

# Saluda Hydroelectric Project Cultural Resource Conservation Group



*Saluda*  
**H Y D R O**  
**RELICENSING**



September 8, 2006

# CRCG Participants

**Bill Argentieri (SCE&G)**

**Miriam Atria (Regional Tourism)**

**Steve Bell (LW)**

**Rebekah Dobrasko (SHPO)**

**George Duke (LMH)**

**Ed Fetner (Historian)**

**Keith Ganz-Sarto**

**Bill Green (S&ME)**

**Alison Guth (KA)**

**Wenonah Haire (Catawba)**

**David Jones (PRT)**

**Dick Christie (DNR)**

**Richard Kidder (LMA)**

**Dave Landis (LMA)**

**Jon Leader (SCIAA)**

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**Randy Mahan (SCANA)**

**Sandra Reinhardt (Catawba)**

**Charles Rentz**

**Jay Robinson (ICRC)**

**Randal Shealy (LMHS)**

**Alan Stuart (KA)**

**Ken Styer (S&ME)**

**Jeanette Wells (ICRC)**

**Marianne Zajac (ICRC)**

# Cultural Resource Investigations for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project

- Stage I Investigation  
Reconnaissance Survey
- Stage II Investigation  
Intensive Survey



# Results of Stage I Reconnaissance Survey

- 42 previously recorded archaeological sites
- 40 new archaeological sites identified
- Seven previously recorded structures that are listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- Eight newly recorded structures (one eligible for the NRHP)

# Stage II Intensive Survey Areas

- 735 acres on 139 islands in Lake Murray
- 89 miles of shoreline in 177 areas along Lake Murray
- 1.5 miles of riverbank along the lower Saluda River (originally four\*)
- 2 islands in the Lower Saluda River (originally seven\*)

\* Based on recent geomorphic analyses, it was determined that areas downstream from Saluda Shoals Park are not being affected by erosion and do not need to be surveyed.

# Stage II Areas Examined to Date

- 80 islands in Lake Murray
- 75 shoreline areas in Lake Murray
- 1.5 miles of riverbank in the Lower Saluda River
- 2 islands in the Lower Saluda River



# Stage II Areas Remaining

- 55 islands in Lake Murray (mostly small, privately-owned islands).
- 6 shoreline areas in Lexington County (Richland and most of Lexington have been completed).
- 96 shoreline areas in Newberry, and Saluda counties
- Denied access to five shoreline areas and four islands.



# Results (to date) of Stage II Intensive Survey

- 77 newly recorded archaeological sites
- 9 sites revisited from Stage I survey
- 30 prehistoric sites ranging from Early Archaic to Late Woodland (10,000 – 1,000 years ago)
- 32 historic sites, mostly 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century home sites
- 5 historic cemeteries
- 10 sites with both prehistoric and historic components



# Research Themes

- Prehistoric Utilization of the Saluda River Drainage
- Historic Utilization of the Saluda River Drainage
- Cultural Adaptations Since the Construction of the Lake



# Prehistoric Utilization of the Saluda River Drainage

- Prehistoric Settlement
- Prehistoric Resource Utilization
- Trade and Interaction



# Prehistoric Resources



# Historic Utilization of the Saluda River Valley

- Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Agriculture
- Industrial History of the Area
- Cultural Development



# Historic Resources

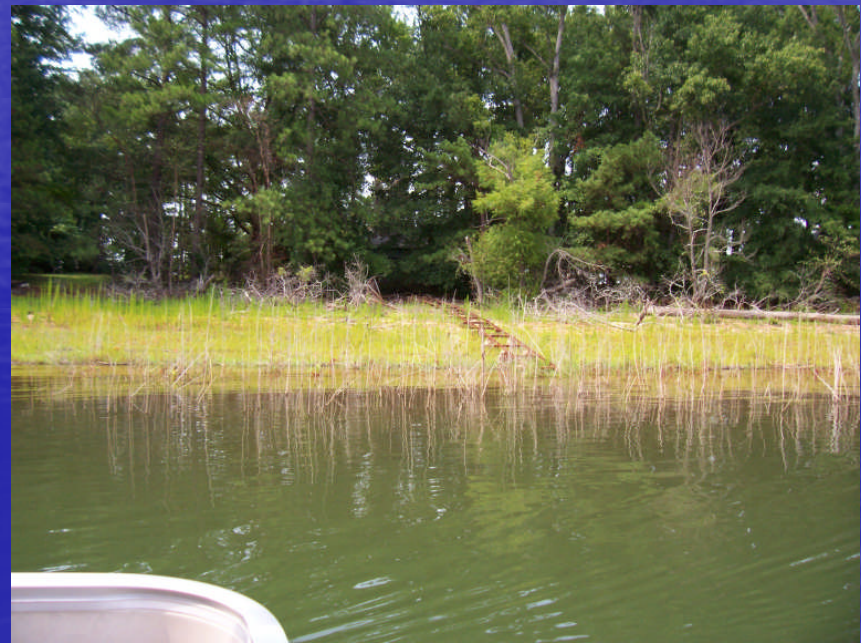


# Adaptations Since the Construction of Lake Murray

- Erosion Control
- Focus on Recreation
- Development



# Adaptations Since the Construction of Lake Murray



# Tree House Site - 38LX531



- Located along the Lower Saluda River
- Almost 12 acres in size
- Excellent preservation, deeply buried artifacts, and numerous features (e.g., hearths)





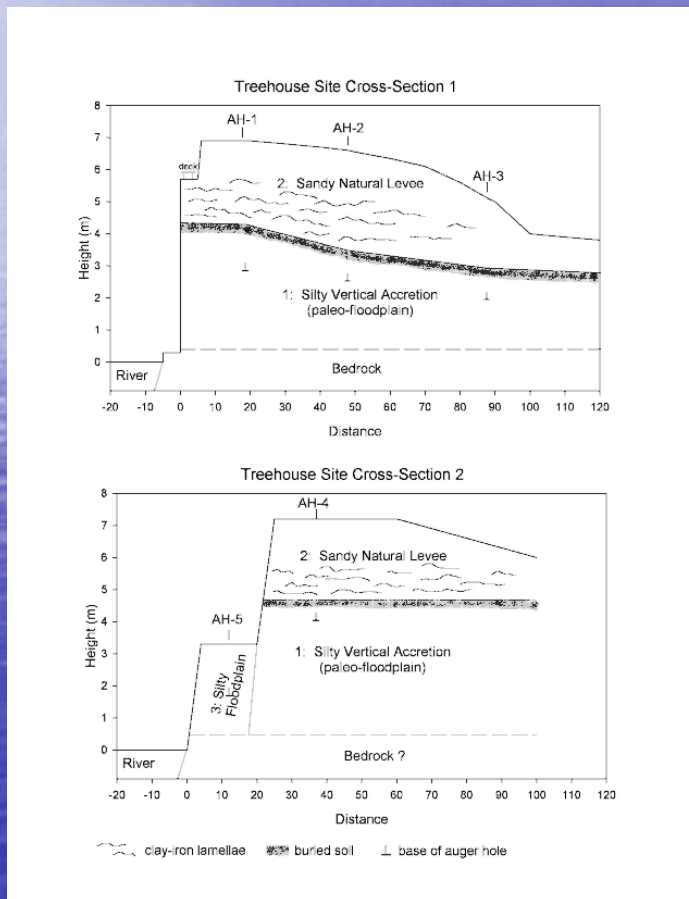
# Aerial Photo of the Tree House Site

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# Site Map – 38LX531

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# Geomorphology at the Tree House Site



# Tree House Site

- Known occupations dating back more than 5,000 years
- Potential occupations as much as 13,500 years ago
- Three OSL dates between 11,000 – 15,000 years ago
- Could be one of the most interesting and important sites in the Southeastern U.S.



# Erosion 1943 -1999

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Based on an analysis of aerial photographs

# Continuing Investigations at the Tree House Site

- Sampling with a 7-inch bucket auger to retrieve artifacts up to 20 ft. below the ground.
- Several deep backhoe trenches to help better understand site formation processes.
- Approx. 30-45 sediment samples to provide information about sedimentation, soil formation, and cultural occupations.
- Six additional OSL and/or radiocarbon dates.
- Permission to excavate only on part of the site.

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**10 MINUTE BREAK**

# CRCG Proposed Mission Statement

The mission of the Cultural RCG is to provide recommendations that will be used in the creation of an Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project license application. The objective of the HPMP is to outline policies and procedures that will be used for avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating potential adverse effects on historic properties that are being affected or have the potential to be affected by project operations. The CRCG also will provide input regarding ongoing consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a list of categorical exclusions for the project, and provide suggestions for creating public information and/or displays regarding the history and prehistory of the Lake Murray area.



# Goals for the CRCG

- General Recommendations for HPMP
- Ongoing consultation for Saluda Hydroelectric Project
- List of categorical exclusions (in conjunction with Operations and Lake and Land Management RCGs)
- Creating public information and displays for the project
- Other goals?



# Questions

# Saluda Hydroelectric Project



Cultural Resources Conservation Group

# Primary Participants

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G)
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

# Other Participants

- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)
- South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA)
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (ECBI)
- Other Federally Recognized Indian Tribes (on a limited basis)
- The Public

# Public Participation

- Cultural Resources Conservation Group
- Interviews with landowners, local historians, and artifact collectors
- Public Meetings

***The views of the public are essential to informed Federal decision-making in the section 106 process [36 CFR Part 800:2(d)(1)].***

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# Laws, Regulations, and Guidelines

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
  - Section 106
  - Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 800)
- FERC Guidelines for EA and HPMP Preparation
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- SHPO Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations and Survey of Historic Properties



## Section 106 of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470f)

*The head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking .... shall, prior to the issuance of any license ... take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The head of any such Federal agency shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ... a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking.*

# Protection of Historic Properties (*36 CFR Part 800*)

## **Four Basic Steps to Section 106**

- 1) Initiate the Section 106 Process
- 2) Identification of Historic Properties
- 3) Assessment of Adverse Effects
- 4) Resolution of Adverse Effects

# Step 1. Initiate the Section 106 Process

- ✓ Define the Undertaking
- ✓ Identify participants and coordinate with SHPO
- ✓ Define Area of Potential Effects (APE)

## Step 2. Identify Historic Properties

### ✓ Stage I Reconnaissance Survey

- Identify previously recorded historic and archaeological sites
- Identify areas for additional archaeological survey
- Record historic structures

### o Stage II Intensive Survey

- Conduct Intensive Archaeological Survey
  - All Islands
  - Selected areas of the Lake Murray shoreline
  - Selected area along the riverbank of the Lower Saluda River

## Step 3. Assess Adverse Effects

**Are there historic properties that could be affected by the undertaking?**

**Will the undertaking have an adverse effect on those properties?**

*An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.*

- Effects may be direct, indirect, or cumulative.

# Erosion - One example of a Possible Adverse Effect



## Step 4. Resolving Adverse Effects

- Consult with SHPO, Indian tribes, and other consulting parties on ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects
- Prepare Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Programmatic Agreement (PA)
- Prepare Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)
- Implement conditions of MOA/PA and HPMP

# Break – 10 Minutes





# Stage I Survey Areas

- 620 miles of shoreline along Lake Murray



# Stage I Survey Areas

- 25 miles of riverbank on the Saluda, Little Saluda, and Lower Saluda rivers and major tributaries.





Slides Depicting Archaeological Site  
Locations are  
Intentionally Omitted from this Section

# Results of Stage I Reconnaissance Survey

- 42 previously recorded archaeological sites
- 40 new archaeological sites
- Seven previously recorded historic properties
- Eight newly recorded structures (one eligible for the NRHP)

# Field Crew for Stage I



# 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century House Site - 38RD1285



# Vastine-Wessinger House ca. 1891 Greek Revival



# Epting's Campground – est. 1937





# Meetz Family Cemetery 19<sup>th</sup> century - 38LX526



# Saluda Factory 1828-1865



# Saluda Dam Powerhouse – 1930



# Columbia Canal Constructed 1820-1824



# Stage II Intensive Survey

- 735 acres on 139 islands in Lake Murray
- 89 miles of shoreline in 177 areas along Lake Murray
- Four miles of riverbank along the lower Saluda River
- 19 acres on seven islands in the Lower Saluda River

# Islands in Lake Murray



# High Probability Shoreline



# Floodplain and Bluffs along the Lower Saluda River





# Islands in the Lower Saluda River



For Information

<http://www.saludahydrorelicense.com/>



*Saluda*  
**H Y D R O**  
**RELICENSING**

The logo features the word "Saluda" in a black, elegant cursive script. Below it, the word "HYDRO" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with each letter contained within a black square. At the bottom, the word "RELICENSING" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# Discussion and Questions

