

# Fishing Creek Reservoir Perspective

## Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

### Background

Fishing Creek Reservoir was created in 1916 and has approximately 3,112 surface acres of water and 78 miles of shoreline. The Fishing Creek Dam is 1,770 feet long with 21 flood-gates. The lake also provides a dependable water supply for the Chester Metropolitan District and for Springs Industries, Inc. Full pond elevation is 417.2 feet above mean sea level.

Duke Energy provides two boat access areas on the lake in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

### Interests addressed in the CRA

**1. Lake Level Ranges** – Lake level ranges (located in the adjacent chart) have been established to protect fish habitat, public water system, industrial and power generation water intakes, recreation access and aesthetics. Ranges are bounded by normal minimum and normal maximum elevations with a normal target elevation

Fishing Creek Reservoir Lake Elevations (in feet on the 1st of the month)				
Month(s)	Existing Guide Curve	Minimum	Target	Maximum
Jan - Dec 31	97	95	98	100

in between. For Fishing Creek Reservoir the normal target lake level is 98 feet year-round.

**2. Drought Management** – As part of the relicensing process, a Low Inflow Protocol has been established to "trigger" water use restrictions by large water intake owners. These water use restrictions apply to hydroelectric

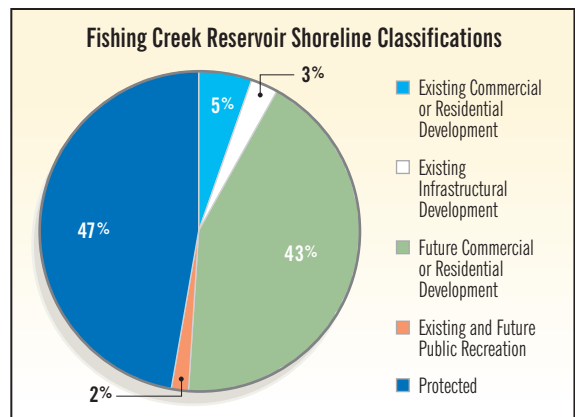
generation, public water system withdrawals and flows for recreation and aquatic life.

**3. Shoreline Management** – Duke Energy operates a comprehensive shoreline management program on all 11 lakes along the Catawba River. Duke Energy's program depends on the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMG) to balance private and public access with protecting the environmental, public recreational, cultural and scenic values. As part of the relicensing process, both the SMP and SMG have been updated. The updated SMP and SMG were implemented in September 2006. The SMG provide rules on what facilities are allowed and how they can be built/constructed/maintained.

Overall, the update to the SMP has resulted in more refined shoreline mapping and additional restrictions on construction activity within the project boundary of the reservoir. The SMP is a series of maps with shoreline classifications denoting locations where piers, marinas, excavations and shoreline stabilization within the project boundary either already exist or can take place. Each shoreline classification has a separate set of restrictions and allowed activities.

**4. Public Information Systems for Lake and River Information** -- Information including reser-

voir level ranges, water release times, generation schedules and maps to public reservoir access will be provided as a result of relicensing. River paddlers and anglers will have access to information on releases from dams to paddle and fish. Information posted on signs will be provided in English and/or international symbols with



signage in Spanish also available immediately downstream of the dams.

### 5. Habitat, Water Quality and Land

**Conservation Enhancements** – Duke Energy will operate the existing hydro units at Fishing Creek Hydro Station to support improvements in dissolved oxygen. Duke Energy will also contribute \$1 million to the Habitat Enhancement Fund in each state to support, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and contribute \$5.32 to \$6.82 million to South Carolina state agencies dependent on the license term for additional land conservation.

Duke Energy will also provide a one-time contri-

### Stakeholders signing the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

In addition to state resource agencies, Duke Energy and national special interest groups – representatives of local entities and public citizens around Fishing Creek Reservoir signed the CRA. These include:

- Carolina Canoe Club
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Catawba Regional Council of Governments
- Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition
- Chester Metropolitan District
- Lancaster County Water and Sewer District
- Springs Industries, Inc.
- South Carolina Wildlife Federation

bution of \$1 million to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to create the Catawba-Wateree Project Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Fund.

#### **6. New and Expanded Public Recreation**

**Facilities/Access** – Recreational enhancements planned for Fishing Creek Reservoir include:

- a. *Springs Park* – Relocate the existing Cane Creek Access and develop two trailered boat ramps, courtesy dock, paved and lighted parking, fishing pier, and bank fishing trail in cooperation with Lancaster County.
- b. *Fishing Creek Access Area* – Provide a fishing pier, additional paved parking, picnic area, rest-

room, and swimming beach if a suitable area is found and offer lease of the site to Chester County.

c. *Highway 9 Access Area* – Provide up to \$215,000 to develop a new trailered boat ramp, courtesy dock and restrooms in the vicinity of the existing Highway 9 Landing if another entity provides the land.

d. *Fishing Creek Tailrace Fishing Area* – Provide a public fishing area (platform, pier or bank fishing trail and paved parking).

#### **7. Public Drinking Water Supply and Water**

**Conservation Programs** -- Water is vital to life and drives our region's economy and way of life.

However, Catawba-Wateree relicensing process studies indicate demands for water will more than double over the next 50 years. A group of approximately 20 water supply experts, including Duke Energy, have outlined water management objectives, identified tangible projects to protect our water supply and proposed a voluntary water conservation fund to finance these projects. The money will come from contributions paid by Duke Energy and other members of the Catawba-Wateree Basin Water Management Group. Contributors to the voluntary fund will determine the timing and priority of projects.



#### **CONTACT**

For more information and updates and other relicensing news, contact Duke Energy at [www.duke-energy.com](http://www.duke-energy.com).