

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
RECREATION RESOURCE GROUP**

**LAKE MURRAY TRAINING CENTER
April 17, 2006**

final dka 05-15-06

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Bill Argentieri	SCE&G	Alan Stuart	Kleinschmidt Associates
Dave Anderson	Kleinschmidt Associates	Jennifer Summerlin	Kleinschmidt Associates
Randy Mahan	SCANA Services	Tom Eppink	SCANA Services
David Hancock	SCE&G	Tony Bebber	SCPRT
George Duke	LMHOC	Joy Downs	LMA
Karen Kustafik	Columbia Parks and Recreation	Malcolm Leaphart	Trout Unlimited
Tommy Boozer	SCE&G	Tim Vinson	SCDNR
Bill Marshall	SCDNR & LSSRAC	Patrick Moore	CCL/AR
Steve Bell	Lake Watch		

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- Dave Anderson – Check Recreation Interests and Issues for issues needed on Recreation RCG Work Plan
- Dave Anderson – E-mail vision statement to Recreation RCG
- Dave Anderson – Combine Recreation RCG Work Plan and Recreation Issue Standard Process into one document and email to all RCG members
- Dave Anderson – Draft issue sheets for issue tracking
- Everyone – Finalize Standard process form
- Everyone – Review stakeholder list on the web
- Dave Anderson – Schedule next Recreation RCG meeting

PARKING LOT ITEMS:

- None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

**July 21, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.
Located at the Lake Murray Training Center**

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MEETING NOTES:

These notes serve to be a summary of the major points presented during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Dave Anderson opened the meeting by briefly reviewing the Recreation Issues Standard Process, which is designed to help characterize existing recreation resources and aid in development of an appropriate recreation plan for the Saluda Project. Dave A. noted that the questions pertaining to recreation management are categorized according to a four-step recreation planning process developed for the project. He added that the list will be distributed to all members in Microsoft Word in order to track changes as the document is completed.

Dave A. noted that in order to keep everyone focused on the overall purpose of the Recreation RCG, he formulated a draft recreation vision statement (attached) and asked the group to provide comments and/or changes. The group modified the vision statement and Dave A. noted that he would send out these track changes by email to all group members.

Dave A. reviewed the Recreation RCG Work Plan (attached) and noted that he came up with a list of Identified Issues from comments to the ICD and previous meeting minutes. He briefly talked about each issue and group members suggested and agreed to the necessary changes. George Duke noted that he was unclear as to why there were two documents and suggested combining them into one document to avoid confusion. The group agreed and Dave noted that he would combine the documents and send them out to everyone.

After a short break, the group began to examine RCG Tasks and Responsibilities listed on the Work Plan. Dave asked the group to provide comments. Joy Downs had a couple of specific suggestions on the need to address minimum winter levels and lake level fluctuations. Steve Bell suggested that the Recreation RCG should make recommendations to the Lake and Land Management RCG to ensure adequate lands are retained to meet recreational needs. Through brief discussion, the group agreed to all changes.

Dave then focused attention on the Work Scope and Product section of the Work Plan. He went through each task and noted the tasks that have been completed and tasks that are in the process of being completed. Through brief discussion, changes were made by group members. Steve B. wanted to know about the timeframe for discussing the amount of land that SCE&G sets aside for the future. Dave replied that once we have completed Step One and Step Two, the results and the expertise represented in the RCG will determine the amount of land that will be set aside for the future. The group then discussed the schedule for future issues that will be addressed.

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After lunch, Dave discussed up-dates from the Technical Working Committees (TWC). He noted that the Downstream Flow TWC had a meeting at the SCDNR office and agreed to start identifying users of the lower Saluda River (attached). He added that the TWC plans to use this list to eventually determine an optimum flow and schedule for various river users. They are currently examining the River Alliance study along with other studies through a working bibliography.

Dave then updated the group on issues that are being addressed in the Recreation Management TWC. The group has discussed Lake Murray and lower Saluda River questionnaires to be implemented in concurrence of site counts at SCE&G owned sites at the Project. Dave mentioned that the Recreation Management TWC will also examine aerial photographs of Lake Murray to look for possible information on boat densities. George Duke noted that the 2001 photos may not be valid due to the significant changes over the years, and suggested we need to take new photos on a couple of dates to compare current use with use reported in 2001. There was further discussion about assessing ADA compliance on SCE&G sites as part of the recreation site inventory. Alan Stuart presented information on ADA compliance to educate the group. The presentation included the amount of complexity that is involved with this process, such as types of ramps, gangways, railings, edge protection, restrooms, and parking lot types. David Hancock noted that if any new facilities are built, they must be ADA compliant.

Dave reminded the group that one of their tasks is to finalize the Standard Process Form and to review the stakeholder list on the Saluda relicensing website. There was some discussion about the TWC sending items to the RCG for approval. Dave noted all issues will be finalized by the RCGs, which may then task a TWC to deal with the issue. The TWC will decide what information is needed to deal with the issue and whether or not existing information is sufficient. After the TWC determines if the existing information is sufficient, or conducts a study to collect needed information, they will then send their recommendation to the RCG for approval. Dave noted that agenda items for the next meeting will be updates from the TWC. The group agreed to schedule the next meeting around the July Quarterly Public Meeting.

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**Saluda Hydro Relicensing
Recreation Resource Conservation Group**

Meeting Agenda

**April 17, 2006
9:30 AM**

Lake Murray Training Center

- **9:30 to 10:30** Review of Standard Process and Development of Vision Statement
 - **10:30 to 11:30** Review Recreation RCG Work Plan
 - **11:30 to 12:30** Lunch
 - **12:30 to 1:00** Update from Downstream Flows TWC
 - **1:00 to 1:45** Update from Recreation Management TWC (to include presentation on ADA design standards)
 - **1:45 to 2:00** Discussion of Questions for FERC Representative
 - **2:00 to 2:15** Develop an Agenda for Next Meeting and Set Next Meeting Date
- Adjourn



Recreation Vision Statement for the Saluda Project

The long-term vision for the Saluda Project is to recognize, protect, and enhance the fishery, water quality, and recreational opportunities on the reservoir and the Lower Saluda River, while recognizing the need to protect habitat supporting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species of the reservoir and tailwater, and ensure adequate facilities and public access are provided. Given the size of the reservoir it is felt that it can continue to support a diversity of recreation opportunities.

Improvements to be considered at the Saluda Project include:

Providing appropriate operations and maintenance of public recreation facilities.

Optimizing the capacity of existing public recreation facilities to accommodate existing and future demand.

Improving access and safety in the publicly accessible waters below the dam and minimizing impacts of project operations on downstream recreation, recognizing the need to meet power generation, and downstream flow responsibilities at Saluda.

Managing lake level drawdowns so as to minimize the occurrence of surface elevations lower than 354' in the late summer and early fall.

Ensuring public access areas for the non-boating public remain available along the shoreline.

Development of new facilities if a proven need arises.

Recreation Resource Conservation Group Work Plan Saluda River Project

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Recreation Resource Conservation Group Work Plan Saluda River Project

Mission Statement

The mission of the Recreation RCG is to ensure adequate and environmentally-balanced public recreational access and opportunities related to the Saluda Hydroelectric Project for the term of the new license. The objective is to assess the recreational needs associated with the lower Saluda River and Lake Murray and to develop a comprehensive recreation plan to address the recreation needs of the public for the term of the new license. This will be accomplished by collecting and developing necessary information, understanding interests and issues and developing consensus-based recommendations.

Identified Issues

- the need for better public access
 - access site above the Mill Race rapids
 - creation of a state park on the south side of the reservoir
 - creation of a multi-lane boating facility that can accommodate large tournaments
 - non-boating access
 - paddling access
 - expansion of existing facilities to accommodate future growth
 - security at recreation facilities
- protect the scenic integrity of the Project
- using the concept of adaptive management in future recreation planning
- creation of a communication system that would encompass information on lake levels and river flows
- protection of the cold water fishery on the Lower Saluda River
- creation of scheduled recreation flows for the Lower Saluda River
- identification of a reliable lake level that will provide year round access for a majority of lake users

RCG Tasks and Responsibilities

- Utilizing and modifying the Standard Process for evaluating and addressing recreation management and access issues specific to the Saluda Project, including developing a vision statement for the Project.
- Identifying specific areas where lake level fluctuations may be adversely affecting recreation at the lake, including the nature and timing of the effect (e.g., access to sections of water, access to facilities and aesthetics).
- Working with the Operations Resource Conservation Group to identify “reasonable” (based on hydrologic, structural, and other limitations identified) changes and alternatives for modifying project operations, including operations that would benefit recreation.
- Identifying any studies, if applicable, that need to be performed for identifying and/or evaluating changes to Project operations.
- Presenting a range of reasonable alternatives or recommendations to the Saluda Hydro Relicensing Group (SHRG) regarding modifications to facilities or current Project operations and provide recommendations for recreation access, facilities, and use.

Recreation Resource Conservation Group Work Plan Saluda River Project

Work Scope and Product

- **Task 1** – Utilize the stepwise process diagram and solution principles to guide the planning process for addressing recreation management issues at the Saluda Project.
- **Task 2** – Develop a Vision Statement for the Saluda Project.
- **Task 3** – Review the operational constraints and current operations of the Saluda Project (see Initial Consultation Document).
- **Task 4** – Answer the list of questions on the Standard Process Form in order to characterize the existing and potential future condition of access and lake level fluctuations – from a recreation setting perspective.
- **Task 5** – Review stakeholder requests (e.g., agency letters) for particular studies and/or enhancement measures to ensure that these are incorporated into study planning, if applicable
- **Task 6** – Develop and recommend operation scenarios to the Operations RCG for analysis. These scenarios should reflect initial thinking on potential solutions and be designed to narrow the focus of Task 10 below. Analysis by the Operations RCG will focus on an assessment of potential recreational impacts associated with any suggested changes to operations.
- **Task 7** – Discuss results of the Operations RCG analyses.
- **Task 8** – Develop study designs/methods/plans and review agreed upon studies, literature reviews, etc.
- **Task 9** – Check the solution principles to ensure proposed study plans are consistent.
- **Task 10** – Provide recommendations for Project operations and recreation access, facilities, and use to be considered in conjunction with all ecological and recreational issues.
- **Task 11** – Develop a consensus based Recreation Plan for the Saluda Project that addresses all of the issues and tasks identified above.

Schedule

Late 2005/Early 2006—Finalize Mission Statement, Standard Process Form, Solution Principles, and Work Plan

Mid-2006—Complete identification of studies, literature reviews, etc. that need to be completed to address issues and tasks identified in the Work Plan

Late 2006—Begin compilation of existing information, review preliminary study results, and draft an outline of the Recreation Plan

2007—Complete any studies identified in Task 8 and review results; draft recommendations to SHRG, complete draft Recreation Plan

2008—Finalize Recreation Plan and provide comments on Draft License Application

IDENTIFIED USERS OF THE LOWER SALUDA RIVER

- swimmers
 - children & teenagers on the river banks
 - people at access areas
 - rock people
 - educational groups and clubs
- tubers
- fishermen
 - bank
 - trout
 - food—people that actually fish to feed their families
 - bass and other
 - father and son type outings to learn to fish
 - scouts and other clubs, groups
 - boat
 - trout
 - trophy bass
 - recreational
 - food
 - business (oriental group that fishes near bridges)
 - wade
 - trout
 - children w/ parents
- charity groups
 - canoe, raft, sit on tops, etc
- social groups
- clubs
- educational groups
 - schools and university
 - scouts
 - club field trips
 - outdoor clubs
- hikers
- mountain bikers
- kayakers and canoeists—(skilled)
- recreational boaters (rental and less skilled)
- 4x4 clubs
- zoo visitors
- rescue training
- kayak and canoe classes
- us team boaters practicing (olympic and world team level)
- bird watchers
- nature lovers

WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY OF STUDIES ON THE LOWER SALUDA RIVER

de Kozlowski, Steven J. 1988. Instream Flow Study, Phase II: Determination of Minimum Flow Standards to Protect Instream Uses in Priority Stream Segments; A Report to the SC General Assembly. SC Water Resources Commission.

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