

**KEOWEE-TOXAWAY PROJECT**  
**FERC No.2503**  
**Recreation Use and Needs Study**

**November 16, 2006 Stakeholder Meeting**  
**Meeting Summary**

A public stakeholder meeting was held on November 16, 2006 at The World of Energy at Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station to present the Study Plan for the Keowee-Toxaway Recreation Use and Needs (RUN) Study. Forty attendees registered.

The meeting was conducted by Scott Jolley, Recreation Planner, Duke Energy; and consultants Jot Splenda, Project Manager, Louis Berger Group; and Bill Ambrose, Facilitator, Heron Cove Partners.

Introduction

Scott Jolley welcomed the attendees and provided an overview of the basis for the study. Scott explained that Duke Energy initiated the study to better understand how the public currently uses the Project's recreation resources and to estimate how public recreation needs may grow in the future on both Keowee and Jocassee. Data collection for the study will begin in December 2006 and will take approximately one year to complete. The study will help Duke, state and local agencies, and commercial recreation providers manage existing facilities and plan for future public recreation needs.

Scott explained that Duke assembled a Study Team to help develop the study plan and manage the study. Team members were selected based on their interest and experience in natural resource and reservoir-related public recreation planning. The study team brings approximately 250 years of recreation planning and 100 years of natural resource planning experience to the Keowee-Toxaway RUN Study.

Study Plan Presentation

Jot Splenda provided a power point presentation of the study plan. The presentation reviewed the objectives, basis, and geographic and temporal scope for the study, and discussed the data collection and analysis methodologies. The presentation concluded with discussion of the expected results and study schedule. Both the presentation and the study plan will be posted on the Duke Energy Keowee-Toxaway Project website.

## Discussion

Attendees provided comments throughout the presentation. Discussion focused on three primary areas related to public recreation:

1. Shoreline Development
2. Boating Density/Capacity
3. Economic Impact

**Shoreline Development** – Concerned was expressed by several attendees about negative impacts of future residential shoreline development on Lake Keowee. One attendee referred specifically to a proposed condo development and “vertical marina” (dry stack boat storage) facility. A suggestion was made to review the growth in approved Duke Energy shoreline permits

Response – The RUN Study is not a shoreline development study. However, residential shoreline development projections and Oconee and Pickens County population growth projections will be considered in estimating future public recreation use and facility needs. Past growth in Duke Energy shoreline permits is not a good measure of future growth.

**Boating Density/Capacity** – Several attendees expressed concerns that future residential shoreline development, specifically including a proposed condo/vertical marina development, will increase boating density on Lake Keowee.

An attendee suggested that the SCDNR Boat Registration Database be used to survey boaters. Other attendees suggested that the study consider boating accident data; suggested separating boaters by boat landing users, marina users, and shoreline residents; and suggested that lake levels be monitored during data collection.

Response - Residential shoreline development projections and Oconee and Pickens County population growth projections will be evaluated in estimating future public recreation use, including boating use. The SCDNR Boat Registration Database could be useful in looking at past trends in boat registrations; however the objective is to consider the opinions of boaters about Lake Keowee and Jocassee, who are actually using the lakes for recreation. The study will review and report on available boating accident data. The Boating Density/Capacity analysis does not focus on where boats originate, although the study will provide an estimate of boats originating from the public boat landings, and state and county parks. Finally, lake levels will be recorded and assessed during the year of data collection to determine possible impacts on recreation use.

**Economic Impact** – Some attendees misunderstood that a primary objective of the study is to provide an overall economic analysis of the Keowee-Toxaway Project. Comments

indicated that recreation is a minor contributor to total economic impact (the economic benefit of buying fishing bait is minor compared to my rip rap and boat dock).

Response – Characterizing the economic value of recreation is not a primary driver of the study. Some level of economic analysis is common to similar recreation studies and was included in the study plan for the benefit of Oconee and Pickens Counties.

### Conclusion

Bill Ambrose provided a summary observation of the presentation and related discussion. He observed that contributions to the discussion came primarily from Lake Keowee shoreline residents. As such it is reasonable that the main concerns of residents would be related to additional residential shoreline development, boating density, and economic benefits. However the attendees were reminded that the central focus of and purpose for the RUN Study is to evaluate current public recreation use, to estimate future public recreation demand, and to identify current and future public recreation facility needs.

Bill thanked the attendees for their participation and invited them to send any follow-up questions to him by email.