KEOWEE-TOXAWAY DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP
CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
Thursday, January 8, 2015

Organizations Present
Anderson Regional Joint Water System, SC
Beaufort Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, SC
City of Seneca, SC
Duke Energy
Georgia EPD
Greenville Water, SC
HDR
Kearns & West
Powdersville Water District, SC
SC Dept. of Natural Resources
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attendance Roll and Agenda Review
1. Ed Bruce of Duke Energy took attendance and reviewed the agenda.

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Status
2. George Galleher of Duke Energy gave an update on the overall status of the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) triggers. The Keowee-Toxaway (KT) Project has moved from Stage 1 to Stage 0 because the downstream U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federal projects (Hartwell Lake and J. Strom Thurmond Lake) reservoir levels are above the Level 1 elevations for initial Level 1 designation for this time of year. The federal projects remain in Level 1 because two additional feet above the initial trigger level are needed for a normal declaration. The LIP Storage and Streamflow triggers remain at Stage 1 levels and the Groundwater level at the Oconee County USGS gage is at normal levels.

3. Sandy Campbell, USACE, confirmed that the USACE Drought Management status is not likely to change in the very near future.

4. Oconee Nuclear Station’s (ONS) consumptive use in January is approximately 26.2 MGD.Cumulative surface evaporation for all of Duke Energy’s reservoirs in January is estimated to be 29.9 MGD. The surface evaporation rates are expected to increase in February.

5. Galleher reviewed Keowee’s releases to Hartwell during the previous month. There have been releases related to ONS required testing at Keowee Hydro Station.

6. KC Price, Greenville Water, gave an update on water levels and withdrawals from the Table Rock and North Saluda reservoirs and Stovall and Atkins treatment plants. Table Rock and North Saluda are at full pond. Rainfall was 12 inches below a normal year at the Atkins intake.

7. Bob Faires of the City of Seneca reported that, as of the end of December, rainfall at their intake was 1.5 inches above average.

Update on Meteorology and Keowee-Toxaway Project Operations
8. Galleher summarized recent precipitation patterns and predictions. Keowee’s rainfall was about seven inches below the long-term average. The 2015 year-to-date precipitation for Bad Creek, Jocassee and Keowee is below normal. An equal chance of below, normal or above precipitation is predicted in the 8-14 day outlook. Temperatures are expected to drop in January and February, and drought conditions
are expected to continue to improve. There is little indication of drought in the U.S. drought monitor for the Savannah River Basin area. Streamflow appears to be below, but near, the long-term average, and other triggers seem close to the long-term average. Galleher showed lake levels graphs indicating Jocassee recovering after dropping levels in the late fall. Despite improving conditions, conservation is still requested.

**KT DMAG Communications**

9. Jennifer Jabon of Duke Energy summarized results from a KT-DMAG communications subcommittee call. Following their recommendation, the KT-DMAG will not issue a news release with the LIP stage change. The subcommittee agreed that a conservative approach should be taken to issuing news releases to encourage a response that when releases are issued they are not overlooked. However, Duke Energy will issue a local news release to near-lake media noting that direct pumping from the lake is no longer restricted.

10. Hope Mizzell of SC Department of Natural Resources noted that a South Carolina Drought Response Committee call is scheduled for Thursday, January 15 at 2 p.m.