Follow the Water Program

The Keowee-Toxaway Follow-the-Water Program allows dock owners at Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee to maintain the usability of docks during extended droughts.

Dock Owners May Follow the Water during Drought

The Follow-the-Water Program was negotiated during the relicensing process for the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project. The program allows dock owners to push their docks out to maintain usability when lake levels may be lower due to an extended drought.

Criteria

- Dock owners will be authorized to follow the water upon Duke Energy’s public declaration of specific Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) stages. The LIP is a drought management plan that establishes procedures for reductions in water use during periods of low inflow.
- Dock owners, including owners of commercial and residential marinas and public recreation facilities, may “follow the water” only during LIP stages 2-4.
- During periods when following the water has been authorized, Duke Energy may waive certain requirements of the Shoreline Management Guidelines that would conflict with following the water (e.g., maximum distance from shoreline, one-third of the cove width, projection of property lines, etc.)

Dock Owner Requirements under Follow-the-Water

- Dock owners shall not push their docks out in a manner that prevents or blocks access to other docks or coves or negatively impacts shoreline classified as protected under Duke Energy’s Shoreline Management Plan.
- Dock owners may moor their boats at docks belonging to other dock owners if permission is obtained from the dock owner.
- The temporary relocation of docks shall not create public safety hazards, navigational hazards, or other issues.
- No electricity-carrying lines may be run from the shoreline to the dock while following the water.
- Docks must be returned to their permitted location and orientation and all temporary anchor pins removed within 14 calendar days following Duke Energy’s public declaration of returning to the LIP Stage 1, 0, or Normal.