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October 21, 2017

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Comments on Pre-Application Document, Study Requests
Jarvis Project (P-3211-009)
Hinckley Reservoir

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a property owner on Hinckley Reservoir. Over the past five years I have observed a significant change in the water levels with most seasons finishing at historic lows. 2017 is a repeat of last year. I pulled my boat in September after running aground on a sand bar and observing another family pushing their boat off the same area the following day. The fluctuations in the water levels are causing significant environmental impact, economic impact and an overall reduction in the value of the reservoir as a recreational body of water.

Aesthetic resources are significantly compromised when low water levels coincide with the recreation taking place mostly through the summer months on Hinckley reservoir. The corresponding hundreds of feet of exposed dry shoreline are an eyesore as well as being unusable for most recreational purposes.

Water level fluctuations reduce access to the waterfront for recreation opportunities such as boating and fishing. This detracts from the desirability of the reservoir as a tourism destination, and in turn negatively impacts property values. Additionally, the decline in tourism has adverse impacts on local business that support recreational activities and seasonal property owners in the area.

Water level fluctuations contribute to the destruction of riparian buffers along the reservoir. This results in lost habitat for native species. The excessive water level fluctuations wreak havoc on the already susceptible shoreline soils comprised of sandy loam. This increases shoreline erosion and contributes to sedimentation potentially reducing the lifespan of the reservoir and dam. The sedimentation process is gradually filling in inlets and coves and reducing the average water level of the reservoir.

The low water levels, high water temperatures also combine to reduce the establishment of underwater vegetation which in turn impacts oxygen levels and retards aquatic flora and fauna. The combination of reduced oxygen levels present in the reservoir and increased temperature levels occur simultaneously and are further multiplied by high ambient air temperatures in the summer months. This environment significantly impacts the fish population and the population of other species such as Bald Eagles, Loons and mink that rely on this food source.

In addition to the negative effects the water fluctuations are presenting Hinckley Reservoir the resultant erratic releases of water downstream have also had negative impacts on the fish population and angling tourism. Angling on Hinckley and downstream has significantly dropped

over the years both in fish caught and the number of anglers fishing throughout the season.
Please consider conducting an environmental impact and an economic impact study related to the excessive fluctuation in water levels at Hinckley Reservoir
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

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