



Lake Murray Landowners' Association

March 12, 2008

Secretary Kimberly D. Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Ref: P-516

Dear Secretary Bose:

Please help us as we continue to have obstacles being involved in an "open to the public" manner of the decisions that will affect Lake Murray in Lexington, SC. The inability for us to be a part of the process sets up repeated instances of non-inclusion in what ultimately could be significant decisions which may have direct – if not direct – impact on the quality of life of Lake Murray residents.

Of most recent example is a January 22, 2008 meeting of the Lake & Land TWC. While it is understood that the TWC is a smaller working group of the RCG, an opportunity for members of the public to be included - even if only by attendance - should be provided so as to allow an open process.

Public notice was not provided that this meeting was taking place. In the past, public notice was at least provided on the Kleinschmidt relicensing website. For this meeting, it was neither listed on the main calendar page nor was it listed on the Lake & Land page - much less in any local public newspaper, magazine, TV, etc.

Coincidentally, based on notes that were posted AFTER the meeting, it appears that critically important information was discussed that has very direct impact on Lake Murray landowners – specifically “back property” owners – around the lake: discussion of classification of various fringelands that could place significant restrictions upon them.

This discussion is especially important to the many homeowners who have fringeland between their homes and the lake itself. Consequently, it is very unfortunate that the coincidental timing of non-public notice happened to be for this important meeting.



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In addition, after following up with SCANA about whether a meeting had taken place, the very next meeting (February 7, 2008) did provide notice - HOWEVER, it was only a one-day notice. Please understand that one-day's notice is highly inadequate to provide an opportunity for working people to make such a meeting. Again though, coincidentally - apparently, this meeting involved further significant discussions as it relates to back property owners.

On so many occasions, we as back property owners have communicated that we need to be fairly informed of discussions as they relate to mandates which are being proposed and HAVE already been imposed (recent example: Two Bird Cove).

It is tough enough to try to have resident voices heard amongst all the organizations who lobby their interest as a part of their day job. But, it is especially tough for back property owners to meet when the relicensing group sets the meetings. (And we have mentioned this numerous times to no avail.)

The meat of most all major discussions and "official meetings" take place for basically a whole day during the regular work week hours. This has disallowed and continues to disallow many landowners to participate in the process. And to be clear, when all the dust settles and the final relicensing mandates are in place, the back property owners are the people who arguably will ultimately be most affected on a day-to-day and night-to-night basis with whatever the ultimate relicensing agreement is.

In summary, we are all too aware of where this appears to be headed. We already have very recent experience of mandates being decided without full public disclosure and it appears this may be on course to happening again.

Please consider that when a report is finally submitted to FERC, the folks who live at the lake are unfortunately the ones who may have had their voices heard the least. And they are the ones who ultimately will be directly affected by the decisions.

Sincerely,

Phil Hamby

Phil Hamby, President
Lake Murray Landowners' Association

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