

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
RARE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES TECHNICAL WORKING
COMMITTEE**

**SCE&G Offices at Carolina Research Park
July 26, 2006**

Final jms 7-26-06

ATTENDEES:

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Tom Eppink, SCANA Services
Amanda Hill, USFWS
Bob Perry, SCDNR

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Shane Boring, Kleinschmidt Associates
Ron Ahle, SCDNR
Bob Seibels, Riverbanks Zoo

ACTION ITEMS:

- Contact Arnie Eversol about crafting a white paper for the Saluda crayfish
Alison Guth
- Email committee members Saluda crayfish information
Amanda Hill

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.

Shane Boring welcomed committee members and noted that the focus of the meeting would be to discuss: (1) Rocky Shoals Spider Lilly (RSSL) survey results, (2) species tracking table, and (3) the next meeting date (including need for an RCG meeting).

Rocky Shoals Spider Lilly Survey Results

The group briefly reviewed notes from the RSSL float trip. Amanda Hill noted that the most of the RSSL observed along the LSR were single plants. Amanda specifically pointed out that plants found in the Ocean Blvd location on the LSR seemed to be smaller in size than those found at the confluence of the rivers and had no blooms.

Species Tracking Table

Shane projected the updated tracking table of all federally listed species that may occur in the project area. He reminded the group that this list was prepared by the USFWS in the initial consultation document. He mentioned that in light of the mussel survey conducted on Lake Murray, Lower Saluda and Congaree Rivers, several species such as the Carolina heelsplitter were not found. Shane inquired as to how to deal with species that are federally listed, but not found within the project boundary during the course of their studies. Amanda noted that it should be documented that they were not found during the studies and that project operations was not likely to adversely affect these species. Ron Ahle suggested adding state RT&E species along with the federally listed species. He also recommended listing the species according to priority according to SCDNR's conservation priority list.

In discussion with the RT&E species, Shane informed the group that he has received the sampling permit from NOAA for shortnose sturgeon and sampling will begin in February 2007. Alison Guth noted that in regards to the Saluda Crayfish, she will contact Arnie Eversol about crafting a white paper. Amanda noted that she found some information on the Saluda Crayfish and would send it out through email to all committee members. There was a brief discussion about habitat preferences of the red cockaded woodpecker. Shane noted that there have not been any sightings of these species within the project boundaries, which may be due to the lack of longleaf pine habitat around the Lake. Shane then directed attention to the ivory billed woodpecker and noted that potential habitat for this species exists around the Congaree National Park. Amanda noted that

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because this species has not been documented, it does not raise much concern. However, she noted that it may be beneficial to mention the surveys currently being performed in the Congaree National Park. Shane explained to the group that he is in the progress of compiling information for other species listed in the tracking table.

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.