

Saluda Hydro Relicensing – Cultural Resource Conservation Group

October 14, 2005

Meeting Location – SCE&G Training Center – Columbia, SC

FINAL ACG 11-3-05

Attendees:

Alison Guth	Kleinschmidt Associates
Bill Argentieri	SCE&G
Bill Green	TRC
Sean Norris	TRC
Steve Bell	Lake Watch
Randall Shealy	Lake Murray Historical Society
Karen Thompson	Capitol City/Lake Murray Country
George Duke	Lake Murray Homeowners Coalition
Ralph Crafton	Lake Murray Association
Wenonah Haire	Catawba Indian Nation
Sandra Reinhardt	Catawba Indian Nation
Marianne Zajac	Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission
Chad Long	SHPO
Randy Mahan	SCANA Services
Jim Devereaux	SCE&G

Action Items:

- Issue draft Stage II Survey Report
TRC *September 2006*
- Post Stage 2 Survey updates on the Saluda Hydro Relicensing website.
Alison Guth *Ongoing*

Meeting Notes:

These notes summarize the major items discussed during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting. A PowerPoint presentation was used during this meeting and can be accessed at www.saludahydrorelicense.com.

Bill Green opened the meeting and welcomed the group, noting that the purpose of this initial meeting was to describe the processes behind the detection of items and places of cultural significance. He pointed out that this meeting would also describe what has been accomplished up to this point during Stage 1 Reconnaissance Surveys. He began by explaining that there were five primary mandated participants in the process which included FERC, SCE&G, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Catawba Indian Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (CIN-THPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. He noted that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was the National group that oversees Section 106 processes.

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Bill Green pointed out that the Eastern Band of the Cherokee has expressed interest in the project. He also noted that 18 other Indian tribes have been notified. Bill Green explained that some tribes only want to be notified if burials or other significant objects are found.

Bill Green continued to follow the slides in the PowerPoint presentation mentioning the laws covering the process such as NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. He noted that Section 106 requires that “prior to the issuance of any license ... take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The head of any such Federal agency shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ... a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking.”

He noted that initially TRC had to define the undertaking, identify participants and coordinate with SHPO, and define the Area of Potential Effects (APE). He mentioned that discussions with SHPO, SCDNR, and the CIN-THPO, had already been carried out. He also added that the APE for this project was defined as 500 feet from full pool elevation on Lake Murray and 500 ft back from the bank of the lower Saluda River (LSR).

The discussion then began to center more around the details involved in the Stage 1 Reconnaissance Survey which has already been concluded. He mentioned that consultation with SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes and other consulting parties on ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects was required under law. It was pointed out that the survey included an assessment of any adverse effects on cultural resources. He mentioned erosion as an example. Bill Green continued to note that usually agreement is achieved and they prepare a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as well as a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP).

Bill Green explained that the Stage 2 Intensive Survey would begin in the next few weeks. He clarified that Stage 2 would include all of the islands as well as the areas of Lake Murray and the LSR that were selected during the Stage 1 reconnaissance for further investigation.

George Duke inquired as to whether or not the Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) was going to be available to the public. After some discussion among the group it was determined that distribution of the HPMP was limited to agencies due to the sensitive nature of site locations. Chad Long suggested that the HPMP could provide direction for SCE&G to periodically update the public on the status of administering the HPMP.

George Duke then inquired as to what defined an archeological site. Bill Green replied that it usually applied only to sites that are over 50 years of age. The group continued to

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discuss various questions that were raised about historical sites, Such as what kind of impact erosion had on historical sites. It was noted that erosion posed a problem because it had the potential to remove artifact bearing soils at the site. Steve Bell inquired as to what defined a historical landscape. It was explained that anything from buildings to battle sites could be defined as a historical landscape, however typically the site in question had to be more than 50 years old unless deemed extremely significant.

Sean Norris then began discussion on what was found during the Stage 1 Surveys. He explained that prior to the survey, TRC met with SCE&G, SHPO, SCDNR, and CIN-THPO. He noted that during the meeting it became apparent that the entire shoreline of Lake Murray needed to be surveyed in order to identify lands that contain cultural resources. Sean showed the group the map of survey sites around Lake Murray. He noted that before TRC embarked on their surveys, their research indicated that there were 42 previously recorded archeological sites around the lake.

In conclusion, Sean noted that a total of 620 miles of shoreline along Lake Murray were assessed as well as 25 miles of riverbank on the Saluda, Little Saluda, lower Saluda rivers and major tributaries. He stated that 40 new archaeological sites were recorded as well as eight newly recorded structures. He explained that the oldest findings ranged from 8,000 to 10,000 years old up to Epting's Campground which was established in 1937. George Duke asked Sean to explain the meaning of "site". Sean replied that a site usually consisted of a ridge top or high area. These are areas where shovel tests were performed. He continued to note that when an artifact was found the site was assigned a number.

Sean mentioned that from the Stage 1 survey it was concluded that there are approximately 89 miles of shoreline that need to be further surveyed during Stage 2. He explained that during Stage 2 shovel tests will be performed, sites will be recorded and marked with GPS, and they will be assessed as not eligible, potentially eligible, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Sean also noted that each island will be surveyed in its entirety during Stage 2 as well.

George Duke inquired if the surveys were performed below the 360' line during Stage 1 Reconnaissance. Bill Green responded that they will survey the area up to where the lake level is at that time. George Duke also requested that updates on progress be reported. The group decided that the website would serve as a good place to post this information.

Bill Green noted that during Stage 2, some surveys need to occur on private property. In which case, letters will be sent out to land owners requesting permission to access the property. If landowners explicitly state that they do not want a survey conducted on their property, then they will not survey the property.

Bill Argentieri asked as to what actions were required from SCE&G in regards to the identified historic properties. Bill Green replied that most of the houses that were

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identified are ineligible for listing, except for Epting's Campground. However, Epting's Campground is not impacted by the Project.

Discussions also centered on preparing an historic properties brochure that describes the cultural resources around Lake Murray and could be placed in the Lake Murray Welcome Center. It was discussed that an artifacts display may be prepared for the Welcome Center as well.

The meeting came to a close with a decision to hold the next Cultural Resources meeting on September 8, 2006, after Stage 2 surveys are concluded.

The meeting adjourned around 11:00