KEOWEE-TOXAWAY DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP
CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
Thursday, September 21, 2017

Organizations Present
Duke Energy
Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD)
Greenville Water, SC
HDR
SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
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 August 31, 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) continuing to be in Level 2 of their Drought Plan (DP). Note, the 12-week rolling average of the U.S. Drought Monitor and the 4-month long-term average stream flows are in Normal conditions.

3. Mr. Bruce provided an abbreviated review of drought conditions throughout the Upper Savannah River Basin based on data through September 21, 2017. Hartwell Lake is below the USACE DP Level 2 entry elevation at elevation 652 feet and is projected to decline over the coming months through December. Thurmond Lake is below the DP Level 2 threshold elevation at elevation 323.5 feet and is also projected to decline further through December, under the assumption of inflow remaining at 60% of normal (from current levels of 60% of normal) over the next 10 weeks.

4. The four-month rolling average streamflow is near the long term average, but slightly below in recent weeks, and is trending downward.

5. The U.S. Drought Monitor map for the southeast indicated improving conditions over the past month with no indication of drought within the 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 appears to be out of a moderate drought, which appears to be less severe than the last three notable droughts over the past 20 years.

6. The Oconee County groundwater gage shows levels below the long-term average and declining, with the current reading of 30.07 feet below the surface and the monthly mean at 29.62 feet below the surface. The McCormick County groundwater gage continues to be well below its long term average with declining levels. This particular gage has typically been below its long-term average since the onset of the 2006-2009 drought.

7. Mr. Bruce reviewed the Keowee Development’s water releases to Hartwell during the previous 4 weeks ending September 19th. Average weekly total releases, including leakage and seepage, for the month were 7,941 acre-feet per week (572 cubic feet per second or 370 MGD). Releases for the three of the four weeks of the period were required releases
per the Operating Agreement between Duke Energy and USACE to balance reservoir storage percentages between the Keowee-Toxaway and USACE hydro projects.

Update on Meteorology and Keowee-Toxaway Project Operations

8. Lynne Dunn (Duke Energy) provided a meteorology and operational update.

9. Streamflow at the Chattooga River gage near Clayton, GA is in a Normal condition and has improved since last month.

10. The U.S. Drought Monitor for the southeast has improved over the past month with no drought conditions reflected in the Savannah River Basin.

11. The NOAA short and medium term forecasts predict a half inch of rainfall for the next 7 days (September 20 to 27) and Below Normal precipitation for the 8 to 14 day outlook (September 27 to October 3). The September to November outlook projects Above Normal temperatures and Above Normal precipitation for the basin.

12. In summary, Mr. Bruce indicated the area remains relatively dry with minimal influence from the recent path of Hurricane Irma. Lake levels are unlikely to increase in the coming months, and reservoir storage is unlikely to improve in the near-term.