

Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Project Agreement-in-Principle Lookout Shoals Lake Perspective

Background

Lookout Shoals Lake was formed in 1915 with the construction of the Lookout Shoals Hydroelectric Station. The lake has approximately 1,305 acres of surface area and 29 miles of shoreline and is one of the smallest reservoirs on the eleven-lake system. Full pond elevation for Lookout Shoals Lake is 838.1 feet above mean sea level.

Duke Power provides two boating access areas on the lake in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Stakeholders representing the reservoir and river in hydro relicensing

In addition to federal and state resource agencies, Duke Power and national special interest groups – many representatives of local entities and public citizens around Lookout Shoals Lake have participated in the 3-year relicensing process. These include:

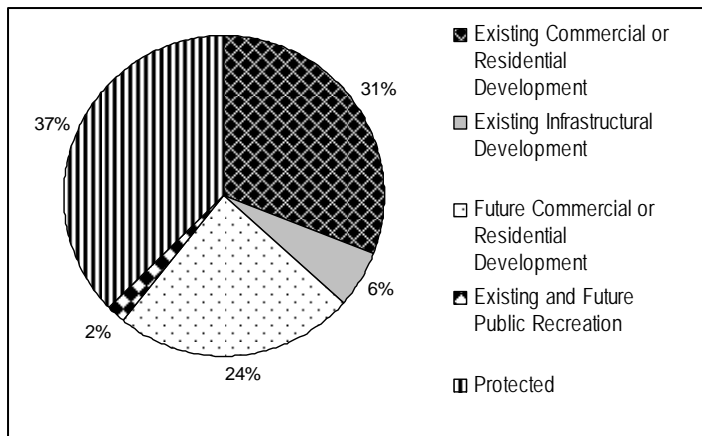
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation
Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition
Centralina Council of Governments
Iredell County
Catawba Valley Heritage Alliance
North Carolina Wildlife Federation

Carolina Canoe Club
Catawba County
Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Alexander County
Foothills Conservancy

Interests addressed in the Agreement-in-Principle

- Lake Level Ranges – Lake level ranges (located in the adjacent chart) have been established to protect fish habitat, municipal, industrial and power generation water intakes, recreation access and aesthetics. Ranges are bounded by normal minimum and normal maximum elevations with a normal target elevation in between. For Lookout Shoals Lake the normal target lake level is 97 feet year-round.
- Drought Management – As part of the relicensing process, a Low Inflow Protocol has been established to “trigger” water use restrictions by large water users. These water use restrictions apply to hydroelectric generation, public water system withdrawals and flows for recreation and aquatic life.
- Shoreline Management – Duke Power operates a comprehensive shoreline management program on all 11 lakes along the Catawba River. Duke Power’s program depends on the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMG) to balance private and public access with protecting the environmental, public recreational, cultural and scenic values. As part of the relicensing process, both the SMP and SMG have been updated and these updates will begin to be used in September 2006. The SMG provide rules on what facilities are allowed and how they can be built/constructed/maintained. Overall, the update to the SMP has resulted in more refined shoreline mapping and additional restrictions on construction activity within the project boundary of the reservoir. The SMP is a series of maps with shoreline classifications denoting locations where piers, marinas, excavations and shoreline stabilization within the project boundary either already exist or can take place. Each shoreline classification has a separate set of restrictions and allowed activities.

Month	Lookout Shoals Lake Elevation on 1st Day of Month			
	Existing Guide Curve (ft.)	Normal Minimum (ft.)	Normal Target (ft.)	Normal Maximum (ft.)
Jan	97	94	97	100
Feb	97	94	97	100
Mar	97	94	97	100
Apr	97	94	97	100
May	97	94	97	100
Jun	97	94	97	100
Jul	97	94	97	100
Aug	97	94	97	100
Sep	97	94	97	100
Oct	97	94	97	100
Nov	97	94	97	100
Dec	97	94	97	100
31-Dec	97	94	97	100



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4. Public Information Systems for Lake and River Information -- Information including reservoir level ranges, water release times, generation schedules and maps to public reservoir access will be provided as a result of relicensing. River paddlers and anglers will have access to information on releases from dams to paddle and fish. Information posted on signs will be provided in English and/or international symbols with signage in Spanish also available immediately downstream of the dams.
5. New and Expanded Public Recreation Facilities/Access – Recreational enhancements planned for Lookout Shoals Lake include:
 - a. Upper Lookout Shoals Access Area– Acquire property in Catawba County for trailered boat access area with parking, restrooms and primitive camping downstream of the "bend" of the lake.
 - b. Trail - Provide cost-share funding up to \$220,000 to Catawba County to assist the county in its acquisition and development of a 50-foot wide easement for approximately 1.5 miles of walking/hiking trail between Riverbend Park and the new Upper Lookout Shoals Access Area.
 - c. Lookout Shoals Access Area – restrooms.
 - d. Lookout Shoals Tailrace Fishing Area – public fishing area.
 - e. Lookout Shoals Dam Canoe Portage – portage trail with canoe/kayak access (take-out, put-in) and signage around Lookout Shoals Dam.
6. Habitat, Water Quality and Land Conservation Enhancements – Duke Power will modify the operations of the existing hydro units at Lookout Shoals Hydro Station to provide continuous flows to support fish habitat in the upper portion of Lake Norman. These water releases will also include improvements in dissolved oxygen to support water quality. Duke Power will also contribute \$1 million to the Habitat Enhancement Fund in each state to support, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and contribute \$4 to \$5.5 million to each state dependent on the license term for additional land conservation.
7. Public Drinking Water Supply and Water Conservation Programs -- Water is vital to life and drives our region's economy and way of life. However, Catawba-Wateree relicensing process studies indicate demands for water will more than double over the next 50 years. A group of approximately 20 water supply experts, including Duke Power, have outlined water management objectives, identified tangible projects to protect our water supply and proposed a voluntary water conservation fund to finance these projects. The money will come from contributions paid by Duke Power and large water users. Contributors to the voluntary fund will determine the timing and priority of projects.

The Agreement in Principle, which reflects almost three years of studies and negotiations by 160+ stakeholders was finalized and distributed to representatives of 80 organizations involved in the relicensing process. In mid-April 2006, stakeholders will be asked to sign the agreement – indicating their level of consensus. Those in agreement with the Agreement in Principle will then, in turn, construct the binding Final Agreement which will be included in the license application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by August 31, 2006.