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SCE&G files notice of intent for relicensing Saluda Hydro

Columbia, SC – South Carolina Electric & Gas officials today filed a notice of intent with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to seek a new license for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project, which includes Lake Murray.

Saluda Hydro's current license expires in 2010. In addition to its notice of intent, SCE&G also submitted its initial consultation document to begin the official relicensing process.

Other milestones in the five-year process include completion and filing of the formal license application by June 30, 2008.

Jim Landreth, vice president of fossil and hydro operations for SCE&G, said that while the company will manage the process, state and federal resource agencies, home owners groups, environmental and recreational groups will play very significant roles in the relicensing of the project.

"We have consulted and will continue to consult with these agencies, groups and individuals to gather as well as provide information," Landreth said. "Using the enhanced traditional three stage licensing process (TLP) encourages cooperative resolution of issues. Our goal is to reach a consensus."

The TLP process allows for increased public involvement for identifying issues and alternatives, monthly technical meetings with agencies, quarterly public meetings, and commenting through the Web site.

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It also improves opportunities for meaningful communication between SCE&G and the stakeholders, encourages issue resolution prior to filing the license applications with FERC, and promotes decision making and issue resolution at the local level.

“We believe early and active involvement in this process will provide us opportunities to work through all issues related to operations, economics and environmental considerations regarding the project,” Landreth said.

The next joint agency and public meeting is scheduled for June 16.

Kleinschmidt Associates, a consulting firm specializing in engineering, regulatory management and environmental services to the energy and water resource industries, is coordinating the relicensing process for SCE&G.

For more information about the relicensing process, go to www.SaludaHydroRelicense.com.

SCE&G is the largest subsidiary of SCANA Corporation, an energy-based holding company principally engaged, through subsidiaries, in electric and natural gas utility operations, telecommunications and other energy-related businesses. Information about SCANA and its businesses is available at www.scana.com.

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