Organizations Present
Duke Energy
Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA-EPD)
Greenville Water, SC
HDR
Seneca Light and Water, SC
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)
Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA)

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

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Status
2. As of April 30, 2017 the Keowee-Toxaway (KT) Project remained in Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) Stage 2 conditions as a result of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) being in Level 2 of their Drought Plan (DP).

3. Mr. Bruce provided a review of drought conditions throughout the Upper Savannah River Basin based on data through May 22, 2017. The USACE drought conditions for both Hartwell Lake and Thurmond Lake are at USACE DP Level 2 levels and are projected to remain in DP Level 2 for the coming months. Hartwell Lake levels improved due to recent rain events, but is conservatively projected to decline by approximately 2 feet to EL 651 by August. Similarly, Thurmond Lake levels are projected to decrease in the coming months from approximately EL 322.5 to EL 321 by August. However, these projections do not reflect the most recent widespread rainfall occurring in the area this week. The USACE needs 2 feet above the trigger lake level to improve its Drought Plan Level, while the Keowee-Toxaway Project LIP can recover to a lower stage when the USACE reservoirs reach their initial trigger level for that stage on recovery. If the Hartwell and Thurmond levels improve to at or above the Level 2 elevations, the K-T LIP can improve to Stage 1 conditions at that time.

4. Four-month rolling average streamflows continue to be well below the long term average. However, the seasonal upturn in observed streamflow is evident since mid-January 2017. The streamflow trigger has improved in recent weeks and is trending positively toward the historical 4-month rolling average.

5. The U.S. Drought Monitor map for the southeast shows shifting and worsening drought conditions over the past month for southern Georgia, but improvement in other parts of the southeast, including the Upper Savannah River Basin. A chart showing the intensity of historical drought since 2000, as based on the U.S. Drought Monitor, indicates the Upper Savannah River Basin is clearly in a period of significant drought comparable to several other significant droughts over the past 20 years. However, this chart also indicates
improving conditions for this particular drought event, as compared to late 2016 and early 2017.

6. Both the Oconee County and McCormick County groundwater gages continue to be below their long term averages, although the Oconee gage has shown recent improvement. The McCormick County gage level is near the average for the last 10 years, but is below the long-term average for this well site.

7. Mr. Bruce reviewed the Keowee Development’s water releases to Hartwell during the previous 4 weeks ending May 16th. Average weekly total releases, including leakage and seepage, for the month were 11,532 acre-feet per week (831 cubic feet per second or 537 MGD). All releases within the past four weeks have been required releases per the Operating Agreement between Duke Energy and USACE to balance reservoir storage percentages between the Keowee-Toxaway and USACE hydro developments. Mr. Bruce noted the total weekly release for the week ending May 16 exceeded the maximum weekly amount of 15,000 acre-feet due to Oconee Nuclear Station operational requirements, which is allowed by the LIP.

Update on Meteorology and Keowee-Toxaway Project Operations

8. Mr. Bruce provided a brief meteorology and operational update.

9. The Chattooga River gage near Clayton, GA indicates streamflow is currently normal at this location, and likely to increase this week due to ongoing precipitation.

10. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, released on May 18, 2017, indicates most of the Upper Savannah River Basin to be free of drought by the end of August 2017, with a few small areas of drought persisting.

11. The NOAA short and medium term forecasts predict 4 to 5 inches of much needed rainfall for the next 7 days and an above Normal chance of precipitation for the 8 to 14 day outlook. The 3 to 4 week outlook (valid June 3-16) outlook projects an equal chance of Above, Normal, or below Normal temperature and precipitation for the basin.