

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION GROUP**

Final JMS 09-22-06

***Saluda Shoals Park
September 8, 2006***

ATTENDEES:

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Jeni Summerlin, Kleinschmidt Associates
Ken Styer, S&ME

Bill Green, S&ME
Beckee Garris, CIN
Rebekah Dobrasko, SHPO

ACTION ITEMS:

- Prepare a list of categorical exclusions
Bill Argentieri
- Find a pre-Lake Murray dam map
Bill Argentieri
- Contact Saluda Shoals Park about booking a room for the next meeting
Bill Green

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

***Date: March 2, 2007
Location: TBA***

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

Bill Green opened the meeting and welcomed the group, and noted that the purpose of this meeting is to: (1) update committee members on the results of the Stage II Cultural Resource investigations to date, (2) discuss/approve the draft mission statement, discuss goals for the Cultural Resources Conservation Group (CRCG), and (3) schedule the next meeting date (see attachment A for meeting agenda).

PowerPoint presentation on the results of the Stage II cultural resource investigations to date

Bill G. handed the floor over to Ken Styer and he briefly reviewed the results of the Stage I reconnaissance survey (click on the follow link to access the PowerPoint presentation <http://www.saludahydrorelicense.com/documents/SaludaHydroCRCGMeeting.9-8-06.final.edited.ppt>) During the Stage I survey 42 previously recorded archeological sites and 40 new sites were identified. Also, eight newly recorded historic structures were identified with one site eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). He then briefly discussed the Stage II survey areas and noted that to date 80 islands and 75 shoreline areas of Lake Murray, and 2 islands and 1.5 miles of river bank in the Lower Saluda River have been examined. The remaining areas to be surveyed for the Stage II survey are 55 islands in Lake Murray, 6 shoreline areas in Lexington County, and 96 shoreline areas in Newberry and Saluda Counties. He noted that he was denied access to five shoreline areas and six islands.

The results of Stage II intensive survey to date are 77 newly recorded archeological sites, which include: 30 prehistoric sites ranging from Early Archaic to Late Woodland (10,000 to 1,000 years ago), 32 historic home sites from 19th and early 20th century, and 5 historic cemeteries. He noted that several research themes were developed from results of these investigations, including prehistoric and historic utilization of the Saluda River drainage, resource utilization, and trade and interaction.

PowerPoint presentation on the Tree House archaeological site investigations

Bill G. began discussing the Tree House archaeological site investigations on the Lower Saluda River. He noted that the site is about 12 acres in size and has deeply buried artifacts with excellent preservation. He then began to explain the stratigraphic profile of the Tree House dig and noted that the dark line on the graph represents soil from 15,000 years ago. He mentioned that they sampled soils at these depths to find possible artifacts that date back as much as 15,000 years ago. Bill G. noted that the Tree House could be one of the most important archeological sites in the Southeastern United States. The site has known occupations dating back more than 5,000 years ago. He noted that Tree House investigations on the Lower Saluda River will continue through winter 2006.

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Discussion/approval of the draft mission statement

The group then began to discuss the following mission statement for the Cultural RCG. Beckee Garris noted and the group agreed that “prehistory” should be changed to “precontact”. The group decided to allow RCG committee members to comment on the mission statement once more and should then be posted on the website as final.

The mission of the Cultural RCG is to provide recommendations that will be used in the creation of an Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Saluda Hydro Project license application. The objective of the HPMP is to outline policies and procedures that will be used for avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating potential adverse effects on historic properties that are being affected or have the potential to be affected by project operations. The CRCG also will provide input regarding ongoing consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a list of Categorical exclusions for the project, and provide suggestions for creating public information and/or displays regarding the history and precontact of the Lake Murray area.

Bill G. reviewed the following goals of the Cultural RCG:

- General Recommendations for HPMP
- Ongoing consultation for Saluda Hydro Project
- List of categorical exclusions (in conjunction with Operations and Lake and Land Management RCGs)
- Creating public information and displays for the Project
- Other goals

There was a brief discussion about including categorical exclusions in the HPMP. Bill G. noted that categorical exclusions are activities that SCE&G performs that do not have the potential to affect historic properties. Bill Argentieri noted that he would help put together a list of categorical exclusions.

Public information/display on historical sites around the Saluda Hydro Project

The group discussed preparing public information and a display that describes cultural resources around the Saluda Hydro Project. It was suggested that this information include rules about trespassing on archeological sites (*Why looting is not a good idea*). The group also suggested informing local law enforcement agencies about the locations of these historical sites. It was also suggested that a pre-dam map that demonstrates the landscape before Lake Murray was constructed would make an educational display item. The group agreed that public information and/or a display of the archeological finds around the Saluda Hydro Project should be placed at Saluda Shoals Park, Lake Murray visitors center, and the Lexington museum. It was also suggested to include some information about these historical areas on the SCE&G website.

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Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2007. Bill Green noted that the first draft of the Cultural Resource Investigation should be sent out in early January of 2007. He mentioned that this will give committee members the opportunity to read and comment on the report.

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Attachment A

Meeting Agenda for the Cultural Resource Conservation Group

**Meeting Agenda for the Cultural Resource Conservation Group
Saluda Shoals Park
September 8, 2006
9:30 AM -12:00 Noon**

9:30 – 9:40 Welcome and introduction.

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- 9:40 – 10:15 PowerPoint presentation on the results of the Stage II cultural resource investigations to date.
- 10:15 – 10:30 PowerPoint presentation on the Tree House archaeological site investigations.
- 10:30 – 10:45 Questions about the investigations
- 10:45 – 10:55 Break
- 10:55 – 11:10 Discussion/approval of the draft mission statement (see below).
- 11:10 – 11:40 Goals for the CRCG
- General Recommendations for HPMP
 - Ongoing consultation for Saluda Hydroelectric Project
 - List of categorical exclusions (in conjunction w/ Operations and Lake and Land Management RCGs)
 - Creating public information and displays for the project
 - Other goals
- 11:40 – 12:00 Questions and open discussion
- 12:00 Schedule next meeting and adjourn

Cultural Resource Conservation Group (Draft Mission Statement)

The mission of the Cultural RCG is to provide recommendations that will be used in the creation of an Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project license application. The objective of the HPMP is to outline policies and procedures that will be used for avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating potential adverse effects on historic properties that are being affected or have the potential to be affected by project operations. The CRCG also will provide input regarding ongoing consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a list of categorical exclusions for the project, and provide suggestions for creating public information and/or displays regarding the history and prehistory of the Lake Murray area.