KEOWEE-TOXAWAY DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP
CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
Monday, September 8, 2014

Organizations Present

Anderson Regional Joint Water System, SC
Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, SC
Seneca Light & Water, SC
Duke Energy
Georgia EPD
Greenville Water, SC
HDR Engineering
Kearns & West, Inc.
Powdersville Water District, SC
SCDHEC
SCDNR
US Army Corps of Engineers
Introductions and Agenda Review
1. At 3:00 PM, Ed Bruce opened the meeting by welcoming participants. He gave an overview of the agenda and took attendance.

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Status
2. Ed Bruce reviewed the Keowee-Toxaway (KT) Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Trigger Status Summary chart previously issued on September 2, 2014. The LIP is in Stage 0 because the Storage Index (ratio of Remaining Usable Storage to Total Usable Storage) in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (USACE) and Duke Energy’s reservoirs is below 90% and at least one of the two “confirming” triggers is also in Stage 0. The four-month average composite streamflow is below 85% of the long-term four-month average streamflow. The other confirming trigger (the twelve-week area weighted average of the U.S. Drought Monitor) is in Normal Condition. Stan Simpson reviewed the pool elevations for Hartwell and Thurmond Lakes. He explained the average elevations are based on daily long-term averages. Bruce reviewed charts of the composite average of streamflow gages. The four-month moving average is currently below the long-term average. Bruce added that Duke Energy has rainfall gage data but, after a quality analysis, it was determined that there is not enough reliable data to share at this time. Duke Energy is making adjustments to be able to share that data in the future. In addition, as part of the KT Project’s relicensing, Duke Energy will upgrade its rainfall data collection and reporting system so rainfall amounts recorded at the Keowee and Jocassee Developments and the and the Bad Creek Project can be used on an updated daily basis.
3. Simpson added that the USACE drought status may be at Level 1 in a few weeks. That trigger is also a trigger for the LIP’s Stage 1, but either the average composite streamflow or U.S. Drought Monitor trigger would need to also to meet Stage 1 criteria to declare LIP Stage 1 drought status.

Update on Meteorology and Keowee-Toxaway Project Operations
4. George Galleher provided an update on meteorology and Duke Energy hydro operations. Normal precipitation is anticipated over the next few weeks. Hope Mizzell confirmed that cooler, drier air is predicted for next week, but there is a lot of uncertainty with the models beyond a week. This year’s precipitation is above-normal for the Keowee-Toxaway Basin of SC.

Brief Updates on Keowee-Toxaway Project Water Use
5. Bob Faires from Seneca Light and Water provided an update on water use. He explained that this year’s rainfall at the Seneca’s Water Plant is three inches below its 30-year average. Water use is about 6.8 MGD, which is normal.
6. KC Price from Greenville Water (GW) explained that rainfall at its Lake Keowee intake is five inches below average. Current water use is 17 MGD, which is where the withdrawal amount has been all year. GW’s withdrawals from its Lake Keowee intake are a bit below average to increase system operational efficiencies.

October 23, 2014 KT-DMAG Meeting Update
7. The next KT-DMAG in-person meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, at the Anderson Regional Joint Water System. The agenda will include a discussion of the current drought status, a review of the draft charter, and a comparison of drought plans applicable in the Savannah River Basin.