

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
DOWNSTREAM FLOWS TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

**LAKE MURRAY TRAINING CENTER
April 18, 2006**

final dka 05-15-06

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Dave Anderson	Kleinschmidt Associates	Jeni Summerlin	Kleinschmidt Associates
Karen Kustafik	City of Cola. Parks & Rec.	Charlene Coleman	American Whitewater
Patrick Moore	CCL/AR	Tom Eppink	SCANA Services
Bill Marshall	SCDNR & LSSRAC	Mike Waddell	Trout Unlimited

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- Dave Anderson – contact Kelly Maloney about drafting a flow study on the lower Saluda River

PARKING LOT ITEMS:

- None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **TBA**

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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.

The Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee (TWC) met shortly after the Safety Resource Conservation Group (RCG) meeting to briefly discuss issues concerning flows/users on the lower Saluda River. In the preceding Safety RCG meeting, the Downstream Flows TWC was given the additional responsibility to address not only recreational flow needs but also to address safety issues related to downstream flows.

The group began to look at the user list to examine flows that are suitable for each individual activity. Dave A. pointed out that the DNR recommends a minimum flow of 470 cfs for one-way downstream navigation, and flows of 590 cfs (July – November), 1170 cfs (Jan-April), and 880 cfs (May, June and December) for seasonal aquatic habitat. Dave A. reminded the group that ultimately a schedule of flows and how they are implemented needs to be developed.

As previously stated in the Safety RCG meeting, Patrick M. would like to see a flow study to understand the rate of change of the lower Saluda River at various flows and river reaches. He also suggested coming up with a study that analyzes different flows for various user groups and skill levels that will provide reasonably safer conditions. He noted that an example of safer conditions would be when users feel compelled to get off the river based on the rate of change in the river.

Dave A. mentioned that we may be able to correlate the flow study with the river survey. He suggested adding questions to the lower Saluda River Questionnaire being developed by the Recreation Management TWC, such as “did you feel comfortable on the river today.” He noted that the interviewers would write down the time and date of the interview that could then be correlated to the USGS gage information for that day and time. He added that once the river survey is complete, the results will be presented to the group to determine if a flow study is needed.

There was some further discussion as to how to incorporate a flow study with the river survey. Patrick suggested adding in questions pertaining to skill level and comfort level on the river, the amount of river flow adequate for the user’s activity, and how often they use the river. Ultimately, the group decided to forego adding additional questions to the questionnaire. Bill M. suggested that the TWC needed to consider a study to understand the rate of change in the river under differing hydro release rates to see how rising waters levels can affect the safety of river users. He also suggested that the study could focus on characterizing rivers conditions and associated potential hazards at different flows and under changing/increasing flow conditions.

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The group decided to explore the possibility of designing a study with the goals of: 1) understanding the “rate of change” of the river at various flows at various river reaches; and 2) an analysis of different flows for various user groups and skill levels that provide the safest conditions.

Dave A. noted that he would turn over these issues to Kelly Maloney, an individual with whitewater experience from Kleinschmidt. He added that Kelly will get in touch with everyone about drafting a flow study plan to address these goals.

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**Saluda Hydro Relicensing
Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee**

Meeting Agenda

April 18, 2006

2:30 pm

Lake Murray Training Center

There was no set agenda for this meeting as it was intended to discuss updates on the Working Document and a request for a flow study on the lower Saluda River.

