Member Organizations Present

Catawba River WTP (Lancaster Water and Sewer District and Union County)  Duke Energy
Charlotte Water  North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources, (NCDEQ DWR)
Chester Metropolitan District  Resolute Forest Products
City of Belmont  South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)
City of Camden  Town of Granite Falls
City of Gastonia-Two Rivers Utilities  Town of Long View
City of Hickory  Town of Valdese
City of Lenoir  US Geological Survey (USGS)
City of Morganton  
City of Rock Hill  
City of Statesville  

Other Organizations Present

HDR Engineering  National Weather Service-Greenville/Spartanburg
Town of Fort Mill  
Town of Winnsboro  

Member Organizations Not Present

American & Efird  National Marine Fisheries Service
Bessemer City  North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
City of Cherryville  SCANA Corporation
City of Lincolnton  Siemens Waterhouse
City of Marion  South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
City of Mount Holly  Springs Industries
City of Newton  Town of Dallas
Clariant Corporation  Town of Mooresville
International Paper  US Fish and Wildlife Service
Invista  
Lincoln County  
Lugoff-Elgin Water Authority  

Introductions, Agenda Review and Announcements

– Ed Bruce, Duke Energy, opened the teleconference meeting at 3:31 PM, welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda for the day.
− Audri Baker, HDR, conducted an attendance roll call by asking for voice confirmation of each member organization’s participation on the call; individual names were not requested or recorded.
− Three sets of data slides were provided to the participants prior to the meeting; Mr. Bruce (Duke Energy), Lynne Dunn (Duke Energy) and Jonathan Williams (HDR) reviewed the slide information in detail; highlights were as follows.

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Update (Mr. Bruce)

− Storage Index (SI)
  • The SI represents the total of all remaining usable water storage in the eleven reservoirs combined, from Lake James down to Lake Wateree, as a percentage of the total usable water storage volume (full pond) in the eleven reservoirs.
  • The SI remains in LIP Normal Condition as of January 9, 2018.
  • There has been limited rainfall in the region, but Duke Energy has been able to maintain lake storage levels above the Normal Target Elevation for this time of year and has maintained a consistent level over the past few weeks.

− U.S. Drought Monitor
  • The three-month numeric average for the U.S. Drought Monitor for the Catawba-Wateree River Basin as of January 2, 2018 is 1.00, which supports a Stage 1 LIP Condition.
  • Overall, the U.S. Drought Monitor maps show continued deterioration of drought conditions across the southeast.
  • The Catawba-Wateree Basin Drought Monitor Chart shows the drought monitor status in graph format. There have been several dry periods over the past year but nothing comparable to the previous extremes experienced in 2000-2002 and 2007-2008.

− Streamflow
  • The streamflow indicator is a measure of the actual six-month rolling average compared to the historical six-month rolling average measured at four USGS gages on tributary streams across the Catawba-Wateree River Basin.
  • As of December 31, 2017, the ratio was 79.9% which just barely supports a Stage 0 LIP condition. Complete data after December 31 is not available due to ice conditions at some of the USGS gages.
  • The six-month stream flow monitor percentage is decreasing due in part to an upturn in the long term average at this time of year.
  • Current conditions support Stage 0 LIP.

− Groundwater
  • Groundwater readings are reported for four USGS gage locations representing the geographical spectrum of the basin.
  • Langtree Regolith – Groundwater levels are below the long term average for this time of year and continue trending downward.
  • Glen Alpine– Groundwater levels at this gage are near the long term average.
  • Near Pleasant Gardens – Groundwater levels at this newer gage are near its long term average.
  • Lancaster– Groundwater levels at this newer gage remain below the long term average for this time of year.
  • Normalized Monthly Average Groundwater Level Percent of Range graph – Data after 2010 includes the newest Catawba-Wateree Groundwater Network gages and shows the basin is currently in a lower groundwater period compared to the 2013-2017 period.

Meteorology and Catawba-Wateree Project Operations Data (Ms. Dunn)

− Precipitation
• The long term average annual precipitation for the basin from 1999-2017 is 42.61 inches; 2018 basin-wide precipitation is approximately 0 inches to date.
• Precipitation over the past 90 days has been two-four inches below normal.

− Forecast
• NOAA short term outlook: Possibility of two inches in the Upper Basin and half-inch in the Lower Basin over the next 7 days (January 8-15); Below Normal precipitation is forecast throughout the Basin over the next 8-14 days (January 15-21).
• NOAA long term forecast for January through March calls for above normal temperature and below normal precipitation. Temperatures are predicted to remain above normal through June 2018 with equal chance of above normal, below normal, or normal precipitation.
• Duke Energy internal meteorologists expect the winter to mirror typical La Ninã conditions with drier and milder weather. Warmer temperatures but drier conditions are predicted through February 2018.

− Streamflow
• Pleasant Gardens and Johns River: Streamflow at both gages are trending along the long term medians. Data is currently limited as gage operation has been affected by ice conditions.
• Southfork: Streamflow is much below normal.
• Rocky Creek: Streamflow is much below normal and the gage is currently affected by ice.

− Reservoirs
• Reservoir levels at Lakes James, Norman, Wateree and Wylie are currently stable.

− Summary & Operations
• The Catawba-Wateree River Basin remains in LIP Stage 0 since July 3, 2017.
• NOAA is forecasting warmer temperatures and below normal precipitation through March.
• Duke Energy internal meteorologist is suggesting above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation through February.
• Duke Energy continues to operate conservatively.

Residential Water Use Patterns (Mr. Williams)

− The residential water patterns presented are based on data received from members of the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group through November 2017. The data graphs show gallons per account with about five years of data to illustrate residential data in the basin and how it compares to the long term average.
− Overall, residential water use in the Basin was right at the long term average for November.
− Charlotte Water’s residential use was 2% below the long term average for November. Use by all other suppliers in November was about 1% above the long term average.
− Water being released from the very bottom of the basin is shown by Duke Energy’s Wateree Hydro Station generation. This value was ~26% below the long term average for November.
− Mr. Williams reminded all CW-DMAG members to submit their annual water use data and CWWMG members to also include their categorical water use data by January 31, 2018. This data will be used as the end of December monthly data for CWWMG members. Monthly data will continue to be collected while the basin is in an LIP stage.

Closing Comments

Mr. Bruce indicated Duke Energy should be able to keep the Storage Index above target storage levels for the next few weeks until the target levels begin to rise. This is the time of year we are supposed to get fulfilling rain.

Mr. Bruce adjourned the meeting at 3:49 P.M.