

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
OPERATIONS & SAFETY RESOURCE CONSERVATION GROUPS COMBINED MEETING**

**Saluda Shoals Park
April 6, 2006**

5-26-06 final acg

ATTENDEES:

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates	Ray Ammarell, SCE&G
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates	Steve Bell, Lake Watch
Bill Argentieri, SCE&G	Theresa Thom, Congaree National Park
Bret Hoffman, Kleinschmidt Associates	Carvitas Fant, USC
Bud Badr, DNR	Charlene Coleman, American Whitewater
Feleke Arega, DNR	Lee Barber, LMA
Dave Landis, Lake Murray Association	Kenneth Fox, LMA
Karen Kustafik, Columbia Parks and Rec	Ed Schnepel, LMA
Kristina Massey, Kleinschmidt Associates	Jennifer O'Rourke, SC Wildlife Federation
Malcolm Leaphart, Trout Unlimited	Tony Bebbler, SCPRT
Bill Marshall, DNR, LSSRAC	Suzanne Rhodes, SC Wildlife Federation
Gerrit Jobsis, American Rivers	Bill Mathias, LMA, LM Power Squadron
George Duke, LM Homeowners Coalition	Bill Cutler, Lake Watch, LM Homeowners Coalition
Guy Jones, River Runner	
Michael Waddell, TU	
Patrick Moore, SCCCL, Am. Rivers	
Randy Mahan, SCANA Services	

DATE: April 6, 2006

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

Alan Stuart – to research data on fatalities in the Lower Saluda River

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.

DISCUSSION

Alan Stuart opened the meeting and the group proceeded through introductions. Alan explained that this meeting was organized at the request of several stakeholders. Steve Bell explained that Lake Watch felt that more information was needed as it applies to Saluda and its uses.

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Alan explained that SCE&G was in the process of developing a presentation on alternative energy sources. Bill Argentieri further explained that they hope to have a presentation ready in June or July that addresses the issues associated with alternative energy sources, energy sources that could replace Saluda, the permitting issues related to replacement energy sources, as well as their environmental impacts. Bill continued to explain that there would also be a dollar analysis that would address capital costs, fuel costs and O&M costs.

Gerrit Jobsis explained that he believed that although it was important to look at reserve, he was concerned with how the Saluda Project operates as it relates to compliance with water quality standards, minimum flow requirements, ESA standards, and recreation and safety needs. He noted that he believed that overall project operations need to be evaluated. Bill Argentieri replied that those issues would be addressed in an upgrade study. He noted that they were looking at runner improvements that would improve the water quality.

Bill Argentieri began to explain how Saluda was used for reserve. He noted that SCE&G started using Saluda to meet reserve requirements in the late 1990's. He noted that this was mainly due to requirement changes of VACAR. Bill informed the group that according to SCE&G's records, SCE&G was called on for reserve capacity by neighboring utilities 22 times since 1998. Bill further clarified that the records did not specify whether it was Saluda that was used to meet the reserve or if another plant was used. It also did not specify how many times Saluda was used for internal reserve needs. It was noted that in the past year SCE&G has been putting out a weekly report that specifies more information on how Saluda is used due in part to a settlement agreement with American Rivers and the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (SCCCL). Bill explained that it was SCE&G's goal in relicensing to maintain the flexibility to use Saluda for reserve.

Steve Bell and Patrick Moore requested to form a technical committee (TWC) to explore the uses of Saluda. Patrick suggested acquiring USGS data in order to link it to Saluda operations. Charlene Coleman noted that weather patterns may also be needed when evaluating the use of Saluda. Theresa Thom pointed out that it would be difficult to link flow data to operations at Saluda until recently as the reports have been put out in the past year.

Bill Cutler recommended the development of a statistical model that would predict the future use of Saluda by looking at past uses at Saluda as well as other facilities. Randy noted that the group could look at the historical data but it would be difficult to predict the unpredictable need for reserve. Gerrit Jobsis added that he did not believe the information was available at this point to develop a model.

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Ray Ammarell explained to the group what information was issued in the weekly generation reports. He noted that dispatch provides any explanations for why Saluda is used and distinguishes if it is used for reserve.

The group briefly reviewed the goal of the proposed TWC. Gerrit noted that he believed the goal of the TWC would be to evaluate operational flexibility at Saluda and understand how it affects other interests. Gerrit further noted that once information is collected on the operations, the group could work towards an agreement on how they would move forward with operations. Steve Bell also added that it was Lake Watch's goal to obtain the operational flexibility information in a physical report form. The group concluded that the new TWC would serve to accomplish the following two goals:

- To better understand Saluda operations
- To review existing operations data
- To develop a process for using input from other RCG's to develop alternatives for operation.

Charlene Colman suggested that the committee start by obtaining the operations information from the past year. She explained that all the weather events and circumstances were still fresh in everyone's memories, and the occurrence of Katrina would show what would happen under an extreme event. Randy noted that that was agreeable to SCE&G as well.

Alan then asked the group who was interested in being a member of the TWC. The following people volunteered:

Mike Waddell
Steve Bell
Bill Cutler
Jennifer O'Rourke
Theresa Thom
Karen Kustafik
Patrick Moore
Bill Marshall
Bill Argentieri

The group then began to discuss safety on the river and the group collectively brainstormed ideas for the collection of information on this topic. Alan suggested developing a questionnaire that Trout Unlimited could distribute among its members. Tony Bebbler pointed out that the recreation committee would be performing onsite studies, he noted that a few safety questions could be

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incorporated as a component of the questionnaire such as “how the individual perceived the water level that day in terms of safe recreation”.

Charlene Colman addressed the issue of safety on the lower Saluda River and noted that even if flow changes are implemented, the limiting factor will still be the responsibility of the public. She explained that people using the river, in majority, do not heed any warning, even personal. Randy Mahan mentioned that he would be in support of legislation that requires individuals who recreate below the hydro to wear a personal floatation device. The group agreed. Gerrit Jobsis added that warnings and operations can be improved and modified to limit unsafe conditions on the river.

Charlene then distributed information to the group addressing flows and recreation (attached below). She explained that the information was approximations made from 14 years of research. She noted that she worked with Bill Marshall and the SCE&G dispatchers to develop the information. Charlene agreed that the most helpful thing in regards to safety is to implement legislation that requires safety vests. She also noted that on May 13th there would be a 10,000 cfs recreation release if an individual wanted to see the effects of this.

Patrick Moore noted that he would be interested in obtaining information on fatalities on the lower Saluda River, he noted that he would be interested to find out if operations was effecting that. Alan Stuart noted that they would look into obtaining that information and that Alan Axson with the Columbia Fire and Rescue may have that information.

In closing Alan noted that the Technical Working Committee would meet directly after in order to quantify what information was needed and proceed with the next steps in data acquisition.

On a different note, Alan noted that Jim Landreth had asked him to note that if any members felt that their questions were not being answered in the group setting that Jim would be happy to talk with them personally.

The group adjourned.

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Just for info for tomorrow

Flows--safety

250-1000 CFS is wade able but never recommended in rescue venues.

1,000-3,500 CFS an average swimmer stands a chance to get to the bank.

1,000-4,000 Rescue is not a great risk level for the Fire Dept.. Strong swimmers would struggle and most likely swim at least 1/8 of a mile to get to land from the middle of the river.

4,500 + for every 1,000 CFS increment the danger level is increased greatly

12,000 –18,000+ a Raft could get to you, but only by experienced raft paddlers. The Fire Dept Zodiac can't do Mill Race without serious risk and would most likely flip.

Hyperthermia is loss of body heat during a long swim and the Saluda is 50 degrees year round.

It takes the water 2 hours from the tail race to the Zoo. It takes approx 20 mins for water at the warning Float (trigger) for the siren to make it to the zoo.

Flows—Rec—these are approximates but close.

250- 1000 wade fishing is possible.

250-2,000 approx –novice boaters/floaters

2,000+---4,000 intermediate level Boaters.

4,500- 6,000—experienced boaters w/ river knowledge

250—8,000 bank fishing relatively safe

10,000 –release for Canoeing for Kids Fund raiser on the Day before Mother's day

10,000—16,000 Rafting is possible with a guide.

16,000---18,000---rafting is only for the experienced guide on big water rivers.

250—18,000 experienced advanced canoeist and kayakers

8,000—16,000 Bank fishermen are at risk for slipping in the river.

16,000—18,000 nice viewing of skilled boaters at Mill Race.