



COUNTY OF NEWBERRY

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August 15, 2005

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

Attn: Mr. William R. Argentieri

RE: "Comments on Saluda Hydroelectric ICD"

Dear Mr. Argentieri:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the relicensing of the Saluda Hydro FERC # 516. As you are well aware, a large portion of Lake Murray is located within Newberry County. This resource is treasured by both residents and visitors, and the County is pleased to see your company's efforts to maintain this valuable natural resource.

While sustaining the environmental integrity of Lake Murray is certainly a valid purpose, Newberry County is concerned that it will be forced to shoulder the majority of this responsibility along with Saluda County. Currently, Newberry's shoreline is less developed than its neighbors in Lexington and Richland. However, as the Columbia area grows, Newberry is seeing an increase in development opportunities related to the lake. Newberry must be allowed to capitalize on these opportunities in the same fashion as its more urban counterparts.

Newberry (and Saluda) cannot become the "preserved side" of Lake Murray while others enjoy the significant tax base that comes with lakefront development. This opportunity is even more vital to Newberry because the county does not have as many

assets to attract wealth as its metro neighbors. Being small and rural, Newberry County's voice in the FERC process may easily be ignored and yet so much of our future prosperity depends on our ability to capitalize on the economic development opportunities presented by Lake Murray. While Newberry County understands the need to protect our natural resources, this responsibility should be shared equally among the counties involved.

In addition to the above, Newberry County has a few additional concerns and or comments associated with the relicensing procedures and control of the lake. The County would appreciate your company taking the following comments and requests into consideration during this relicensing period.

- The County would like to encourage SCE&G to identify the Base Flood Elevations (BFE) on a lake map, preferably in a GIS format. All information should also be submitted in accordance with FEMA regulations and specifications. This action will reduce the risk of property owners building in the flood zone associated with the project boundary. This request is justified because the dam significantly increases Newberry County's flood zone. Both the County and private property owners incur considerable expense to comply with flood zone regulations.
- SCE&G also owns property or "Buffer Zone" along much of the shore line. The County requests that this property be mapped and posted with the applicable restrictions. This information should be made available through local government offices in order to help property owners adhere to the appropriate regulations.
- The County also requests that SCE&G post the draw down dates because of safety concerns for lake users. If people are not aware of shallow water this could cause boating or swimming accidents.
- It would also be helpful if SCE&G would inform lake users of weed control measures.

The County would like to thank your agency once again for accepting our comments on your proposed project. If we can assist you on this project or any others in the future, please do not hesitate to call Tom Brooks or myself at 803-321-2100.

Sincerely,


Leonard B. Sossamon, Jr.
County Administrator

CC: Tom Brooks