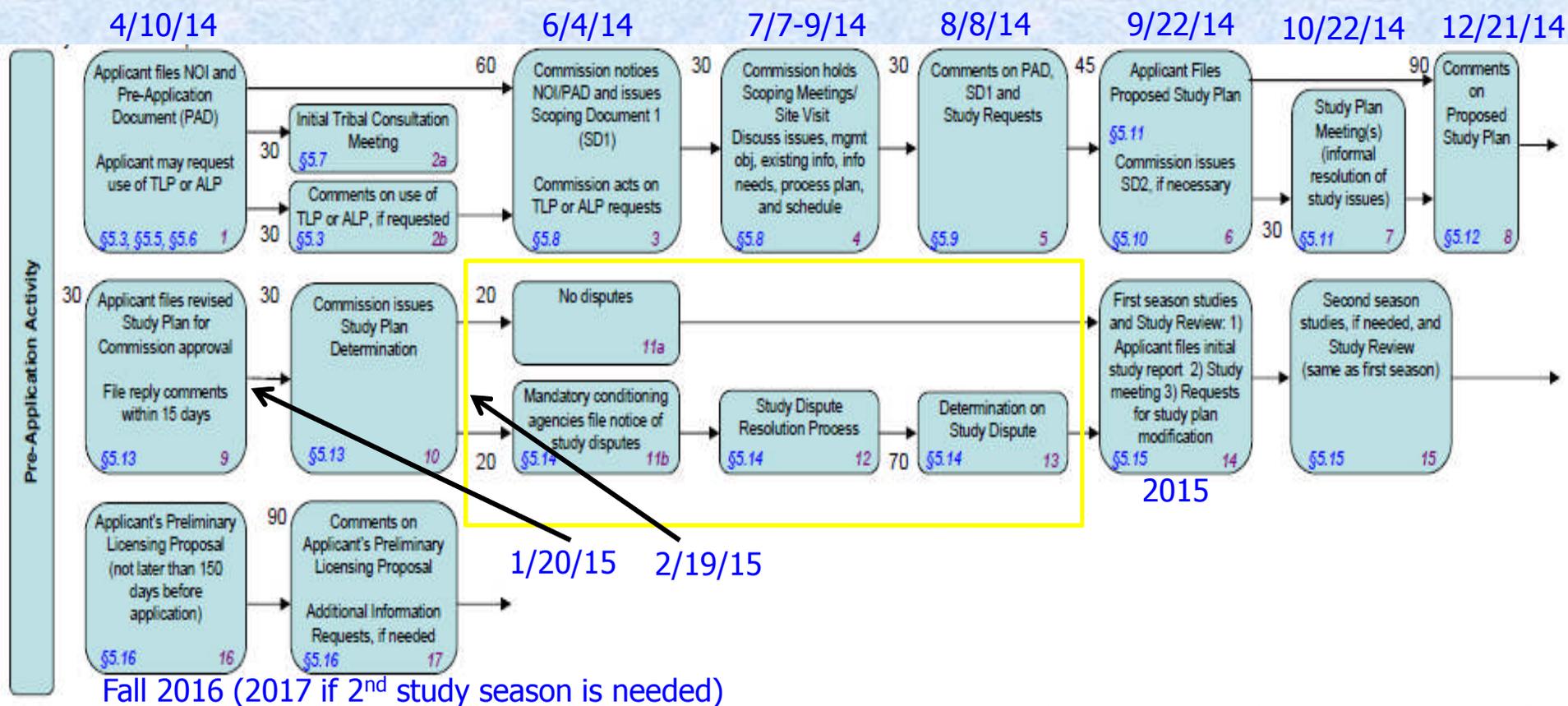
Introduction

- Sign-in sheet and Speaker sign-in
- Copies of scoping document & licensing guide
- Court reporter
 - State your name and affiliation before speaking

Integrated Licensing Process



ILP Pre-filing Steps



Scoping Process

- Federal Power Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Scoping document: existing project facilities, preliminary list of resource issues, and studies proposed by NYPA
- Identify the issues
- Information needs

Request for Information and Studies

- Information that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis, and identify significant environmental issues;
- Any data that would help to describe the existing environment and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- Identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area;
- Documentation showing why any resources or identified issues should be excluded from further study or consideration;
- **Comments can be given orally today and/or in written form**

Study Request Criteria

- Identify study goals and objectives
- Consider resource management goals
- Consider public interest
- Consider existing information
- Nexus to project operations and effects
- Methodology consistent with accepted practice
- Consideration of level of effort and cost and why alternative studies would not suffice

Comments due

- **Due August 8, 2014**
- Clearly identify the following on the first page:
Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project No. 2685-026
- Can be filed electronically via the internet or by mail
- Address all communications to:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Submitting comments & keeping informed

- Comments
 - Oral comments tonight
 - Written – three methods:
 - eComment – text only (6,000 characters)
 - eRegister & eFiling – for longer comments or filing images, papers, etc.
 - By mail
- Keeping informed
 - eLibrary, eSubscription (“alerts”), and the official mailing list



Enter Search Term(s): Search

- Decisions & Notices
- Notice Formats
- FERC Online
- eComment
- eRegister
- eFiling
- eSubscription
- eService
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- Forms
- Filing Fees
- eTariff
- Corporate Officials
- Electric Quarterly Reports (EQR)
- Information Collections

Documents & Filing >> FERC Online >> eFiling

eFiling

TEXT SIZE S M L

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eRegister Register to gain access to FERC Online applications
Click here to Proceed!

Important eFiling Information:

- File size is limited to 50Mb (smaller files encouraged).
- [FERC acceptable file formats](#).
- eFilings must be submitted in a text searchable format.
- Privileged and Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) may be eFiled under the appropriate Security tab on the File Upload Screen.
- Material subject to a Protective Order and material for which Protected treatment is requested may now be efiled under the Privileged tab on the File Upload screen.

Confirmation Receipt: For both eFiling and eComment, you will receive a Confirmation of Receipt email within a few minutes of filing. Staff review is required for certain eFilings; this does not affect the submission date/time reflected in the Confirmation of Receipt email. Submissions via eComment are accepted without an Acceptance for Filing email.

CONTACT

FERC Online Support
Email: ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov

[Telephone Numbers](#)

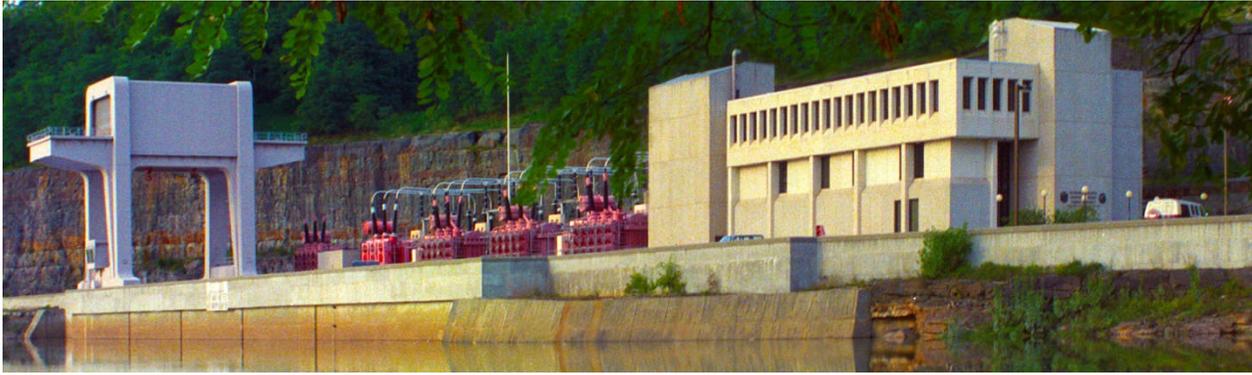
QUICK LINKS

- [FAQs: eFiling/FERC Online](#)
- [FAQs: Forms](#)
- [Requirements Relating to Filings & Comments PDF](#)
- [Submission Guidelines](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide for Paper Submissions PDF](#) (revised 01/03/2012)
- [eFiling User Guide PDF](#) (updated 04/22/2014)
- [Filing Guide and Qualified Documents List PDF](#) (Revised 04/22/2014)
- [Document-less Intervention Guide PDF](#)
- [Address List for Staff Copies of Certain eFiled Documents PDF](#)
- [Search New Dockets](#) (to determine a new docket/project no. or sub-docket)

Updated: May 3, 2014

Project Overview

- New York Power Authority



**BLENHEIM-GILBOA PUMPED STORAGE
POWER PROJECT RELICENSING**



FERC 2685

Blenheim-Gilboa Relicensing Scoping Meetings

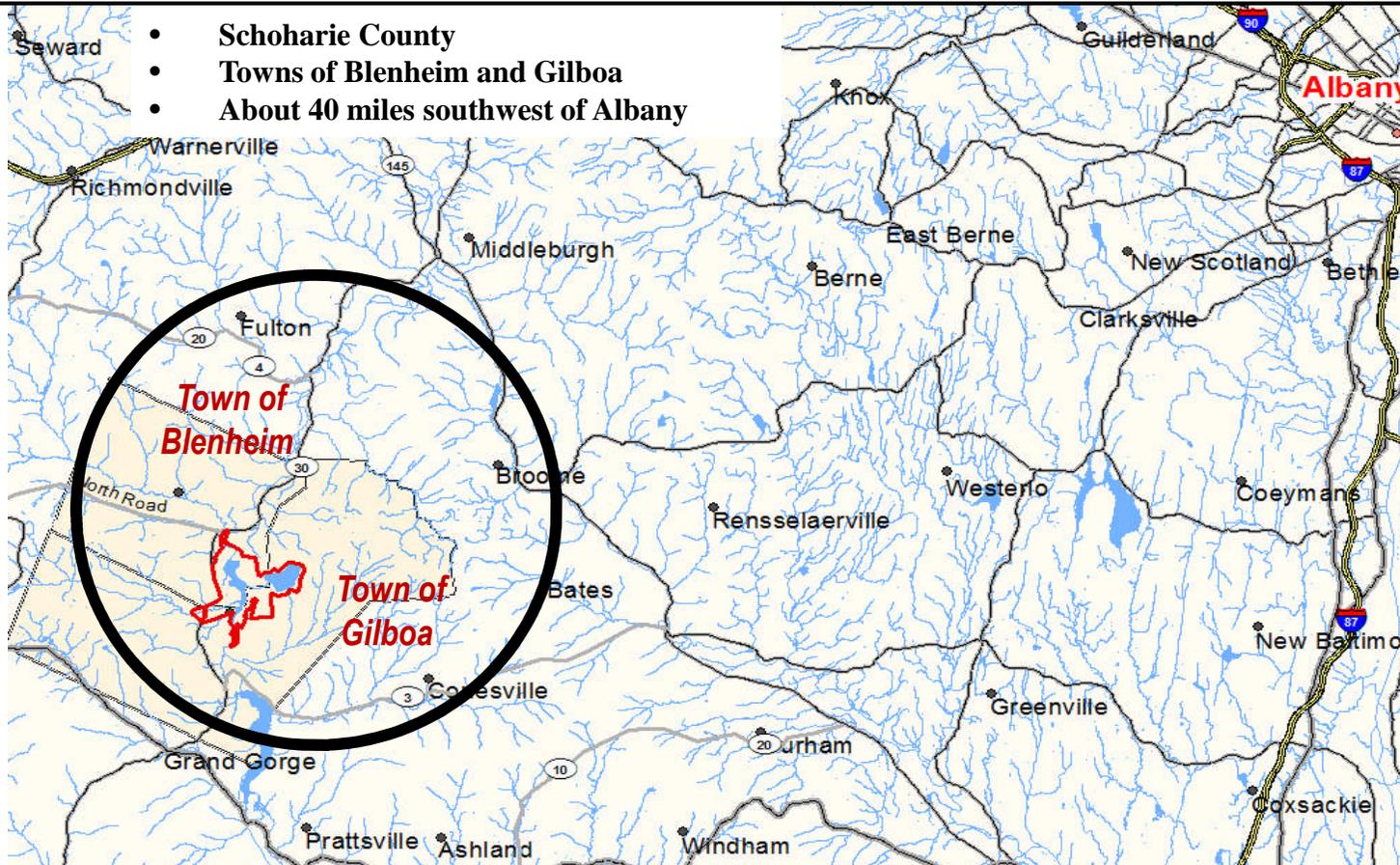
July 7, 2014 at Gilboa-Conesville Central School

July 9, 2014 at Best Western, Cobleskill NY

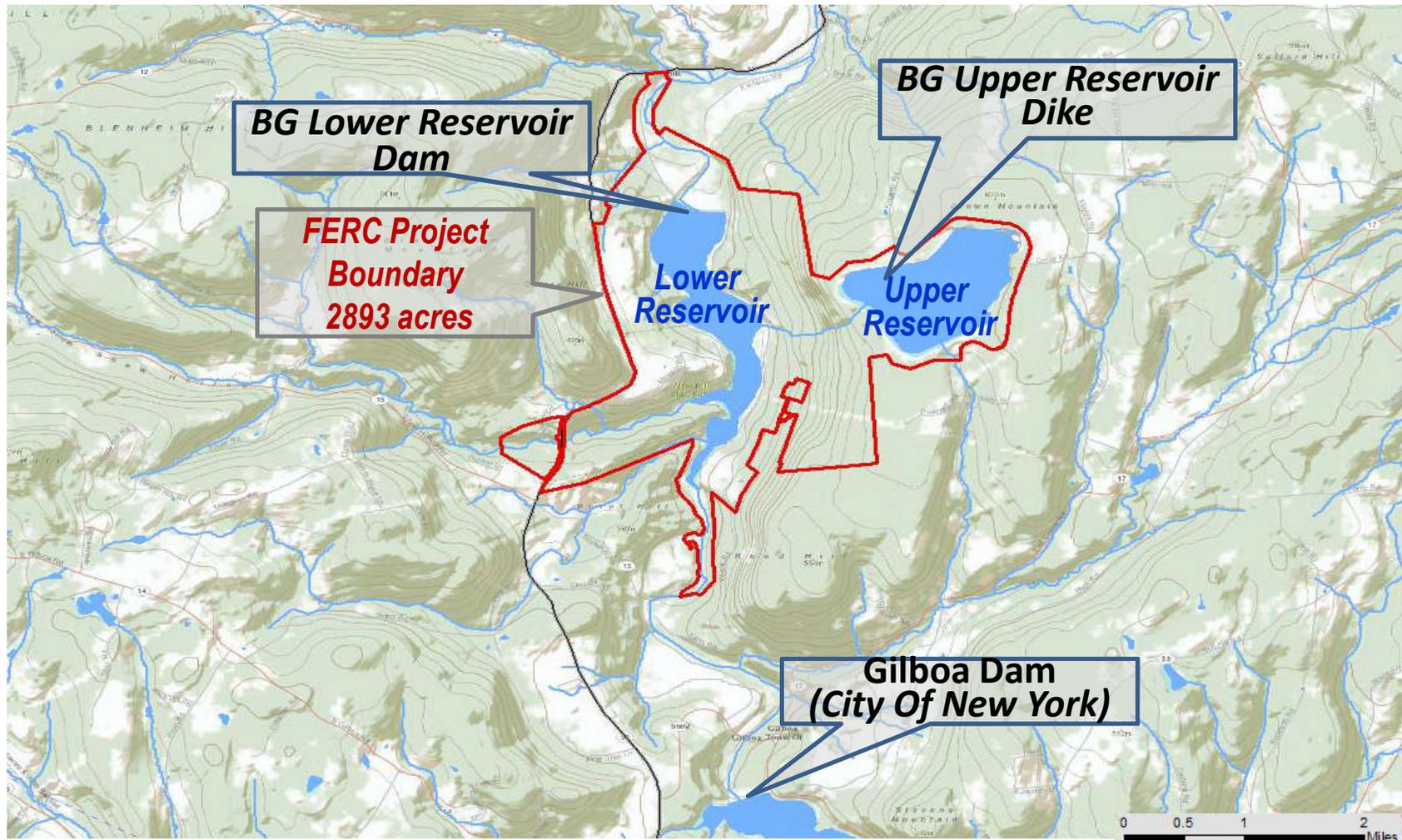
BG PROJECT HISTORY

- **June 1969** – FERC issues license
- **July 1973** – Blenheim-Gilboa generates first power
- **July 1973** – Mine Kill State Park opens
- **July 1974** – BG Visitors Center opens
- **May 1977** – Lansing Manor Museum is opened to public
- **May 2010** – Life Extension & Modernization Program Completed

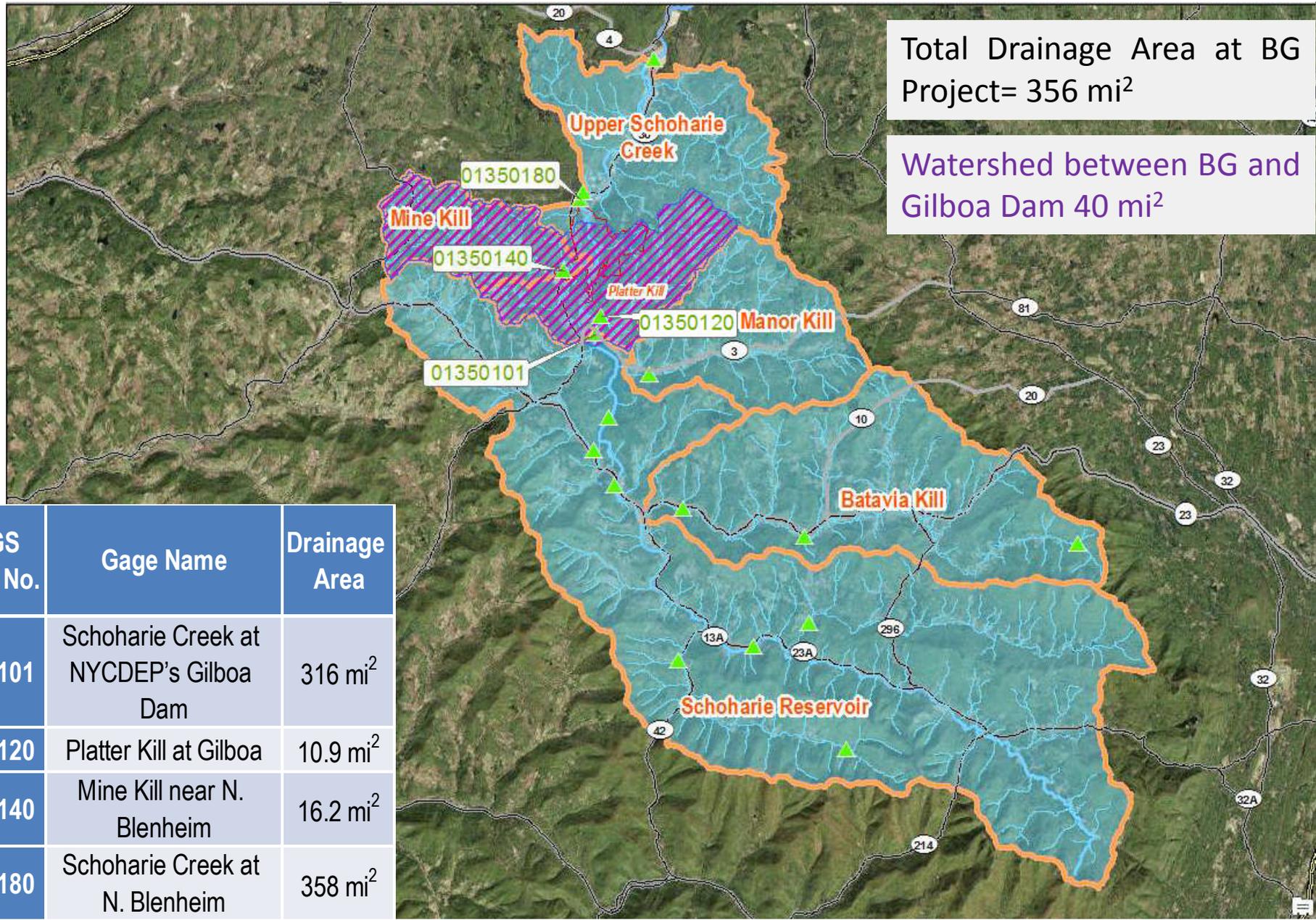
PROJECT LOCATION



PROJECT BOUNDARY



SCHOHARIE CREEK WATERSHED

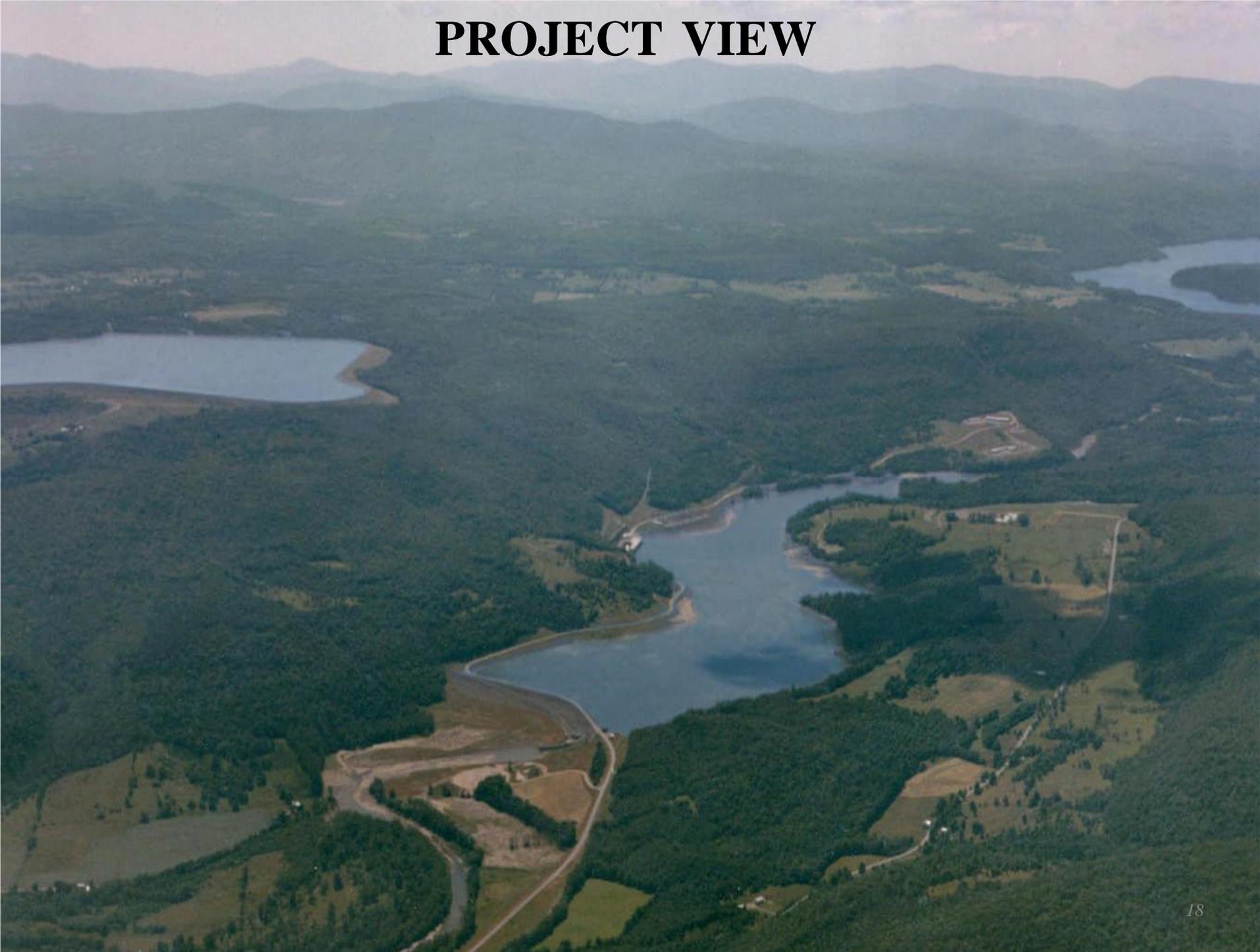


Total Drainage Area at BG Project= 356 mi²

Watershed between BG and Gilboa Dam 40 mi²

USGS Gage No.	Gage Name	Drainage Area
1350101	Schoharie Creek at NYCDEP's Gilboa Dam	316 mi ²
1350120	Platter Kill at Gilboa	10.9 mi ²
1350140	Mine Kill near N. Blenheim	16.2 mi ²
1350180	Schoharie Creek at N. Blenheim	358 mi ²

PROJECT VIEW



PRINCIPAL FEATURES

Upper Reservoir
(399 acres)

Upper Reservoir
Dike

Schoharie Reservoir
& Gilboa Dam
(owned by the City of
New York)

Power Station
(4 reversible
pump-generators)

Schoharie
Creek

Lower Reservoir
Dam
(1,800-foot-long)

Mine Kill
State Park

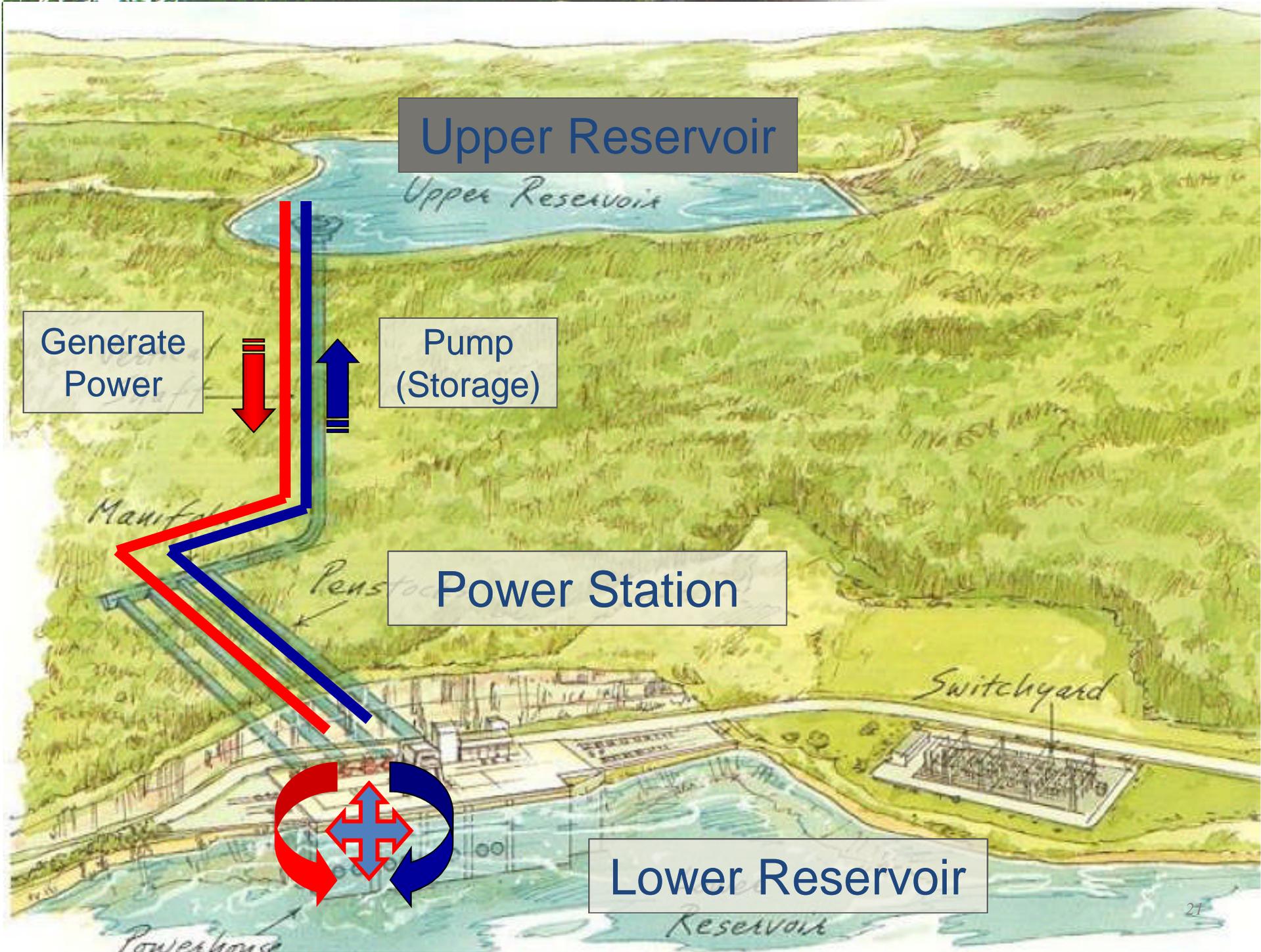
Spillway & Taintor
Gates

Lower Reservoir
(413 acres)

Lansing Manor
Complex

PROJECT OPERATIONS

- Four 290 Mega-Watt turbine-generators for maximum plant capacity of 1160 MW
- Upper Reservoir operates between elevations 1955 ft and 2003 ft
- Lower Reservoir operates between elevations 860 ft and 900 ft
- Generating Capacity --12,800 cubic feet per second
- Pumping Capacity -- 10,200 cubic feet per second
- Flow regime from Lower Reservoir – 1975 Agreement



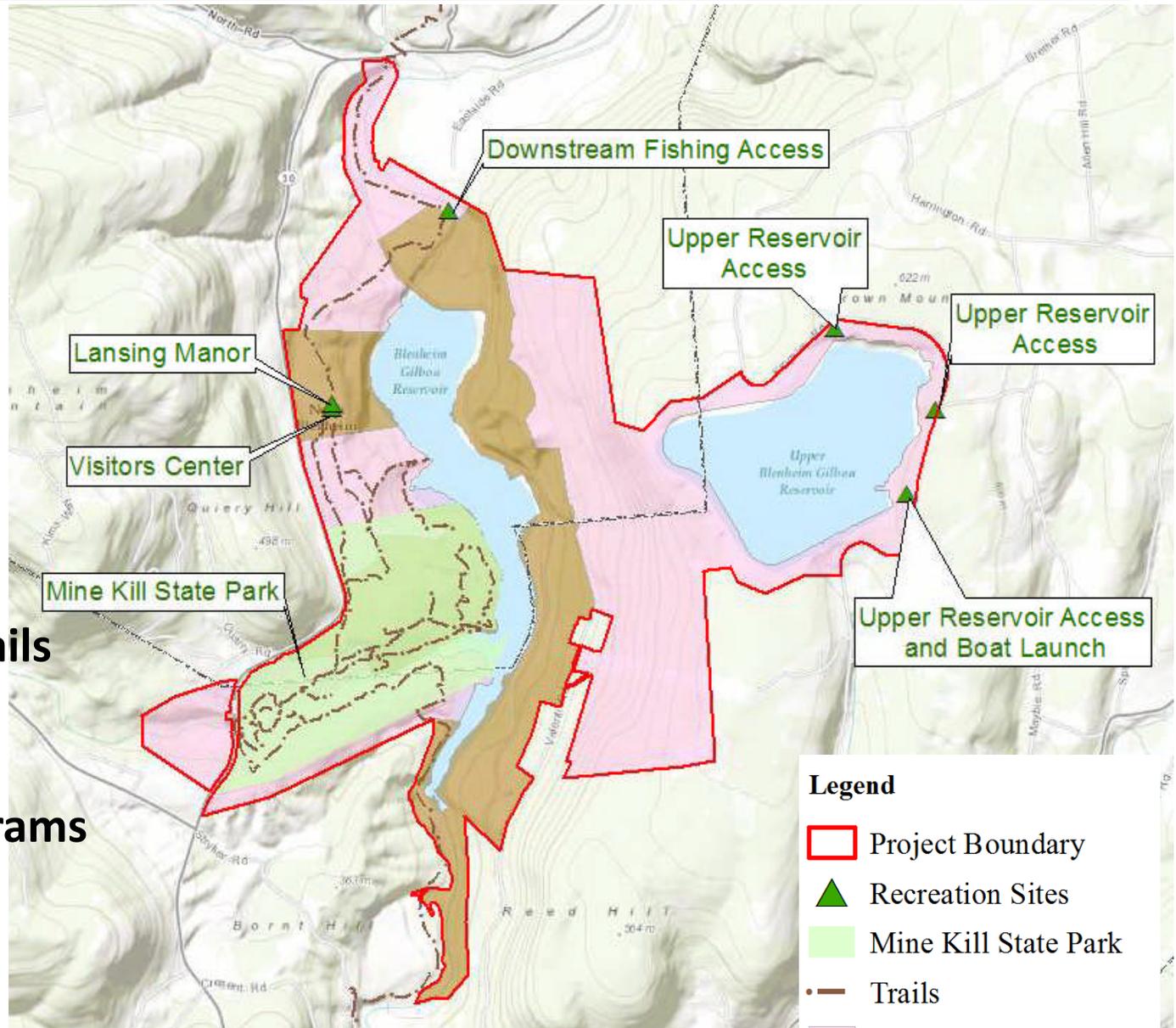
Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project Relicensing (FERC No. 2685)

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Wildlife Management Area
- Wildlife Management Task Force
- Lansing Manor Complex / Project Visitors Center
- Constant Level Ponds in Upper Reservoir to improve aquatic habitat
- Fish Stocking Program for Project reservoirs
- Bow Hunting
- Reservoir boating / fishing access
- Support Mine Kill State Park

PROJECT RECREATION

-  Biking
-  Boating
-  Fishing
-  Hiking
-  Bow Hunting
-  Nature Trails
-  Pavilions
-  Picnicking
-  Playgrounds
-  Pool
-  Snowshoeing Trails
-  Sports Field
-  X-Country Skiing
-  Recreation Programs



- Legend**
-  Project Boundary
 -  Recreation Sites
 -  Mine Kill State Park
 -  Trails
 -  Archery Hunting Zone
 -  Archery Safety Zone

OTHER COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- **Employer:** Major employer in area, more than 150 employees, many live in Schoharie County, annual payroll of approx. \$12 million.
- **Tourism:** Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center: admission-free tourism attraction, in a restored 19th-Century barn, with exhibits and programs on energy and environment. Attracts about 40,000 visitors/year. Historic Lansing Manor: National Register listed house museum, over 310,000 visitors since 1977.
- **First Responder Support:** NYPA provides funds annually to area's first responders, over \$580,000 since 1989.

PRE-APPLICATION DOCUMENT STUDIES

- Water Quality Study
- Timber Rattlesnake Emergence Survey
- Aesthetic Resources Summary
- Recreation Facilities Summary
- Land Cover, Land Use and Terrestrial Habitat Assessment

All studies available on NYPA's relicensing webpage:

www.bg.nypa.gov

Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project Relicensing (FERC No. 2685)

PROPOSED STUDIES

- Recreation Assessment
- Cultural Resource Survey
- Literature-based Assessment of Fish Entrainment and Turbine Passage Survival



Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project Relicensing (FERC No. 2685)

WWW.BG.NYPA.GOV



The screenshot shows the website's header with the NYPA logo and project title. A navigation menu includes Home, Background, Process, Schedule, Communications, Documents, Meetings, and Contact Us. The main content area features a large image of the power project with an interactive feature description. On the left, there are news and announcements links, social media icons, and relicensing links to various state agencies. On the right, there are statistics for the Visitor Center and Lansing Manor.

News and Announcements

- [FERC Issues Scoping Document 1](#)
- [FERC Scoping Meeting - July 7 & 9, 2014](#)
- [Tour of Blenheim-Gilboa Power Project Facilities - July 8, 2014](#)
- [Comments on PAD and SD1; submit study requests - Deadline August 8, 2014](#)

Relicensing Links

- [New York Power Authority](#)
- [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#)
- [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)
- [New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#)

Interactive feature: explore the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project...

VISITOR CENTER
Attendance in 2013 – 38,828
Attendance Since Opening – 2,047,350

LANSING MANOR
Attendance in 2013 – 7376
Attendance Since 1977 – 312,397

Discussion of Resource Issues

- Geologic and Soil Resources
- Aquatic Resources
- Terrestrial Resources
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Developmental Resources



Geologic and Soil Resources

- Effects of project operation and project-related recreation on shoreline erosion within the upper and lower reservoirs.

Aquatic Resources

- Effects of project facilities and operation on water quality, particularly water temperature and dissolved oxygen, in project reservoirs.
- Effects of fish entrainment and mortality associated with pumped storage operation on fish populations in project reservoirs.
- The adequacy of existing minimum flow releases for supporting aquatic resources downstream of the project.

Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of project operation, maintenance, and project-related recreation on botanical resources and wildlife, including game species.
- Effects of project reservoir fluctuations on riparian and wetland habitat and associated wildlife.
- Effects of project operation, maintenance, and project-related recreation on New York State listed wildlife species, including timber rattlesnake and bald eagle.

Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of project operation, maintenance, and project-related recreation on federally listed threatened and endangered species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Recreation, Land Use, and Aesthetics

- The adequacy of public access and recreation facilities to meet current and future recreation demand.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on recreational opportunities and river access within the project area.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on land use and aesthetic resources within the project area.

Cultural Resources

- Effects of project operation and maintenance on historic properties that are included in, eligible for listing in, or potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on any previously unidentified historic or archeological resources or traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historical Places.

Developmental Resources

- Effects of any proposed or recommended protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures on Blenheim-Gilboa Project economics.

Important Dates

Comments Due:	8/8/14
Proposed Study Plan:	9/22/14
Study Plan Meetings:	10/22/14*
Revised Study Plan:	1/20/15
Study Plan Determination:	2/19/15

*NYPA requested the meeting be held prior to this date.

Questions

- Additional questions or comments?
- Adjourn