

**MEETING NOTES**

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY  
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING  
DOWNSTREAM FLOWS TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

**SCE&G Training Center  
April 23, 2008**

Final ACG 8-11-08

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**ATTENDEES:**

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates	Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Alan Axson, Cola. Fire Dept.	Karen Kustafic, Cola. Parks
Bill Marshall, SCDNR	Matt Rice, American Rivers
Jim Cumberland, CCL	Tony Bebbler, SCPRT
Vivianne Vejdani	

**DATE:** April 23, 2008

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Send the updated recreational flow spreadsheet out to committee members  
*Dave Anderson*
- Develop a low inflow protocol for the Saluda Hydro Project  
*Kleinschmidt*
- Determine flows to be eliminated for each stage of drought for the Lower Saluda River  
*Downstream Flows TWC members*

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**INTRODUCTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

*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.*

Dave Anderson opened the meeting and noted that the purpose of the meeting would be to review SCE&G's counter proposal to the stakeholders request for recreational flows for the lower Saluda River (LSR). Bill A. suggested that instead of having predetermined flows each year, maybe it would be better to set aside a predetermined acre/feet in the Lake for the recreational flows and determine flow allocation at the October Downstream Flows Recreation meeting. Bill A. noted that this may work out better if a future event such as an Olympic event comes about and there are no days available for the event, because all recreational flows have been predetermined.

Bill A. discussed SCE&G's responses to the Downstream Flows Recreation TWC stakeholders request for recreational flows. Bill noted that SCE&G has set aside a total of 62 days without Saluda's capacity counted towards their reserve obligation. He further explained that 11 of those days were set aside for swift water rescue, which leaves 51 days for recreational flows. The 51 days are partial days because it is more difficult to take Saluda out for a full day or multiple days. He explained that SCE&G is currently developing a low inflow protocol for the lower Saluda River and

once it has been finalized, SCE&G will follow through with the TWC's critical times. Bill A. noted in regards to the high or low boating flows, that SCE&G would prefer the 10:00 am to 4:00 pm because there is more likely to be a reserve need in the evening. Bill A. also explained that if scheduled recreation days were lost due to inclement weather, then they will not be able to reschedule make-up days.

In response to SCE&G's responses, Matt Rice noted that 51 days for recreational flows was a fair request, but had some concerns with the specific language. Particularly, he noted they were not comfortable with losing recreation days for "any other reason" as stated in SCE&G's response. He explained that they would like to develop acceptable language for this. Matt noted that the group would support up to 5 lost recreational days, but anything over 5 Matt noted should be made up.

In regards to ramping, Matt noted that they were not as concerned about ramping on recreational flows and reserve calls, as they were concerned about ramping for non-reserve operations such as lake level management. He noted that the lights and sirens should be calibrated for small rises and be activated by operations of the hydro with an appropriate lag time for each location. Matt suggested developing enforceable language for the last paragraph on ramping.

Matt requested that the times for wade fishing/swimming hours from May through October be changed to 8:00 am through 6:00 pm. Matt explained that this is when the river will be most heavily used by rock users and tubers etc.. Bill A. noted that earlier times were chosen because fisherman will most likely be on the river during these times. Matt explained he spoke with Mike Waddell and Malcolm Leaphart and they noted that most of the good fishing is in the winter months from November through April. Jim Cumberland requested that the wade fishing/swimming hours in May through October be changed to 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Bill A. noted that they originally offered the time 6:00 am to 3:00 pm because SCE&G did not want to get too far into the evening hours where there is the possibility of a reserve call. The group noted that that would be acceptable and they also would be fine with boating flows from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The group briefly reviewed the spreadsheet that contained the recreational flows for each month. Changes that were made by the group were highlighted in the spreadsheet. The group then went through the exercise of using allotted acre/feet to accommodate future events. The group agreed that there was a lot more flexibility with having water stored for reserve in Lake Murray for future recreation flows. Jim Cumberland asked if there was any room to add to the 45,000 acre/feet. Bill A. explained that if the water is there then we will try to accommodate the flows needed. Bill Marshall asked if there would be flexibility with the times that the flows are provided. Bill A. noted that it is certainly possible and explained that it would be helpful if committee members had an idea of the times that they want to change and to let SCE&G know before the meetings planned in October so SCE&G can talk with the dispatchers. Dave noted that he would send the excel file with the corrected recreational flows back out to committee members and noted he would develop the wording for the recreation plan.

Alan asked Bill A. if SCE&G was still willing to concede to 51 recreational flow days during a drought when there is a higher strain on the system. Bill A. noted that once a low inflow protocol is created, certain recreational flows and days will be eliminated during specific drought stages. Bill A. noted that the group should determine how they would like the flows to be eliminated at different stages of drought. The group adjourned.