January 12, 2015

**Watering Limits No Longer Requested as Drought Level Improves to Stage 0**

*Lake Neighbors Still Encouraged to Consider Water Conservation*

SENECA, S.C. – In response to a change in the Keowee-Toxaway Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) status, Duke Energy recently announced lake residents using lake pumps for irrigation on Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee are no longer asked to voluntarily restrict their use to two days a week.

The change occurred January 2 when the Keowee-Toxaway River Basin recovered to Stage 0 of the Keowee-Toxaway LIP due to improved water availability in the Keowee-Toxaway River Basin, as well as the larger Savannah River Basin. The LIP had been in Stage 1 since October 2014.

“While the region’s drought status has improved, conserving water is always good practice,” explained Joe Hall, lake services director. “We appreciate residents on Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee who understand the importance of working together to protect the basin’s limited water resources,” Hall added.

The LIP is a drought management plan and outlines specific actions for each stage. Stage 0 is the first of five drought stages. Stages of the LIP are based on defined triggers including reservoir storage, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Drought Plan status, the U.S. Drought Monitor and stream flow.

The drought status is reviewed regularly by the Keowee-Toxaway Drought Management Advisory Group (KT-DMAG) which represents major water users and federal and state resource agencies. The KT-DMAG and the LIP are outcomes of Duke Energy’s relicensing process for the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project.

Anyone with questions about the use of lake pumps or the LIP status can contact Duke Energy’s lake services line at 1-800-443-5193. Information about the LIP, lake levels, the KT-DMAG and other related topics are available online at [http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes](http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes).

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