

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Saluda Hydro Project Relicensing Stakeholders

FROM: Shane Boring, Environmental Scientist

DATE: May 23, 2005

RE: April 2005 Wood Stork Aerial Survey Observations

Dear Relicensing Stakeholder:

The April 2005 Lake Murray Wood Stork Survey, which was originally scheduled for April 28, was flown by Tom Murphy with the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) on May 4. The survey was postponed until the first week of May due to the fact that all SCDNR aircraft were being utilized to search for the two boys swept out to sea off of Sullivan's Island.

No wood storks were observed at any of the foraging, roosting, or potential nesting sites. At the two sites originally suspected of containing wood stork nests, Silverstreet and Tosity Creek (See August 27, 2004, Aerial Survey Report), Tom noted 13 and 15 great blue heron nests, respectively. He added that stork colonies in other parts of the state all have nesting storks, with the first chicks having already hatched in some colonies. Based on these observations, Tom indicated that it now appears unlikely that the Lake Murray / Saluda River sites are active wood stork nesting areas at this time.

Thanks for your continued interest in the Lake Murray Wood Stork Study.

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