

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
Wood Stork Discussions**

***Via Conference Call
February 9, 2007***

Final ACG 3-7-07

ATTENDEES:

Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Dick Christie, SCDNR
Ed Eudaly, USFWS

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Shane Boring, Kleinschmidt Associates
Randy Mahan, SCANA Services

HOMEWORK:

- Shane Boring– To revise the 2006 Wood Stork Survey Report based on what the group agreed to.

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.

The group began the meeting by discussing the 2006 Wood Stork Survey Summary Report. Alan asked if the group had any questions on the report itself. The group indicated that they were satisfied with the information it entailed. Alan then noted that the next important point of discussion would be how they should proceed with the surveys at this point, and whether there is a need to continue the surveys. Randy Mahan noted that SCE&G is interested in discontinuing the surveys if the agencies feel that there is no real benefit to the information being gleaned from the surveys from this point forward.

Ed Eudaly noted that, based on the results of the surveys, they did not see any regular or extensive use of the Project area by the wood storks. He explained that they have observed sporadic use upstream of Lake Murray. Ed noted that based on this, he did not see much of a need to continue with the surveys. Dick Christie noted that he concurred with Ed that there was not a need to continue with the surveys. Dick further added that since the wood storks were documented in the Project area, even through their use appears to be sporadic and infrequent, it may be beneficial to give the birds some recognition in the relicensing. He explained that this could be accomplished by drafting a brief management plan, or by observing these species through informal surveys. Dick further noted that it may be best to be prepared to address some management needs if they arise in

the future. Ed agreed that the group should address the wood storks in some manner during relicensing.

To follow up on the strategies that Dick had just discussed, Shane noted that any wood storks observed during the Waterfowl Surveys will be documented. Shane explained that this may give them the means to track wood storks around the project without performing formal wood stork surveys. Shane further explained to the group that their observations of wood storks have so far been limited to foraging and there has been no nesting behavior observed. Dick noted that if there is ever any evidence of nesting that they may want to consider establishing some protected areas.

Bill then explained that SCE&G had originally began these studies based on a 2004 order from the FERC. He further explained that this order noted that SCE&G needed to be in consultation with the USFWS and SCDNR on evaluating these areas. Bill explained that the order also stated that SCE&G should refrain from selling or developing these areas until further information is obtained. Bill asked the group for advice on how to word the response to FERC now that SCE&G and the agencies have agreed that the surveys could be discontinued. Ed noted that it would probably be best to tailor the language in the letter to note that the land restrictions are no longer warranted due to wood storks. Ed further reiterated that he believed that the wood storks were seen at the Project due to the prolonged drawdowns. Dick agreed. Bill noted that he would draft a letter to FERC and send it to the agencies for review.

Bill then asked how SCE&G should best address the agencies recommendation of recognition of the wood stork in relicensing. Dick noted that, as discussed above, the waterfowl surveys will continue to document wood stork observations. Shane noted that Tom Murphy may be able to keep watch for the wood storks during his eagle surveys. Dick continued to explain that the wood stork could be addressed during the RT&E component of relicensing through the 2006 Survey Report and the recommendations to follow. The group discussed the possibility of developing an RT&E species awareness program/brochure that highlighted those unique species that one was most likely to see at Lake Murray. This could include the Bald Eagle, the purple martin and the wood stork. Ed also suggested that it would be beneficial to have some mechanism for tracking reports on wood stork sightings. The group noted that there could be a means for tracking reports through the brochure the group discussed and through SCE&G's website.

The group concluded their meeting and Shane noted that he would revise the report and reference what the group agreed to. Group adjourned.