

## **DPNA Update to TCST and NCST Members – Fall 2004**

Fellow Nantahala Area Stakeholders,

I hope all of you are doing well and didn't experience problems from the heavy rains and high winds caused by Hurricanes Frances and Ivan. High water caused the flashboards to fall at the Whiteoak Creek Diversion Dam and the Tuckasegee Dam. The Tennessee Creek and Cedar Cliff generators were flooded and the tailrace at the Thorpe Plant was filled with debris from a slide. These problems are minor when compared to the loss of lives and personal property suffered by the residents of Jackson and Macon Counties. Our prayers are with those that experienced loss of loved ones or personal loss of property.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process for the East Fork, West Fork and Nantahala Projects is methodically moving forward toward conclusion. I have included in this update a FERC relicensing schedule and a flowchart on pages 10 and 11 showing where the FERC is in their review process. You'll note that we currently expect FERC to hold public meetings in the area in November 2004 to gather additional input for use in their Environmental Assessments. I hope to see (and hear!) many of you at these very important public meetings.

### **Topics discussed in this update include the following:**

- **DPNA Hydro Emergency Operations**
- **FERC Additional Information Requests**
- **Access Area Planning**
- **Discussions with Organizations that didn't Sign the Settlement Agreement(s)**
- **DPNA Reservoir Levels with Charts and Graphs**
- **Hydropower History Document**
- **Recreation Schedule Planning meeting**
- **Lake and River Access Information**
- **USGS Gage Reactivation**
- **Post-Submittal Application Review Process & Milestone Schedule**

### **DPNA Hydro Preparations for and Operations during Hurricanes Frances and Ivan**

DPNA began monitoring the movement of Hurricane Frances on September 1 and implemented the following steps in the interest of public safety and to support safe operation of our dams:

- Beginning Wednesday September 1, Duke Power hydro plants in the Nantahala Area began running around the clock. This was a precautionary measure to increase reservoir storage capacity in case heavy rains from Hurricane Frances came into the area.

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- On September 7, stormwater from heavy rains exceeded the storage capacity of Tanasee Creek, Wolf Creek, Bear Creek and Cedar Cliff Reservoirs on the East Fork of the Tuckasegee River in Jackson County. Stormwater caused the automatic float-controlled spillway gate to open to maximum height, 25 feet at Cedar Cliff Reservoir releasing approximately 13,000 cfs into the East Fork of the Tuckasegee River. Operating the Thorpe Plant 24 hours a day prior to the arrival of Frances proved beneficial because Lake Glenville did not spill water during Hurricane Frances which lessened the impact of flood waters in the Tuckasegee. Nantahala Lake also did not spill water during Frances.

Immediately after Frances, DPNA began closely monitoring Hurricane Ivan and its potential impact to our service area and implemented the following actions:

- In addition to the continued operation of all DPNA plants 24 hours per day, water was released through the Tainter gates from Glenville Dam, Cedar Cliff Dam, Bear Creek Dam, and Tanasee Creek Dam to make room for stormwater from September 14 until the arrival of Ivan.
- The heavy rains from Ivan caused all East Fork and West Fork reservoirs to spill water through the Tainter gates. The combined spill total into the Tuckasegee River was approximately 12,500 cfs at its peak. Releasing water through the spill gates from the East Fork and West Fork dams prior to the arrival of Ivan proved beneficial by spreading the spill release out over a longer time period, thus reducing and delaying the peak river flow. Nantahala Lake Tainter gates were also opened 4 feet for a maximum spill of approximately 700 cfs.

### **FERC Additional Information Requests**

- The Dillsboro Project License Surrender Application, which included the Dillsboro Dam Removal Environmental and Biological Assessments, was filed with the FERC on May 28, 2004. FERC is presently reviewing the License Surrender Application and has requested additional information from DPNA. The DPNA response to the requests for additional information was filed with the FERC on September 30, 2004.
- The East Fork Project and the West Fork Project License Applications were filed with the FERC on January 26, 2004. FERC requested additional information from DPNA and the DPNA response was filed with the FERC on July 15, 2004.
- The Nantahala Project License Application was filed with the FERC on February 20, 2004. FERC requested additional information from DPNA and the DPNA response was filed with the FERC on August 25, 2004.
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### **Access Area Planning**

Conceptual layouts and meetings are scheduled to discuss the following access area projects:

- Duke Power has drafted a conceptual layout for improvements to East Laporte Park and the proposed Lake Glenville Swimming Beach Area and is scheduled to meet with Jackson County on October 7 for discussions.
- Duke Power has drafted a conceptual layout for improvements to the Cullowhee Dam Portage Area and is scheduled to meet with Western Carolina University on October 6 for discussions.
- Duke Power will meet with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on October 6 to provide them with an overview of planned access area projects for the DPNA.
- Duke Power has purchased a “sweet smelling” concrete single vault restroom for the Wolf Creek Access Area that will be delivered and installed soon after Highway 281 is repaired.

### **Discussions with Organizations that Didn’t Sign the Settlement Agreements**

Donley Hill and Steve Reed continue to explore opportunities that could potentially resolve outstanding issues between DPNA, Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District, Western North Carolina Alliance and the Jackson County Manager. If we are able to identify any promising options for adding some of these organizations as new signatories to either Settlement Agreement, we will certainly inform and meet with all the parties to the applicable agreement(s) to determine if any of the identified options would be acceptable to the existing signatory parties.

### **Reservoir Level Agreements**

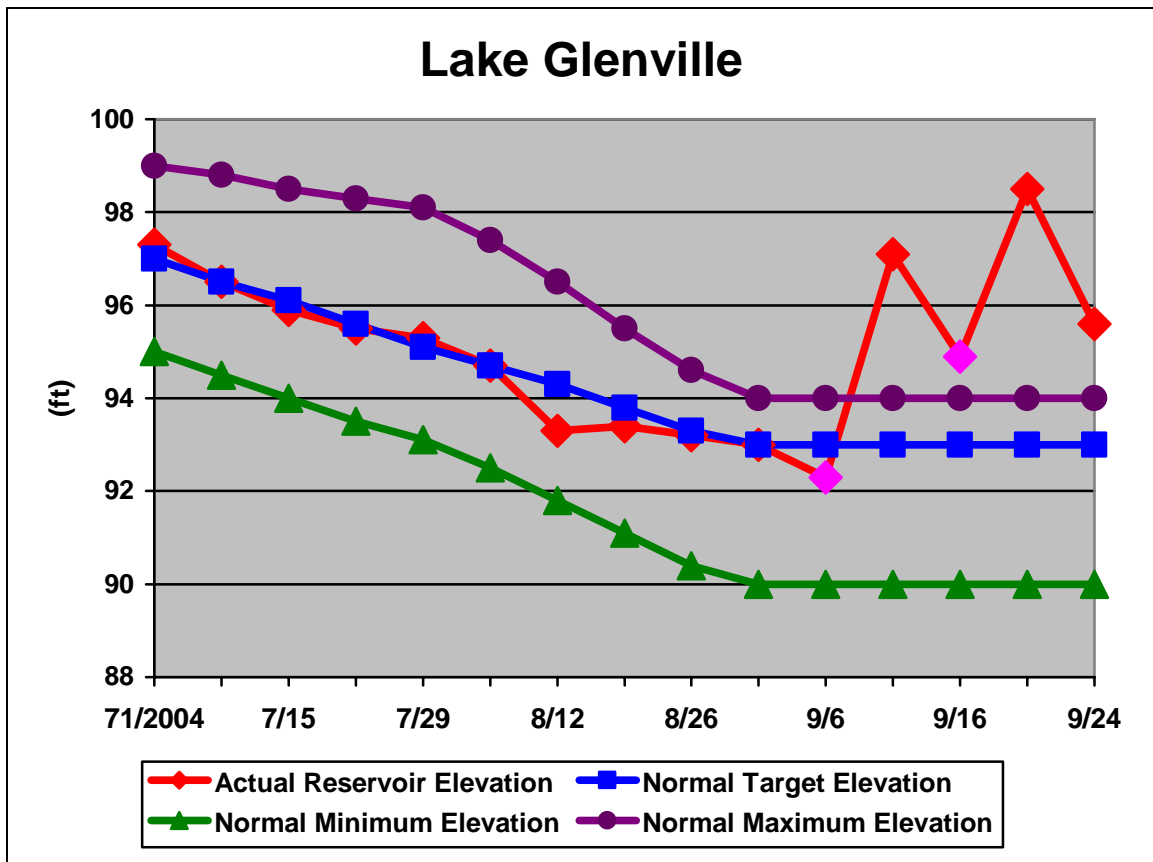
Beginning January 1, 2004, DPNA began using the agreed-upon Normal Operating Ranges for lake levels at each West Fork, East Fork and Nantahala Project reservoir. The following graph for each reservoir presents a good picture showing that DPNA is continuing to meet its commitment to maintain lake levels at the DPNA reservoirs during normal weather conditions. As you will recall, we considered high flow events in the development of the settlement agreements, but a 15 to 20-inch rainfall in a two-week period that fell in the DPNA wasn’t considered when developing the Normal Operating Ranges. The individual graphs also show the preparations for and operations during the storm periods. The time period shown in the graphs is from 7/01/2004 to 9/24/2004. Lake level information can be obtained at [www.nantahalapower.com](http://www.nantahalapower.com). After reaching the Nantahala Area home page, click on Lakes & Recreation followed by clicking on Lake Levels. Next, select and click on the lake that you wish to view lake level information. Lake level information can also be obtained by calling 866-332-5253.

Lake Glenville

Month	Normal Minimum Elevation (ft)	Normal Target Elevation (ft)	Normal Maximum Elevation (ft)
Jul <sup>2</sup>	95	97	99
Aug <sup>2</sup>	93	95	98
Sep <sup>2</sup>	90	93	94
Oct <sup>2</sup>	90	93	94

<sup>2</sup>The elevations in the above table are for the first day of month and other days are calculated by interpolation within each table.

◆ Lake Elevation the day prior to arrival of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan



Normal Full Pond Elevation = 100.0 ft = 3491.7 ft (USGS datum)

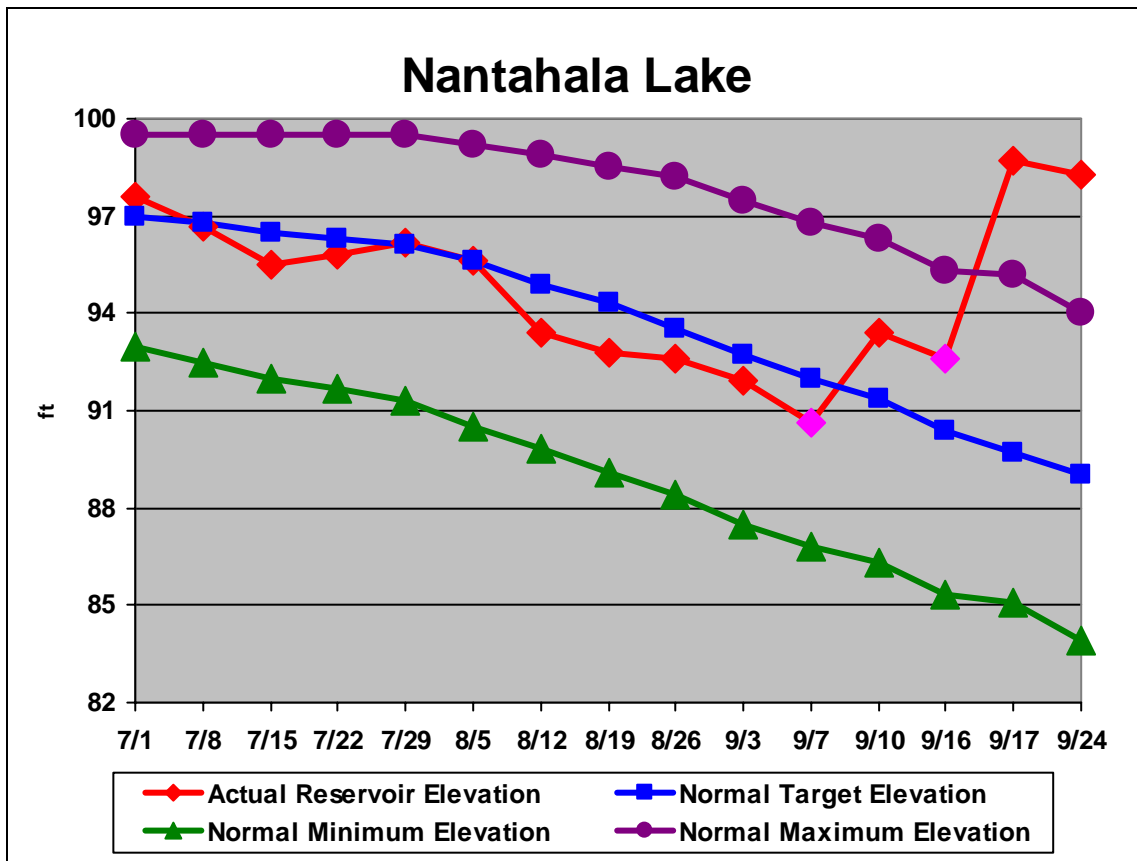
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Nantahala Lake

Month	Normal Minimum Elevation (ft)	Normal Target Elevation (ft)	Normal Maximum Elevation (ft)
Jul <sup>2</sup>	93	97	99.5
Aug <sup>2</sup>	91	96	99.5
Sep <sup>2</sup>	88	93	98
Oct <sup>2</sup>	83	88	93

<sup>2</sup>The elevations in the above table are for the first day of month and other days are calculated by interpolation within each table.

◆ Lake Elevation the day prior to arrival of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan



Normal Full Pond Elevation = 100.0 ft = 3012.2 ft (USGS datum)

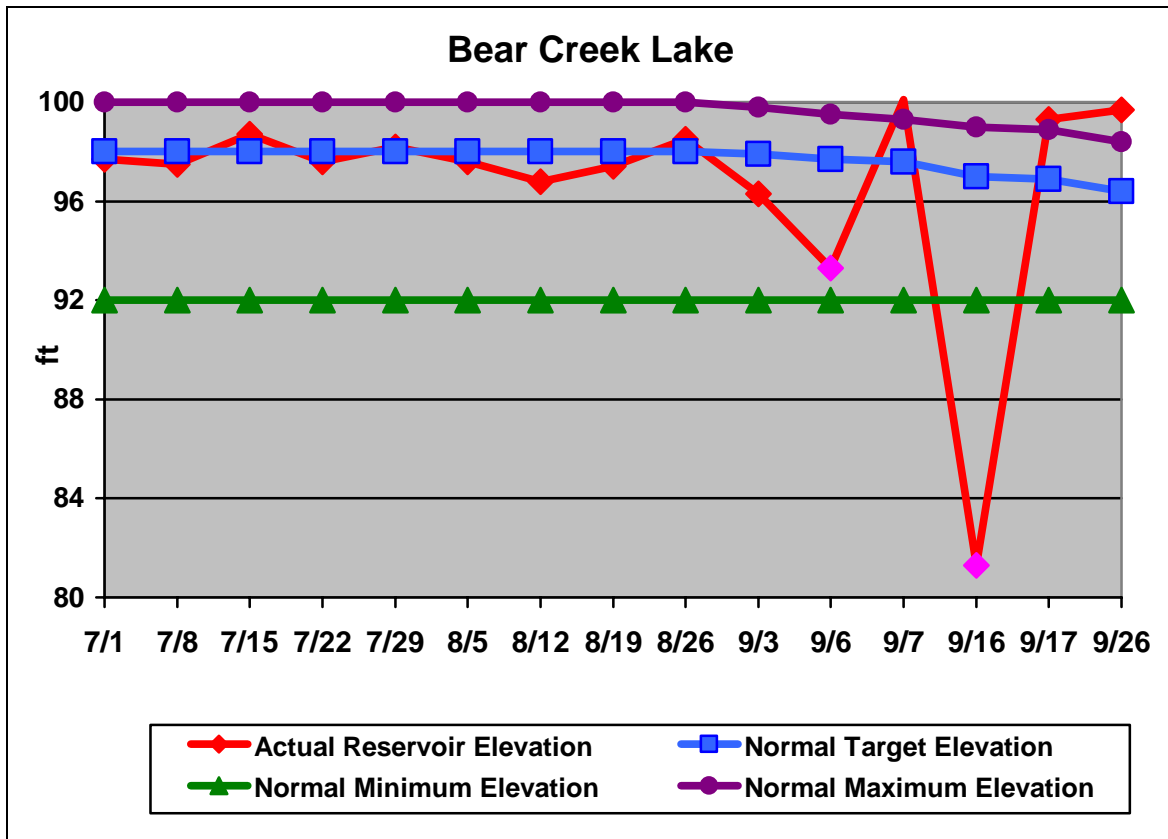
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Bear Creek Lake

Month	Normal Minimum Elevation (ft)	Normal Target Elevation (ft)	Normal Maximum Elevation (ft)
Jul <sup>2</sup>	92	98	100
Aug <sup>2</sup>	92	98	100
Sep <sup>2</sup>	92	98	100
Oct <sup>2</sup>	92	96	98

<sup>2</sup>The elevations in the above table are for the first day of month and other days are calculated by interpolation within each table.

◆ Lake Elevation the day prior to arrival of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan



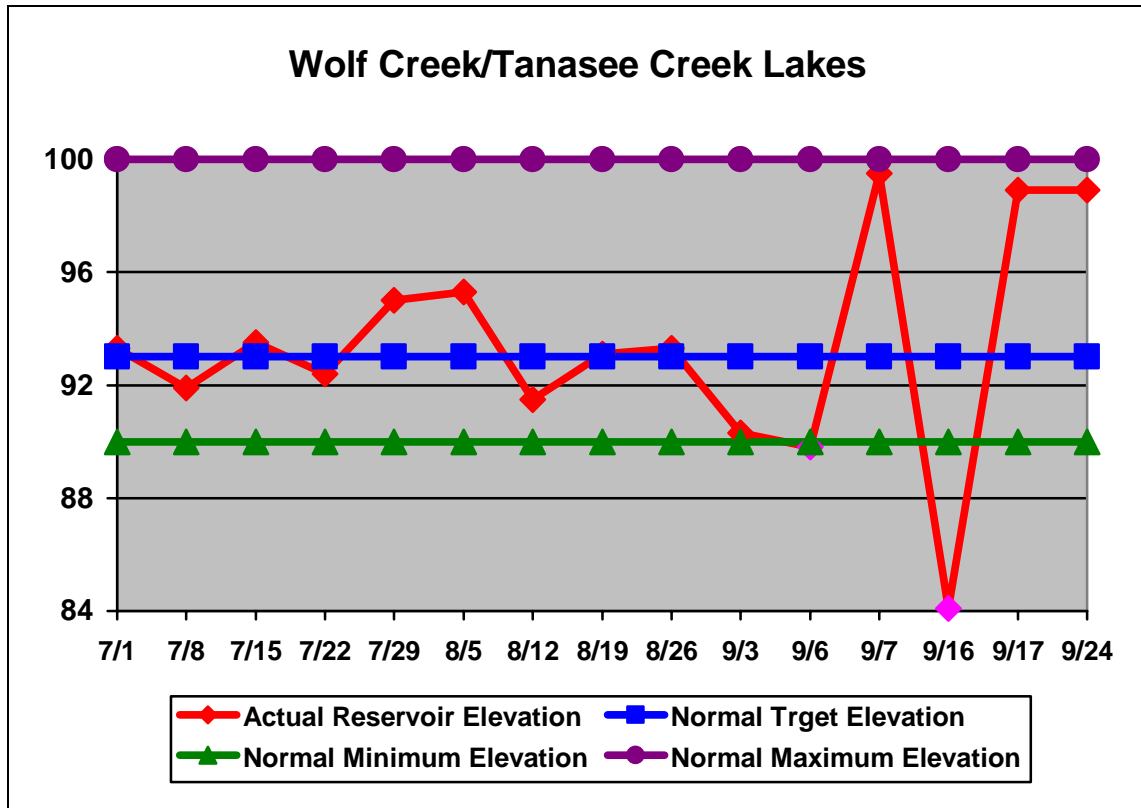
Normal Full Pond Elevation = 100.0 ft = 2560.0 ft (USGS datum)

Wolf Creek/Tanasee Creek Lakes

Month	Normal Minimum Elevation (ft)	Normal Target Elevation (ft)	Normal Maximum Elevation (ft)
Jul <sup>2</sup>	90	93	100
Aug <sup>2</sup>	90	93	100
Sep <sup>2</sup>	90	93	100
Oct <sup>2</sup>	90	93	100

<sup>2</sup>The elevations in the above table are for the first day of month and other days are calculated by interpolation within each table.

◆ Lake Elevation the day prior to arrival of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan



Normal Full Pond Elevation = 100.0 ft = 3080.0 ft (USGS datum)

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### Miscellaneous Topics

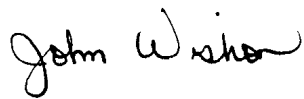
1. Hydropower History Document – Recall that DPNA committed in the Settlement Agreements to work with the Town of Dillsboro and other partners to develop a brief written history of hydropower in western North Carolina, particularly in the Tuckasegee and Nantahala River Basins by December 31, 2004. A draft history of hydropower document has been developed and has been reviewed by the Town of Dillsboro. The document is very large and a CD copy will be mailed to all stakeholders by October 15, 2004. Please review the document and send comments to Jen Huff at [jrhuff@duke-energy.com](mailto:jrhuff@duke-energy.com).
2. Recreation Schedule Planning Meeting – DPNA committed in the TCST and NCST Settlement Agreements to begin hosting the annual recreation schedule planning meeting in October 2004. The meeting will be held at the end of October with all “interested parties” being notified of the date and time of the meeting within the next few days.
3. Lake and River Access Information – DPNA committed in the Settlement Agreements to work with the NCWRC, USFWS and the USFS to provide lake access recreational information signs and wildlife information for 8 sites on the East Fork and West Fork Projects and 3 sites on the Nantahala Project. DPNA also agreed to work with the NCWRC to provide river access information on the Tuckasegee and Nantahala Rivers. DPNA has consulted with the NCWRC concerning the project and will also consult with the USFS and USFWS. The initial phase is to meet with the educational specialists from the mentioned agencies and document the needed information. The developed information will be printed and displayed on kiosks.
4. USGS Gage Reactivation Update –
  - The Dillsboro Gage located at Barkers Creek and the second gage on the Tuckasegee River located approximately 1.3 miles downstream of the old gage at a new concrete bridge at SR 1172 Moody Bridge have been installed. River stage or gage height data for the two Tuckasegee River sites are available for review at the following USGS websites:  
  
[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=03508050&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/uv/?site_no=03508050&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)  
[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=03510577&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/uv/?site_no=03510577&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)
  - The USGS advises users that this information is very preliminary and subject to revision pending a closer review.

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- The USGS is working toward having the Nantahala River Gage installed by mid October and calibrated before the end of the year.
- When complete by USGS, all 3 of these gages will provide real-time flow data in cfs.

If you have questions, please call me at 828-369-4604.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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### Post-Submittal Application Review Process & Milestone Schedule

The following table lists the FERC post-submittal review process and a tentative milestone schedule for each license application.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>Franklin</b>	<b>Bryson</b>	<b>Dillsboro<sup>1</sup> Surrender</b>	<b>East Fork</b>	<b>West Fork</b>	<b>Nantahala</b>
<b>Submittal</b>	7/03	7/03	7/03	5/04	1/04	1/04	2/04
<b>Comments on TCST and NCST SAs</b>					6/24/04 <sup>4</sup> 7/05/04 <sup>5</sup>	6/24/04 <sup>4</sup> 7/05/04 <sup>5</sup>	6/24/04 <sup>4</sup> 7/05/04 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Motions to Intervene</b>	11/03	11/03	11/03	7/04	7/04	7/04	8/04 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Additional Information Request #1</b>	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Scoping Meetings</b>	Complete	Complete	Complete	11/04 <sup>3</sup>	11/04 <sup>2</sup>	11/04 <sup>2</sup>	11/04 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Additional Information Request #2</b>	Complete	Complete	Complete	12/04 <sup>3</sup> (if necessary)	12/04 <sup>2</sup> (if necessary)	12/04 <sup>2</sup> (if necessary)	12/04 <sup>2</sup> (if necessary)
<b>Application is Ready for EA</b>	8/04	8/04	8/04	1/05 <sup>3</sup>	1/05 <sup>2</sup>	1/05 <sup>2</sup>	1/05 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Draft EA</b>	2/05	2/05	2/05	4/05 <sup>3</sup>	4/05 <sup>2</sup>	4/05 <sup>2</sup>	4/05
<b>Final EA</b>	5/05	5/05	5/05	7/05 <sup>3</sup>	7/05 <sup>2</sup>	7/05 <sup>2</sup>	7/05
<b>Final License Issues</b>	8/05	8/05	8/05	9/05 <sup>3</sup>	1/06	1/06	2/06

<sup>1</sup> The Dillsboro License Surrender Application, in accordance with the Tuckasegee and Nantahala Settlement Agreements was submitted to the FERC on May 28, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Estimate based on FERC schedule provided for the Nantahala Project and the Dillsboro Dam Removal License Surrender Application.

<sup>3</sup> Estimate based on FERC schedule for Dillsboro Dam License Surrender Application.

<sup>4</sup> The deadline for filing comments on the Settlement Agreements.

<sup>5</sup> The deadline for filing reply comments on the Settlement Agreements.

## Post-Submittal Application Processing Steps

