

APPENDIX A-12
SALUDA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RESERVOIR DRAWDOWN PROGRAM

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FINAL

SCE&G reserves the right to conduct periodic drawdowns for maintenance, inspections and safety issues as necessary. Additional drawdowns may be necessary for water quality, aquatic plant control and fisheries management. During release of flows for a drawdown, consideration will be given to the effects on downstream resources.

It is the desire of all parties to maintain lake levels in Lake Murray as close to the guide curve as possible. However, SCE&G acknowledges that reservoir drawdowns can be an effective management tool to address problems with undesirable aquatic plants, fisheries management, and water quality; and periodic reservoir draw downs of Lake Murray may be utilized during the new license period as a management tool.

Periodic Drawdowns for Lake Management

Periodic lake drawdowns will be conducted for water quality maintenance, sediment transport and aquatic vegetation management. This also allows opportunities for dock maintenance, shoreline stabilization, excavations and other lake user maintenance activities.

The frequency of drawdowns and inflow trigger are as follows: Implement a winter drawdown to el. 350 ft. PD every third year if the average November flow at the USGS Gage 02167000, Saluda River at Chappells, SC is equal to or greater than 1,500 CFS. The drawdown will be conducted during December. Once the 350 ft. PD (348.5' NAVD88) reservoir elevation has been attained the reservoir will be held at this elevation for a period of 28 days. Following this period, the reservoir will be allowed to return to or above the guide curve as quickly as inflow will allow while maintaining downstream minimum flow requirements.

If a drawdown is not conducted in the third year, SCE&G will convene a meeting with the Drawdown Advisory Group (DAG).

Drawdown Coordination

Adaptive Management Teams consisting of SCE&G, state and federal agencies, and other relicensing stakeholders with relevant experience and interests will be formed. With the exception of DHEC, members of the AMT's must be signatories to the Comprehensive Relicensing Settlement Agreement. A Drawdown Advisory Group (DAG) will meet following the second drawdown after the issuance of a new license. The DAG, structured as a focus group, will consist of SCE&G (chair) and their representatives, lake homeowner groups, lake and river user groups and resource agency technical staff. The DAG shall be responsible to make recommendations relative to timing, frequency, duration and limits of drawdowns. The DAG will prepare summary reports relative to water quality, fisheries, aquatic plant management and other pertinent data relative to Lake Murray and the effects of the drawdowns. Summary reports shall include among other things supporting technical data and any recommendations. The DAG will submit each summary report to the Drawdown Regulatory Committee (DRC). If a three year periodic drawdown does not occur, the DAG will be responsible for defining the parameters on implementing the next drawdown.

The DRC will consist of SCE&G (chair), SCDNR, SCDHEC and USFWS. The role of the DRC will be to review and consider DAG recommendations for changes in drawdowns. The DRC will convene a meeting no later than year 13, to evaluate the drawdown program and determine if modifications are necessary with respect to drawdowns in Lake Murray. Modifications that require actions that are beyond the scope of the new license will require a variance granted by FERC. An adhoc meeting of both the DAG and/or DRC may be convened at any time as conditions warrant.

Special Drawdown

If water quality, aquatic plant or fish population management problems are identified in Lake Murray, a meeting will be convened between SCE&G, appropriate resource agencies (DNR, FWS, DHEC) and interested stakeholders to develop a strategy to address the problem. Attempts should be made to reach a consensus based management decision. If it is agreed

that any management activity is needed, SCE&G, in cooperation with the appropriate resource agencies, will make a reasonable effort to publicly communicate the nature of the problem and the recommended management approach.