

# Lake Wateree Perspective

## Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

### Background

Lake Wateree was created in 1920 for the operation of Wateree Hydroelectric Station. Lake Wateree has approximately 13,864 surface acres and 181 miles of shoreline and is the second largest of the eleven-lake system on the Catawba and Wateree rivers. The lake also provides a dependable water supply for the Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority and the City of Camden, South Carolina. Full pond elevation is 225.5 feet above mean sea level.

As the most downstream reservoir and considering that much of the shoreline is gently sloping, Lake Wateree typically experiences more frequent shoreline flooding and for longer durations than do the other reservoirs.

Duke Energy provides seven boat access areas on the lake and one below the dam 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 in between. For Lake Wateree the normal target lake

level is seasonal and ranges from 94.5 feet to 97 feet.

**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 replace one of the existing hydro units at Wateree Hydro Station with a new aerating runner and will operate the hydro units to provide continuous flows to support fish habitat in the river section downstream. 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. Flood Management Improvements** – Dam structure modifications valued at approximately \$5.71 million to improve high water management have been identified for Lake Wateree. Provided the detailed engineering designs and subsequent agency approvals are supportive, both Lake Wateree homeowners associations are parties to the CRA and the New License term is 50 years, Duke Energy would install an inflatable bladder dam along the dam's spillway to provide approximately 10,000 cfs flow release capacity to substantially improve flood management capabilities at Lake Wateree. The dam modifications will not however, have a substantial effect on larger flooding events.

**5. 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.

Lake Wateree Elevations (in feet on the 1st of the month)				
Month(s)	Existing Guide Curve	Minimum	Target	Maximum
Jan	94.5	93	94.5	100
Feb	95.5	93	95	100
Mar - Oct	97	94	97	100
Nov	97	93	97	100
Dec	95.5	93	95	100
Dec 31	94.5	93	94.5	100

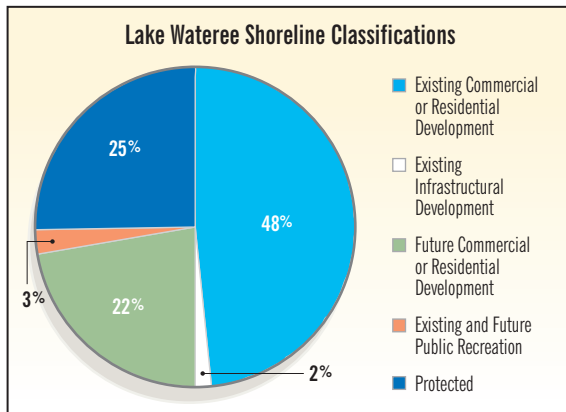
### Stakeholders signing the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

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

- Carolina Canoe Club
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition
- City of Camden
- Great Falls Hometown Association
- Kershaw County
- Kershaw County Conservation District
- Lake Wateree Association
- Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority
- International Paper
- South Carolina Wildlife Federation
- South Carolina Electric and Gas
- Town of Great Falls
- Wateree Homeowners Association – Fairfield

ed 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.

**6. 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.

**7. Flows from Hydro Dams for Recreation** – Interest in paddling and river fishing is growing and as a result of relicensing, water will be released from Wateree Hydro Station on approximately 47 scheduled days per year (see adjacent chart) to provide and promote canoe/kayaking and fishing in the river section downstream of Lake Wateree. This flow release schedule was developed through technical study and working in partnership with paddling and fishing interests.

Wateree Development Recreational Flow Schedule				
Dates (inclusive)	Days / Description	Flow (cfs) (at or above)	Start	End
Apr 1 – 31	Last full weekend - Saturday and Sunday	2,760	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
May 1 – Jul 31	Each Saturday and Sunday plus Memorial and Independence Days	2,760	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
Sep 1 – 30	Each Saturday and Sunday plus Labor Day	2,760	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
Oct 1 – 31	Each Saturday and Sunday	2,760	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
	Ten discretionary hours in blocks of no less than one hour each	2,760		

**8. New and Expanded Public Recreation Facilities/Access** – Recreational enhancements planned for Lake Wateree and the river section downstream include:

- a. *Wateree Creek Access Area* – Provide a public fishing pier, a 5-10 table picnic area, restrooms and approximately a ten-space gravel parking area.
- b. *Molly Creek Park* – Acquire approximately 100 acres and market to commercial operators for development of a multi-use recreation area including facilities such as swimming, RV camping, bathhouse, dump station, paved parking, restrooms, marine pump-out, trails, bank and pier fishing, picnic areas and boat access.
- c. *Lake Wateree State Park Management Zone* – Lease a lake management zone (300 horizontal feet lakeward from full pond elevation along the shoreline adjoining the state park) to SCDPRT.
- d. *East Wateree Access Improvements* –

Provide funding to Kershaw County (up to \$900,000 total) for the County to construct two motorized boat ramps with a courtesy dock,

paved and lighted parking, and a swimming area with bath house and paved parking on county-acquired property to improve public access to the east side of Lake Wateree.

- e. *Lake Wateree Recreation Lands* – Convey approximately 800 acres of land adjoining the Heritage Project, Cedar Creek Access Area and Lake Wateree to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) for public recreation and compatible permanent conservation.
  - f. *Colonels Creek Access Area* – Provide a courtesy dock, swimming area, restrooms, a picnic shelter and additional paved parking through a lease to Fairfield County.
  - g. *Taylor's Creek Access Area* – Expand the existing access area by approximately three acres (total of approximately 10 acres) and provide approximately 10 gravel parking spaces.
  - h. *Lugoff Access Area* – Provide restrooms and improved gravel parking.
- 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, includ-

ing Duke Energy, have outlined water management objectives, identified tangible projects to protect our water supply and proposed a volun-

tary 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).