

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee
SCE&G's Lake Murray training Center
June 11, 2008**

ATTENDEES:

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates	Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Matt Rice, American Rivers	Dave Anderson, Kleinschmidt Associates
Tony Bebbler, SCPRT	Carl Bussells, Kleinschmidt Associates
Randy Mahan, SCANA Services	Ray Ammarell, SCE&G

ACTION ITEMS: Determine Recreational Flow Reductions for each of the four Low Inflow Protocol stages.

MEETING NOTES:

These notes serve as 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 of Kleinschmidt Associates opened the meeting around 1:30, and proposed that recreational flows would be reduced by 25% overall with each drought stage, and by Stage IV, all recreational flows would be reduced to the minimum flow of 400 CFS. In other words, the proposed scheme was 100% for normal inflow, 75% for Stage I drought, 50% for Stage II, and so on.

Dave suggested that some non-event boating days should be reduced to 1-day events instead of 2-day for a Stage I drought. Matt, Tony, and Alan concluded that the main priorities for recreational flows should be Canoeing for Kids, Junior Olympics (USTWWR Prac.), Rescue Rodeo, and the Iceman Competition. These events were not reduced for Stage I. Dave and Bill explained that release times for higher flows will depend on where the event occurs because of the time the water takes to reach the event. After editing the spreadsheet tool used for examining different reduction scenarios, the group agreed that a reduction of 20% was agreeable for Stage I.

For Stage II, Bill proposed that recreational flows for a stage 2 event could be at 60% instead of 50%. Randy concurred and stated that a drop from Stage II to Stage III can be greater because a Stage III drought is less likely. In this case, the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) recreational flow reduction scheme is 100% at normal, 80% at Stage I, 60% at Stage II, 25% at Stage III and 0% at Stage IV. For Stage II, all non-event boating days were removed, the White Water Festival was reduced to 1 day, and the Iceman Race was reduced to 1000 CFS. Bill noted that the spreadsheet will to be used as a guideline

during the annual recreational flows meeting. Matt added that flows should be adjusted depending on event turnout, cancellation, etc. He said that the Rescue Rodeo is a good signature for the Southeast and instigates tourism, and it should be a 2-day event.

Alan called Charlene Coleman for a word on the priority of events. She explained that she would prefer the order of priorities for a Stage III drought be Canoeing for Kids in May, then Junior Olympics, Rescue Rodeo, and Canoeing for Kids in October.

All agreed that all recreational events (except for wade fishing levels) will be cancelled during a Stage IV drought. The group agreed that the 32 “minimum” flow days in a Stage IV drought will still be “non-reserve” days.

In response to a request to provide flow release information on the Lower Saluda River website as soon as SCE&G is aware of a release, Bill noted that flow release information is already provided with as much advance notice as possible. Alan suggested that it would be helpful for the future recreational flow schedule to be available as a PDF. Tony added the recreational flow information could be combined into one page with attachments, informational boxes, or links, so users would only have to check one place.

The group discussed release patterns, and Bill noted that SCE&G has already tried to spread out flows for lake level management releases, such as releasing 4,000 CFS for 5 hours rather than 10,000 CFS for 2 hours. Matt added that this would be much safer and less harmful to wildlife.

Bill noted that ‘ramping’ was not favorable mainly because it could affect the siren system operation and people could be confused by trying to figure if a flow release is going to be ramped or not be ramped depending on the reason for a release. Tony noted that most river accidents and drowning are alcohol related. Everyone agreed that there must be a compromise between the two, so release patterns could be less extreme.