



**League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**  
**Mary T. Kelly, Ph.D., Representative**  
**4018 Sandwood Drive, Columbia, SC 29206**  
**803-782-8410; rkelly1@sc.rr.com**

August 14, 2005

Mr. James M. Landreth, Vice-president  
Fossils and Hydro Operations  
South Carolina Electric and Gas Company  
111 Research Drive  
Columbia, SC 29203

Attn: William R. Argentieri

**Subject: Comments on First Stage (Initial) Consultation Document (ICD)**  
**Saluda Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 516**

Dear Mr. Landreth:

The League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area welcomes this opportunity to make comments on the First Stage Consultation Document for the relicensing of the Saluda Dam.

We are a non-profit and non-partisan public interest organization, part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, dedicated to the informed and active participation of all citizens in the political process which includes the making of governmental policy decisions which affect the lives and futures of all. We have approximately one hundred and twenty-five local members residing mainly in Richland and Lexington Counties. A number of our members live on or close to Lake Murray and almost all of our members and their families avail themselves of the publicly available recreational activities associated with the lake and the lower Saluda. Many of our members and indeed many in the entire Central Midlands region rely on Lake Murray for their drinking water, a usage that will only increase in importance in the coming years in this high population growth area. We all consider the natural beauty of Lake Murray to be one of the region's primary assets and we are proud that in this metropolitan area both Lake Murray and the lower Saluda River provide such unique opportunities for water sports and fishing.

In reference to Lake Murray our major concerns can be classified under two headings:

**Maintenance and improvement of water quality and supply: Drinking water standards must be met and protected.** To accomplish this we advocate adequate buffer zones and measures to control run-off. Rules must be clear and enforced. Growth must be limited and controlled, especially for lake shore property. Studies should be made on the effect of power boats and jet skis on drinking water quality. If necessary, such usage should be curtailed.

**Recreational access:** Access by the non-property owning general public needs to be increased and made safer. As the population of the wider area increases so will the demands on this resource grow.

Again, attention needs to be paid to both the rights of and limitations on boat and jet ski usage. Safety and pollution problems from these sources pose a real threat.

We are confident that a balance between the rights of property owners, recreational users and habitat protection advocates will be achieved through the consultation process about to begin.

**In reference to the lower Saluda River** careful attention needs to be paid to water flow and to public safety issues. Addressing the safety issue is a problem long overdue for a careful analysis and solution

We wish you well as you initiate this consultation. We are aware that there are many state agencies as well as recreational, environmental, and property owner groups bringing great expertise to this consultation process. We are confident that through the course of these proceedings that expertise will be given serious consideration and that decisions in the best interests of the general public will result while preserving the valuable role of the Saluda Hydro Project as a supplier of electricity.

Sincerely,

Lilla F. Hoefler, President, Columbia Area LWV

Mary T. Kelly  
Representative, Columbia Area LWV