

# Great Falls and Cedar Creek Reservoir Perspectives

## Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

### Background

The Great Falls and Dearborn Hydroelectric Stations are both located on the Great Falls Reservoir. The lake was completed in 1907 with the construction of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Station and has a surface area of approximately 477 acres. The Dearborn Hydroelectric Station was completed in 1923. Full pond elevation is 355.8 feet above mean sea level. There is no public access currently on this lake.

The Cedar Creek and Rocky Creek Hydroelectric Stations are both located on the Cedar Creek Reservoir. The reservoir has a surface area of approximately 847 acres. The lake was completed in 1909 with the construction of the Rocky Creek Hydroelectric Station. The Cedar Creek Hydroelectric Station was built in 1926. Full pond elevation is 284.4 feet above mean sea level.

The combined shoreline length for the two reservoirs is approximately 32 miles.

Duke Energy provides two boat access areas on Cedar Creek Reservoir 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 chart below) have been established to protect fish habitat, public water system, industrial and power generation water intakes, recreation access and aesthetics. Ranges are bound-

ed by normal minimum and normal maximum elevations with a normal target elevation in between. For Great Falls Reservoir and Cedar Creek Reservoir the normal target lake level is 97.5 feet year-round.

Great Falls Reservoir Elevations (in feet on the 1st of the month)				
Month(s)	Existing Guide Curve	Minimum	Target	Maximum
Jan - Dec 31	98	95	97.5	100

Cedar Creek Reservoir Elevations (in feet on the 1st of the month)				
Month(s)	Existing Guide Curve	Minimum	Target	Maximum
Jan - Dec 31	98	96	97.5	100

**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. Habitat, Water Quality and Land

**Conservation Enhancements** – Duke Energy will modify the diversion dams and provide continuous water releases into the two bypassed reaches to support fish habitat. These water releases will also include improvements in dissolved oxygen to support water quality. 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 contribution 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.

### 4. Public Information Systems for Lake and River Information

-- Information including reservoir level ranges, water release times, generation schedules and maps to public access areas 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.

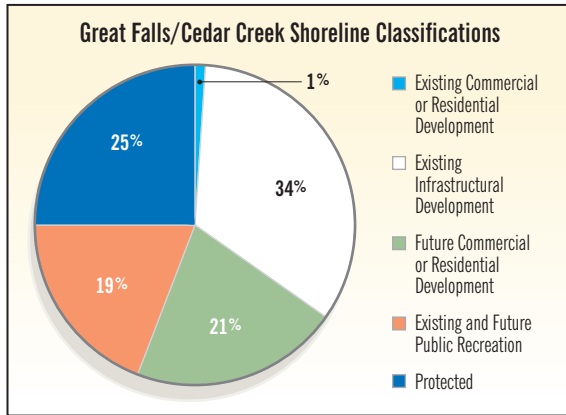
**5. Shoreline Management** – Duke Energy operates a comprehensive shoreline management program on all 11 lakes along the Catawba River. Duke Energy's program depends on the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMG) to balance private and public access with protecting 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

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

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

- American Whitewater
- Carolina Canoe Club
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition
- Chester Metropolitan District
- Great Falls Hometown Association
- South Carolina Wildlife Federation
- Town of Great Falls

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.

**6. Flows from Hydro Dams for Recreation –** Interest in paddling and river fishing is growing and as a result of relicensing, water will be released into the Great Falls Long Bypassed reach on approximately 22 scheduled days per year and the short bypassed reach on approximately 28 scheduled days per year (see adjacent chart) to provide and promote canoe/kayaking in the river bypassed sections downstream of Great Falls Reservoir. This flow release

Great Falls - Dearborn Development Recreational Flow Schedule					
Channel	Dates (inclusive)	Days / Description	Flow (cfs) (at or above)	Start	End
Long Bypassed Reach	Mar 1 thru Oct 31	Two Saturdays per month	2,940	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
		A total of four Sundays	2,940		
Short Bypassed Reach	Mar 1 thru Oct 31	One Saturday per month to correspond with Long Bypass releases	2,860	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
	May 1 thru Oct 31	Two weekends (Saturday and Sunday) per month	2,860		
Both Bypassed Reaches		Ten discretionary hours in blocks of not less than one hour each	5,800		

schedule was developed through technical study and working in partnership with paddling and fishing interests.

**7. New and Expanded Public Recreation Facilities/Access –** Recreational enhancements planned for Great Falls Reservoir and Cedar Creek Reservoir include:

a. *Highway 200 Bridge Access Area* – Acquire approximately 1 to 5 acres in the vicinity of the Highway 200, Highway 21 and Fishing Creek intersection for canoe/kayak launch, restrooms, and gravel parking area.

b. *Lower Great Falls Reservoir Canoe/Kayak Launch* – Acquire approximately 1 to 7 acres and construct a canoe/kayak launch on Great Falls Reservoir downstream of Great Falls Headworks and lease site to SCDPRT.

Great Falls Long Bypassed Reach  
c. *Great Falls Diversion Dam Portage* – Develop a portage trail on the north end of Mountain

Island to provide boater access to Great Falls Long Bypassed Reach.

d. *Great Falls Reservoir Boating Safety* – Evaluate safety concerns and construct and maintain any necessary boating safety devices upstream of the diversion dam.

Great Falls Short Bypassed Reach

e. *Great Falls Headworks Portage* – Provide a

portage trail on Mountain Island around the Great Falls Headworks to provide boater access to the Short Bypassed Reach.

f. *Great Falls Headworks-to-Cedar Creek Reservoir Portage* – Provide a portage trail along the Short Bypassed Reach to Cedar Creek Reservoir.

Rocky Creek - Cedar Creek Development

g. *Cedar Creek Reservoir Island Improvements* – Lease to SC Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism (SCDPRT), the islands in the Great Falls-Cedar Creek Island Complex for state park development, management of the Dearborn Armory site and provide up to \$1 million to SCDPRT for island complex development and management. Construct an ADA-compliant pedestrian bridge from the Lower Great Falls Reservoir Canoe/Kayak Launch to Dearborn Island.

h. *Mudcat Inn Access Area* – Acquire approximately 1 to 5 acres and build a canoe/kayak access facility with approximately ten gravel parking spaces and lease the site to the Town of Great Falls.

**8. 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). 1/2007