

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
DIADROMOUS FISH TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

**SCE&G Training Center
February 22, 2006**

Final-jms- 4-3-06

ATTENDEES:

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Gerrit Jobsis, SCCCL & Am. Rivers
Dick Christie, SCDNR
Steve Leach, SCDNR

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Shane Boring, Kleinschmidt Associates
Jennifer Summerlin, Kleinschmidt Associates
Amanda Hill, USFWS
Steve Summers, SCE&G

ACTION ITEMS:

- Provide Jimmy Livingston's (Eel fisherman) contact information to Shane Boring – *Steve Leach*
- Conduct site visit with Bret Hoffman to potential eel ladder locations – *Alan Stuart, Shane Boring*
- Propose a date for the next Diadromous Fish TWC – *Shane Boring*

MEETING NOTES:

These notes serve to be a summary of the major points presented during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Shortly after the fish and wildlife RCG meeting (notes prepared separately), the group agreed to proceed with the Diadromous Fish Technical Working Committee (TWC) meeting. Shane Boring opened the meeting at approximately 2:05 pm, noting that, as agreed in the RCG meeting, the primary focus of the meeting would be discussion of American eel sampling. He noted that USFWS recommended the use of an eel ramp to sample for elvers due to ineffectiveness of the eel pot sampling.

Amanda Hill noted that water temperature should be taken into account in determining when a ramp needs to be in place; she added that eel migration generally occurs from spring to fall when water temperature is above approximately 15°C. It was mentioned that 15°C water temperatures in the Lower Saluda River (LSR) usually occurs beginning in June. Due to time constraints, the group agreed to continue sampling with eel pots until potential eel ramp sites/design can be further evaluated.

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The group reviewed SCE&G's fly-over video of the LSR and briefly discussed possible locations for an eel ramp. The group identified several potential ramp locations including attaching a ramp directly to the downstream side of the dam (i.e., to the taildeck or the wall adjacent to the powerhouse), the spillway, and the USGS gauge below the dam. It was agreed the spillway was the most likely location. Alan Stuart noted that Bret Hoffman, a Kleinschmidt engineer, had been involved with eel ramp design and proposed that Bret make a site visit to evaluate feasibility and design considerations for each of the locations. The group agreed that this was acceptable, and Alan and Shane were tasked with coordinating a field visit with Bret. Steve Leach noted that, due to the feasibility concerns at various sites, it may be beneficial to use an inexpensive ramp design to allow for relocation if sampling at a particular site proves ineffective. Use of corrugated plastic pipe supported by rebar was noted as a potential design.

Steve Leach noted that it might be beneficial to discuss eel trapping strategies with commercial fishermen. He added that SCDNR has been in contact with a gentleman in the Santee area (Jimmy Livingston), which has proven effective for their eel sampling efforts. Steve L. agreed to obtain Mr. Livingston's contact information and send it to Shane.

There was a brief discussion on the shortnose sturgeon project. Shane noted that the application was submitted around eight months ago and a permit has still not been issued. He added they expect to have the permit issued in about 9 to 10 weeks.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 pm. Shane agreed to arrange the next meeting of the Diadromous Fish TWC once a site visit has been made to the potential eel ramp locations.