

Safety Resource Conservation Group Work Plan Saluda River Project

09-08-06

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Mission Statement

The Mission of the Safety Resource Conservation Group (SRCG) is, through good faith cooperation, to make Lake Murray and the lower Saluda River as safe as reasonably possible for the public. The objective is to develop a consensus-based Recreational Safety Plan proposal for inclusion in the FERC license application. This will be accomplished by gathering or developing data relevant to Saluda Hydroelectric Project safety-related interests/issues, seek to understand those interests/issues and that data, and consider all such interests/issues and data relevant to and significantly affecting safety on Lake Murray and the lower Saluda River.

Lower Saluda River Identified Issues

- river level fluctuations and their effect on safety
 - lack of advance public information system and improvement of communications concerning changes in river flows in the lower Saluda River
 - enhancement of a public warning/notification system (warning devices) for river users during unannounced changes in river flows in the lower Saluda River
 - ingress/egress to potentially hazardous areas and its effect on rescue resources (e.g., Mill Race)
 - rate of change on the lower Saluda River for recreational safety
- systematic collection of accident data on the river

Lake Murray Identified Issues

- lake levels and their effect on safety
- lake level fluctuations and their effect on safety
- boat traffic/congestion in cove areas related to nearby shoreline development
- placement and maintenance of shoal markers
- power lines impeding sail boat navigation
- water quality and its effect on safety (addressed by WQRCG)
- amphibious aircraft using Lake Murray
- systematic collection of accident data on the lake

RCG Responsibilities

- Identifying specific areas where lake levels and fluctuations may be adversely affecting safety at the lake, including the nature and timing of the effect (e.g., shoal areas).
- 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 affect safety on the lake and lower Saluda River.

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- Identifying any studies that should be performed to identify and/or evaluate possible changes to Project operations (e.g., flow studies on the river).
- Presenting a range of reasonable alternatives or recommendations to the Saluda Hydro Relicensing Group (SHRG) regarding possible modifications to current Project operations (e.g., flow rate recommendations for public safety concerns).
- Reviewing recommendations from the Resource Conservation Groups for compatibility with the Recreational Safety Plan.
- Developing a Recreational Safety Plan for Lake Murray and the lower Saluda River that addresses all of the “Identified Issues.”
- Developing a public information/warning system (warning devices) for unannounced changes in river flows in the lower Saluda River (including a phone call to Rescue One—Columbia Fire Department and E911 centers).
- Identifying needed information products/systems/facilities to increase public awareness of potential hazards and necessary precautions

Tasks and Products

- **Task 1** – Review the operational constraints and current operations of the Saluda Project (see Initial Consultation Document).
- **Task 2** – Determine how current Project operations affect safety.
 - Meeting Notes
- **Task 3** – Review applicable laws governing boating use.
 - 01-17-06 Memo; 02-14-06 Presentation
- **Task 4** – Identify and invite safety-related organizations concerned with Lake Murray and/or the lower Saluda River to participate in the Safety Resource Conservation Group.
 - RCG Membership List; Safety Organizations and Responsibilities
- **Task 5** – Review stakeholder requests for particular studies and/or enhancement measures to ensure that these are incorporated into study planning, if applicable (e.g., flow studies related to safety on the lower Saluda River).
 - Final Study Plans
- **Task 6** – Develop and recommend operations 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 11 below. Analysis by the Operations RCG will focus on an assessment of potential safety impacts associated with any suggested changes to operations.
 - RCG Recommendations
- **Task 7** – Discuss results of the Operations RCG analyses.
- **Task 8** – Develop study designs/methods/plans and review agreed upon studies, literature reviews, etc, if necessary.
 - Final Study Plans
- **Task 9** – Identify high use areas of the river for inclusion in the rising water warning system.
 - LSR Map of High Use Areas

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- **Task 10** – Identify safety concerns that can possibly be resolved outside of the relicensing process.
 - Safety Program
- **Task 11** – Provide safety-related recommendations for Project operations and recreation access, facilities, and use to be considered in conjunction with all ecological and recreational issues.
 - RCG Recommendations
- **Task 12** – Develop a consensus based Safety Plan for the Saluda Project that addresses all of the issues and tasks identified above.
 - Safety Plan

Schedule

Late 2005/Early 2006—Finalize Mission Statement 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 Recreational Safety Plan

2007—Complete any studies identified in Task 9 and review results; draft recommendations to SHRG, complete draft Recreational Safety Plan

2008—Finalize Recreational Safety Plan and provide comments on Draft License Application