



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Mr. James M. Landreth, Vice President
Fossil & Hydro Operations
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
111 Research Drive
Columbia, SC 29203

Mr. Landreth:

This letter contains some general comments concerning the relicensing process for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input to this effort.

Because the FERC license interval is so long, it is essential that planning to cover that period be as thorough as possible using the best available tools and other resources. It is reasonable to expect that there will be substantial changes to, and interactions among, social and political institutions, land use, demands for natural resources, and the natural environment itself. Because of the likely nature and magnitude of the changes, it is not possible to adequately assess their potential impact solely in the context of past experience.

South Carolina Electric & Gas, as the steward of the significant water and land resources contained in Lake Murray and its shoreline, has an obligation to ensure that the planning for the upcoming license period takes into account the range of possible effects through the use of the appropriate models and related studies. Examples include watershed water quantity and quality, projected land use changes and their effect, fisheries impacts both upstream and downstream from the dam, recreational impacts, and other downstream effects such as the Congaree National Park. Public policy alternatives influence both the trajectories of these items and the interactions among societal expectations, decision-making processes, and natural resource utilization and conservation. It is possible that not all these issues will require a complete analysis, but that should be a consensus decision after reasonable effort is made to understand each particular situation.

The faculty and students of the University of South Carolina are a rich source of relevant expertise. I will be glad to work with you or your representative to explore ways that we can assist you with this important project.

With regards,

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