

Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Project Agreement-in-Principle Fishing Creek Reservoir Perspective

Background

Fishing Creek Reservoir was created in 1916 and has approximately 3,112 surface acres of water and 78 miles of shoreline. The Fishing Creek Dam is 1,770 feet long with 21 floodgates. The lake also provides a dependable water supply for Chester County, South Carolina. Full pond elevation is 417.2 feet above mean sea level.

Duke Power provides two boat access areas on the lake in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

Stakeholders representing the reservoir and river in hydro relicensing

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

Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation
Fishing Creek Citizen
Catawba Indian Nation
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
Chester County Water and Sewer

Catawba Wateree Relicensing Coalition
Lancaster County Sewer Authority
Catawba Regional Council of Governments
Springs Industries, Inc.
Carolina Canoe Club

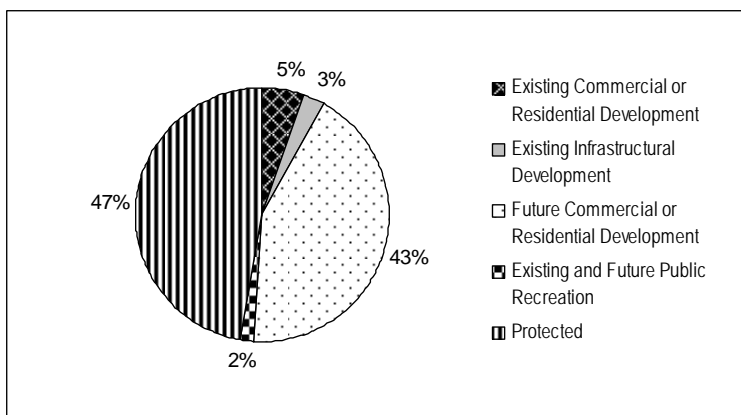
Interests addressed in the Agreement-in-Principle

1. 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 Fishing Creek Reservoir the normal target lake level is 98 feet year-round.

Month	Fishing Creek Reservoir			
	Existing Guide Curve (ft.)	Normal Minimum (ft.)	Normal Target (ft.)	Normal Maximum (ft.)
Jan	97	95	98	100
Feb	97	95	98	100
Mar	97	95	98	100
Apr	97	95	98	100
May	97	95	98	100
Jun	97	95	98	100
Jul	97	95	98	100
Aug	97	95	98	100
Sep	97	95	98	100
Oct	97	95	98	100
Nov	97	95	98	100
Dec	97	95	98	100
31-Dec	97	95	98	100

2. 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.

3. 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,

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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.

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. Habitat, Water Quality and Land Conservation Enhancements – Duke Power will operate the existing hydro units at Fishing Creek Hydro Station to support improvements in dissolved oxygen. 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. Finally, Duke Power will contribute \$1 million to SCDNR for additional fish and wildlife enhancement programs.
6. New and Expanded Public Recreation Facilities/Access – Recreational enhancements planned for Fishing Creek Reservoir include:
 - a. Springs Park – relocate the existing Cane Creek Access and develop two trailered boat ramps, courtesy dock, paved and lighted parking, fishing pier, and bank fishing trail.
 - b. Fishing Creek Access Area – fishing pier, additional paved parking, picnic area, restroom, and swimming beach if a suitable area is found.
 - c. Highway 9 Access Area – provide up to \$215,000 to develop a new trailered boat ramp, courtesy dock and restrooms in the vicinity of the existing Highway 9 landing if another entity provides the land.
 - d. Fishing Creek Tailrace Fishing Area – public fishing area (platform, pier or bank fishing trail and paved parking).
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.