

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING NAVIGATIONAL AID TWC**

*Panera Bread*  
**September 13, 2007**

Final JMS 10-29-07

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#### **ATTENDEES:**

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates

Dave Anderson, Kleinschmidt Associates

Suzanne Rhodes, SCWF

Bill Mathias, LMPS

Jeni Hand, Kleinschmidt Associates

George Duke, LMHA

Joy Downs, LMA

Ken Fox, LMA

Steve Bell, Lakewatch

Tommy Boozer, SCE&G

**DATE:** September 13, 2007

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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** **TBA**

#### **HOMEWORK ITEMS:**

- Include a description of the shoal marker plan (criteria for a hazardous area and contact information for reporting misplaced buoys) in the Safety Plan.

*Safety Technical Working Committee*

#### **DISCUSSION**

*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.*

Alan Stuart welcomed committee members and noted the focus of today's meeting will be to determine the purpose of the Navigational Aids Technical Working Committee (TWC). Alan explained it was important that any known issues regarding navigational aids or hazards on Lake Murray be discussed during this meeting.

Steve Bell noted the group needed to address the issue of unmarked hazards when lake levels drop below the 354' elevation. Alan explained to the group that DNR informed the Safety RCG that markers on Lake Murray are accurate from 350 to 358. Steve noted that the group should determine if any unmarked hazards exists within the below the 354' elevation l. Alan explained to the group

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the buoy system is designed to warn boaters of potential hazards in the area. He further explained that the buoys do not mark the exact spot directly above the hazard, but the immediate area. Steve B. noted that he believed that the lake was not marked accurately for levels below the 354' elevation. He also noted that the information provided by Col. Taylor was not consistent with discussions with Skeet Mills (DNR) and surveys by a fishing guide. But this may be a moot issue since SCE&G plans to target a lake level around elevation 354' taking into account weather conditions and operational needs. Alan noted that most likely, there will always be hazardous areas on the lake that are unmarked simply because buoys could become damaged and/or break loose any time at any lake level. Tommy Boozer noted that if there are problems with the buoys on Lake Murray, SCDNR and/or SCE&G will come out and evaluate it. Bill Argentieri noted that Col. Alvin Taylor from SCDNR had provided information about the shoal marker program to the Safety Resource Group on July 31, 2007. Bill A. referenced the notes and pointed out that according to Col. Taylor it would be almost impossible to mark every hazard on the lake, and that it is the boaters responsibility to operate the boat in a safe manner and to be familiar with the waters that they are boating in.

There was some discussion about who the public should contact about repairing damaged and/or missing shoal markers. Randy Mahan noted that contact information for reporting damaged or lost buoys should be given out to the public so they are able to report hazardous areas to SCDNR and/or SCE&G. Bill A. suggested, and the group agreed, that a form should be posted to the SCE&G website for the public to report missing and/or displaced markers on Lake Murray. The group also agreed that a magnet containing contact information for reporting misplaced buoys would be a good way to inform the public about the shoal marker program.

Steve B. noted that if lake levels are kept higher year-round, then hazardous areas should not be a problem for Lake Murray. Alan noted that regardless of lake levels, contact information should be given to the public to report unmarked shoal areas and missing/displaced buoys. Joy Downs noted that Lake Murray Association feels that the lake is safer with less lake level fluctuations. Joy Downs wanted to know why Skeet Mills, the DNR officer who maintains the buoys, did not provide information to the committee. It was noted that SCE&G requested that SCDNR made the decision of who to send to the meeting. Col. Taylor has been involved with the SCDNR navigational aids program for almost 20 years and knows how the program is managed. Steve B. recommended that the lake should be marked for the average yearly fluctuation, i.e. 358' to 354' and if the lake dropped below that for scheduled draw down, the public could be informed via the media and other channels. Alan noted that it would be difficult to correlate shoal markers with lake levels because we don't know what the lake levels will be from one day to the next. Randy suggested that if SCE&G has an intentional drawdown below 354, SCE&G could notify the public about potential hazards on the lake, but if lake levels are below 354 because of drought, then SCE&G has no reason to notify the public. Steve B. requested that safety issues related to lake fluctuation be reported to

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the Operations RCG. Bill A. noted, and the group agreed, that the shoal marker program should be included in the Safety Plan. The write up should include a description of the shoal marker program, criteria of a hazardous area, and a procedure to report hazardous areas to the SCDNR and SCE&G.

The meeting was brought to a close and it was noted, that agreement had not been reached on the unmarked hazards issue and further discussion would be needed at a future Hazardous Areas TWC.