

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426
October 21, 2009

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 516-459-South Carolina
Saluda Hydroelectric Project
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company

Mr. James M. Landreth, Vice President
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
Mail Code A221
220 Operations Way
Cayce, SC 29033

Reference: Clarification of your responses to the Commission's follow-up letter concerning the Additional Information Request (AIR) issued on November 24, 2008 for the Saluda Project

Dear Mr. Landreth:

In your filing of February 24, 2009, you answered most of our AIR requests issued in our November 24, 2008, letter. However, you requested that 13 of your responses be delayed until you completed settlement discussions which you thought would conclude by July 31, 2009. On June 11, 2009, we responded in a letter to you stating that you should file the complete responses to the 13 items included in our original AIR request by July 31, 2009, regardless of whether you file a settlement agreement by that date or not. On July 30, 2009, you filed responses to the 13 AIR questions that remained unanswered. Several of your responses to our AIR didn't completely answer some of our questions regarding specific resource issues. In addition, we have one clarification regarding your Exhibit D filed on July 31, 2009.

We are requesting clarification of your responses to our AIR be answered no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. If the required information in schedule A causes any other part of the application to be inaccurate, please revise that part and refile it by the due date.

Please be aware that further requests for additional information may be sent to you at any time before final action is taken by the Commission on your license application.

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Please contact Mr. Lee Emery at (202) 502-8379, or by e-mail at lee.emery@ferc.gov if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

Mark Pawlowski, Chief
Hydro East Branch 2

Enclosure: Schedule A

cc: Service List
Public Files

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SCHEDULE A
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTS
SALUDA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT NO. 516-549

Please file within 30 days from the date of this letter the following additional information. When you file this information with the Commission, you also should provide exact copies of the filing with the agencies that you consulted during the preparation of your license application. If the required information below causes any other part of the application to be inaccurate, please revise that part and refile it by the due date.

1. **Floodplain Riparian Vegetation Along the Congaree National Park.** In our AIR we had indicated that we would need information about the project to assess the environmental effects and costs of any proposed measures to protect or enhance floodplain vegetation along the Lower Saluda River. Your response was that you were awaiting the results of the settlement pending at that time and for recommendations from the National Park Service that were expected by September 2008. You now have a settlement for the project and the National Park Service has filed its recommendations for the project. The conditions in the settlement now become your proposed measures for the project. In Appendices A-11 (Saluda Hydroelectric Flow Release Program) and A-13 (Saluda Hydroelectric Project Maintenance, Emergency, and Low Inflow Protocol) of the settlement, you describe the agreed-upon flow releases into the Lower Saluda River for the project. However, you have not described the analysis of the effects of these changes, if any, on vegetation along the Lower Saluda River and within the Congaree National Park. For us to be able to assess the potential project effects on floodplain riparian vegetation in the Lower Saluda River and in the Congaree National Park, you need to describe the effects of these proposed flows on the riparian vegetation at these sites. Please also describe any costs associated with your proposed enhancement measures related to riparian vegetation resulting from your new proposed flows.
2. **Recreation Plan.** You have adequately responded to 8 of the 10 items we requested as part of the recreation plan described in our November 24, 2008, AIR. However, your responses are incomplete for sub-item 6 (recreation facilities that are inside and/or outside of the project boundary) and for sub-item (9) (location of commercial and private recreation sites).

In our AIR number 18, sub-item 6, we requested information regarding a description of whether the existing and proposed facilities are within or outside of

the project boundary, including a map denoting the location of all the proposed measures along with the existing project boundary. However, while the Recreation Plan in section 3.1, page 3-1, provides a general discussion of the recreation sites within the project boundary, there is no specific description for each of the recreation sites relative to whether they are located either entirely or partially within or outside of the project boundary. Also, the Recreation Plan provides figures of the recreation sites; however the project boundary is not denoted on all of the figures probably because of the scale.

Therefore, please provide a description of whether the recreation sites are entirely or partially within or outside of the existing project boundary for each of the existing recreation sites, for the proposed additions to these sites, and for the proposed future recreation sites. If portions of any recreation site are both within and outside of the project boundary, please provide a description of what portions are within and outside. Also, please provide revised figures at a scale that denote the location of the project boundary on all of the recreation site figures. In the event that the project boundary is not within the area surrounding the recreation sites, please provide a description of whether the site is located completely within or outside of the project boundary. Finally, for any areas where you propose to add lands associated with the recreation sites into the project boundary, please describe the location of these lands and provide a summary of the additional acreage to be added to the project boundary for each individual site.

In response to sub-item 9, we requested information pertaining to the location of the commercial and private recreation sites. Figure A-4 of your Recreation Plan provides this information, however, because of the scale and clarity of the figure, the names and associated designation of the sites is not legible. Therefore, please provide a revised map, which can be broken into smaller sub-set maps or clarify, so that the site names are legible.

3. **Statement of Project Costs and Financing.** In section 8.0 of the Revised Exhibit D filed on July 31, 2009, you present the on-peak and off-peak power rates for the project, but do not provide the breakdown of on-peak and off-peak generation for application of those rates. Sections 9.1 through 9.6 of the same document present the gain or loss in annual generation, as well as any shifts from on-peak to off-peak generation (or vice versa), associated with proposed operational changes. For us to adequately use the information you provided, we need the annual on-peak and off-peak generation values for the baseline condition before the proposed operational changes are implemented. For the baseline annual generation of 180,069 megawatthours, as cited in section 9.0, please provide the amount of on-peak and off-peak generation.

Document Content(s)

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