

**MEETING NOTES**

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY  
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING  
FRESHWATER MUSSEL/BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATES TECHNICAL WORKING  
COMMITTEE**

**SCE&G Training Center  
July 26, 2006**

Final jms 7-31-06

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**ATTENDEES:**

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G  
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates  
Ron Ahle, SCDNR  
Tom Eppink, SCANA Services

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates  
Shane Boring, Kleinschmidt Associates  
Amanda Hill, USFWS

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Contact John Alderman about:
  1. discussing how water chemistry may effect freshwater mussels in his report.
  2. Anadromous hosts for freshwater mussels
  3. Find out if he sampled tributaries and the Ocean Boulevard reach on the LSR.

*Shane Boring*

- Finalize the study plan for Lower Saluda River (LSR) macroinvertebrate sampling

*Shane Boring*

- Research benefits and provide justification for macroinvertebrate study in Lake Murray  
Ron Ahle

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**TBA**

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*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.*

Shane Boring opened the meeting at approximately 9:30 PM and noted that the focus of the meeting would be to discuss: (1) the LSR/Lake Murray mussel survey results, (2) comments on the draft study plan for continued LSR macroinvertebrate sampling, and (3) the next meeting date (including need for an RCG meeting).

**Review of the LSR/Lake Murray Mussel Survey Results**

Shane briefly reviewed results of the mussel survey conducted by John Alderman on Lake Murray, lower Saluda and Congaree Rivers. Shane presented a map that described the 61 locations that were sampled throughout the survey. He noted that timed surveys were conducted at each site and method type depended upon depth of the water. Methods throughout the survey included wading, batiscope, snorkeling, and/ or scuba. Shane noted that particular attention was placed on the Savannah lilliput in the backwater areas of the Saluda River. This species inhabits areas with gentle sloping banks. There were a total of 15 mussel species documented within the areas surveyed. He noted that most of the specimens collected were live, except for the Savannah lilliput. He noted that there were no mussel species found in the Lower Saluda River. Shane noted that mussel species collected in the upper portion of the Congaree River were for the most part distributed along the Broad River side. Ron Ahle noted that the cold water temperatures of the LSR should not have any effect on the freshwater mussel population and diversity. Ron noted that in order to find out if project operations has an affect on the freshwater mussel population, tributaries of the LSR should be included in this survey. Ron questioned whether the middle portion (Ocean Boulevard) of the LSR was sampled. He noted that the Ocean Boulevard stretch provides potential habitat for freshwater mussels and should be included in the survey. There was a brief discussion on water quality conditions in the LSR and Ron noted that dissolved oxygen may be the reason for low population of mussels in the LSR. Amanda Hill noted that methods for each sampling station need to be clearly stated in the report. Shane noted that he would contact John Alderman to address these questions and provide an explanation in the report. Shane mentioned that he would also find out if he's available to sample the tributaries and middle portion of the LSR.

Shane briefly discussed how freshwater mussels' use anadromous fish species as a host. Alan Stuart noted that there have not been any anadromous fish species documented in the LSR during 2005 or 2006 diadromous fish sampling. Shane noted that the report should detail the host species of those mussels that were found.

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**Comments on the Draft Study Plan for LSR Macroinvertebrate Sampling**

Shane noted that Dan Carnegie holds Shealy's certification and will examine possible areas to sample macroinvertebrates along the LSR. Shane briefly explained methods that would be used throughout the survey and Ron suggested that Ocean Blvd. be a possible sampling location. Alan noted that this study should be top priority because he was concerned that the lake may turn over early this year. Shane noted that the deadline for comments on the study plan is August 2<sup>nd</sup> and any comments should be emailed to him as soon as possible.

There was a brief discussion as to whether a macroinvertebrate study on Lake Murray was needed. Ron noted that this is a standard limnological study that is conducted on reservoirs. He suggested using the Lake Murray water quality stations as index points to set up shallow water stations. Ron explained that by examining the substrate of Lake Murray, we may be able to determine whether project operations has an effect on the macroinvertebrate community. Alan S questioned the need for this study and whether the results would provide useful information. Ron noted that he would research benefits to justify the need for this study.

**Date/Location of Next Meeting**

The group agreed to have the next meeting in early 2007. Shane noted that he would issue an electronic meeting invitation to confirm a date with individual members.