

**Roanoke Rapids/Gaston Hydropower Project
American Eel Working Group Conference Call**

4 December 2017

Final Minutes

Participants:

Dominion – Peter Sturke; Bob Graham; Karen Canody; Corey Chamberlain
USFWS – John Ellis
NMFS – Fritz Rohde
NCWRC – Jeremy McCargo
VDGIF – Dan Michaelson
NCDMF – Todd Mathes

Purpose of conference call:

Dominion Energy follows up with the American Eel Working Group (AEWG) about their request for establishing upstream passage for American Eel at Gaston Dam, after internal discussion with Dominion Energy management. Discuss schedule for Upstream Eel Passage Design at Gaston Dam as part of Dominion Energy's FERC license.

Discussion:

Pete updated the AEWG on the most recent eel catches at the Roanoke Rapids and Gaston Dam Eelways and traps. 1,382 have been trapped at the Gaston Dam traps thus far in 2017 and 52,803 have been passed at the Roanoke Rapids Eelways.

Bob discussed the Alternative Analysis that Dominion Energy followed while developing the Eelways at Roanoke Rapids dam and talked from the table in the Appendices to the Kleinschmidt Alternatives Analysis which presented the various options. The options varied from use of the existing traps, improvements to those, all the way to new construction. Bob noted that this process included USFWS and NMFS fishway engineers as well as the AEWG to ensure that Dominion Energy establishes effective eel passage the first time. Dominion Energy would like to follow this same process for upstream passage design at Gaston. Fritz agreed that this step forward was adequate as long as we have an established timeline for implementation and establishing upstream passage at Gaston. The Alternatives Analysis process for Roanoke Rapids took about six to eight months which was followed by a year of specific engineering design.

Action Items:

- Dominion Energy to procure consultant for alternatives analysis
- Dominion Energy to draft upstream passage schedule

Winter 2018 Meeting agenda items to add:

- Fate of American Eels captured at Gaston traps for 2018 and beyond
- Approximate timeline for Alternatives Analysis, Design, and Construction