

# Lake Wylie Perspective

## Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

### Background

Lake Wylie was named after Dr. W. Gil Wylie, who organized the Catawba Power Company, a predecessor of Duke Energy. It is the oldest lake on the Catawba River. The lake was first created in 1904 by a dam near Fort Mill, South Carolina.

The dam was rebuilt and enlarged in 1924 and the lake's surface expanded to approximately 13,443 acres and 334 miles of shoreline. In addition to supporting Wylie Hydroelectric Station, Lake Wylie also supports Allen Steam Station and Catawba Nuclear Station with cooling water and provides a dependable water supply for Belmont, NC and Rock Hill, SC as well as several industries. Full pond elevation at Lake Wylie is 569.4 feet above mean sea level.

Duke Energy currently provides six public boat access areas (with one leased to Mecklenburg County and one to York County), one bank fishing area in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and one boat access area below Wylie Dam in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

### Interests addressed in the CRA

1. **Lake Level Ranges** – Lake level ranges (locat-

ed in the adjacent chart) have been established to protect fish habitat, public water system, industrial and power generation water intakes,

Lake Wylie Elevations (in feet on the 1st of the month)				
Month(s)	Existing Guide Curve	Minimum	Target	Maximum
Jan - Dec 31	97	94	97	100

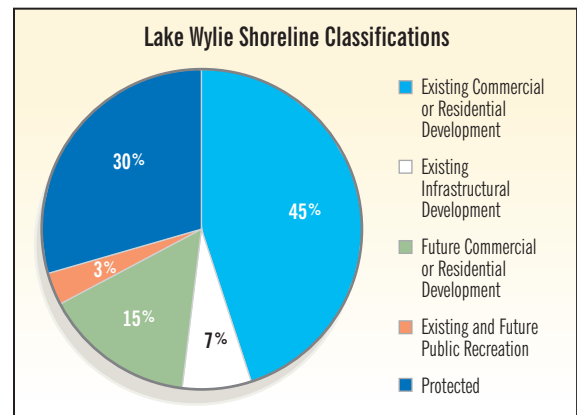
recreation access and aesthetics. Ranges are bounded by normal minimum and normal maximum elevations with a normal target elevation in between. For Lake Wylie the normal target lake level is 97 feet year-round.

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

### 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 Wylie signed the CRA. These include:

- Bowater, Inc.
- Carolina Canoe Club
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Catawba Lands Conservancy
- Catawba Regional Council of Governments
- Catawba River Water Plant
- Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition
- Centralina Council of Governments
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities
- City of Belmont
- City of Mount Holly
- City of Rock Hill
- Gaston County Quality of Natural Resources Committee
- Harbortowne Marina
- Lake Wylie Marine Commission
- Lancaster County Water and Sewer District
- Mecklenburg County
- North Carolina Wildlife Federation
- South Carolina Wildlife Federation
- Union County
- York County
- York County Culture & Heritage Commission

already exist or can take place. Each shoreline classification has a separate set of restrictions and allowed activities.

**4. 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 Wylie Hydro Station on approximately 69 scheduled days per year (see adjacent chart) to provide and promote canoe/kayaking and fishing in the river section downstream of Lake Wylie. This flow release schedule was developed through technical study and working in partnership with paddling and fishing interests.

**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 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. Duke Energy will also work with several other organizations to develop an historic canoe trail map for the river section downstream of Wylie Dam.

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

a. *Dutchmans Creek Access Area* – Provide a canoe/kayak access and approximately ten gravel parking spaces and lease to the City of Mount Holly.

b. *Saddler Island* – Lease approximately 37-acre island to the US National Whitewater Center.

c. *Upper Lake Wylie Access* – Provide Mecklenburg County up to \$435,000 to build a new boat access area.

d. *South Point Access Area* – Market access area to a commercial operator to provide camping, fishing, swimming and hiking facilities.

e. *Buster Boyd Access Area* – Install restrooms.

Wylie Development Recreational Flow Schedule				
Dates (inclusive)	Days / Description	Flow (cfs) (at or above)	Start	End
Apr 1 – 30	Last full weekend - Saturday and Sunday	3,000	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
May 1 – Jun 15	Each Friday, Saturday & Sunday plus Memorial Day	3,000	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
Jun 16 – Jul 15	Each Friday, Saturday & Sunday plus Independence Day	6,000	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
Jul 16 – Aug 31	Each Saturday and Sunday	6,000	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
Sep 1 – 30	Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday plus Labor Day	6,000	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
Oct 1 – 31	Each Saturday and Sunday	3,000	10 a.m.	3 p.m.
	Ten discretionary hours in blocks of no less than one hour each	3,000		

f. *York County EMS Facility* – Lease approximately one acre of property to York County for emergency access.

g. *Allison Creek Access Area* – Add approximately 48 acres to the site and develop an RV campground with all amenities and York County will lease and manage.

h. *Rock Hill Park* – Lease land to City for park across the cove from the City's water intake, to include fishing, picnicking, swimming, restrooms and parking facilities.

i. *Canoe/Kayak Access Area at the Catawba Indian Reservation* – Provide the Catawba Indians up to \$165,000 to build a new canoe launch and parking area.

j. *Canoe and Kayak Access at Lansford Canal State Park* – Provide the SC Department of

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCDPRT) up to \$265,000 to build a new canoe launch with approximately 50 parking spaces and toilet facilities.

k. *Fort Mill Access Area and Trail* – Provide restrooms and two picnic tables, provide approximately one mile of trail easement.

l. *Simpson Island Access* – Provide York County up to \$265,000 to build access and amenities near Simpson Island and lease the island.

m. *Culp Island* – Lease the approximately 137-acre island to the SCDPRT.

n. *Upper Wylie Regulated River Reach Trail* – Locate approximately one mile of trail downstream of Fort Mill Access Area on eastern bank of the river.

o. *Lansford Canal State Park Management Zone* – Lease up to 300 horizontal feet lakeward or in the riverbed areas to SCDPRT.

**7. Habitat, Water Quality and Land**

**Conservation Enhancements** – Duke Energy will replace one of the existing hydro units at Wylie Hydro Station and begin providing continuous releases of water 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 \$4 to \$5.5 million to North Carolina state agencies and \$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.

**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 contribu-

tions 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).