KEOWEE-TOXAWAY DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP
CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
Thursday, January 25, 2018

Organizations Present
Duke Energy
HDR
Powdersville Water District, SC
Seneca Light and Water, SC
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)

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 January 1, 2018 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) and the USACE reservoirs not recovering to lake levels that allow a return to Stage 1.

3. Mr. Bruce provided a review of drought conditions throughout the Upper Savannah River Basin based on data through January 23, 2018. Hartwell Lake is currently below the USACE DP Level 2 threshold elevation, and is projected to remain below the DP Level 2 elevation over the coming weeks. Thurmond Lake is currently below the DP Level 2 threshold elevation, and is projected to remain below the DP Level 2 elevation in February. There is the potential for Hartwell and Thurmond Lake elevations to increase above Level 2 in late winter/early spring.

4. The four-month rolling average streamflow is slightly below the seasonal long term average. The long-term average is beginning its seasonal increase, and it is likely the four-month rolling average streamflow will remain below the long-term average, in the absence of any significant inflow events over the coming weeks.

5. The U.S. Drought Monitor map as of January 23rd for the southeast shows worsening drought conditions over the past month in the Upper Savannah River Basin and throughout the Southeast. A chart showing the intensity of historical drought since 2000, as based on the U.S. Drought Monitor, indicates the Upper Savannah River Basin reflects some re-emerging signs of dry conditions within the basin.

6. The Oconee County groundwater gage shows levels below the long-term average with the current reading of 29.83 feet below the surface and the monthly mean at 29.07 feet below the surface. The McCormick County groundwater gage continues to be well below its long term average with declining levels.

7. Mr. Bruce reviewed the Keowee Development’s water releases to Hartwell during the previous 4 weeks ending January 23, 2018. Average weekly total releases, including leakage and seepage, for the past four weeks were 9,651 acre-feet per week (695 cubic feet per second or 449 MGD). Some of the releases for 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 hydroelectric projects.

Update on Meteorology and Keowee-Toxaway Project Operations

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

9. Streamflow conditions are currently normal, and at the median for the Chattooga River gage near Clayton, GA. Some data missing due to ice buildup.

10. The NOAA short and medium term forecasts predict possibly 1 inch of rainfall for the next 7 days (January 24th to 31st) and Above Normal precipitation for the 8 to 14 day outlook (January 31st to February 6th). The February through April outlook projects Above Normal temperatures and Below Normal precipitation for the basin.

11. In summary, the KT LIP is in Stage 2 Condition. NOAA forecasters are suggesting below normal probability for precipitation through April. Duke Energy continues to request water conservation efforts by water users relying on water stored in Lake Keowee, including watering restrictions for Lake Neighbors on Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee.

12. Mr. Bruce stated that the KT-DMAG will continue with twice monthly calls while in LIP Stage 2.