

Duke Energy/Catawba River Information Sheet

(Information taken from Duke Energy website)

Background

Winding 225 miles through North Carolina and South Carolina, the Catawba River is host to an incredible abundance of native plant and animal communities, including the rare Rocky Shoals Spider Lily. Bald eagles, ospreys and other wildlife also thrive throughout the river's natural surroundings.

Derived from a local Native American word for "people of the river" the Catawba is a valuable resource for the residents of the Piedmont Carolinas. It is a source for electricity, provides drinking water for hundreds of communities, and offers countless recreational opportunities that make the region a wonderful place to live.

Duke Energy has teamed with numerous local and state agencies and environmental organizations over the years to ensure that this valuable resource will always be preserved and protected.

Duke Energy owns the right to manage the waters and shoreline along the Catawba River. Duke manages the process for the Federal government. On Lake Wylie, Duke Energy has a license agreement to manage everything below the "full pond" level at 569.4' above sea level, or the height of the dam. Development along the river must adhere to the federally approved *Shoreline Management Guidelines*.

Saddler Island (future recreation area per Duke) is owned by Duke Energy and may be utilized for environmental education use but requires preservation of environmental features. If Duke Energy is awarded a license to continue management of the Catawba-Wateree River, Saddler Island will offer a lease at no land-cost to the National Whitewater Center (NWCC). NWCC is to manage island for educational and recreational purposes in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation.

Duke Energy's July 2006 ***Shoreline Management Plan*** for the Catawba-Wateree river system was designed to balance the many competing demands on the river's shoreline—environmental, recreational and cultural.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) – The SMP is a set of maps showing various types and uses of the shoreline including areas protected for environmental or habitat values, areas of existing development, and areas of potential development. The SMP also includes lake use restrictions associated with the important habitat types. The SMP and associated lake use restrictions were developed in consultation with wildlife resource agencies and other public resource agencies, non-government organizations and private stakeholders. The SMP is a tool that can be used by Duke Energy Lake Services, the resource management agencies, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and others for review of requests for utilization of the Project and its resources.

What's in the SMP?

Present and future uses of project lands and waters.

Maps of the reservoirs, which, among other data, locate environmentally sensitive (and protected) shoreline areas. They serve a vital role in the review process for all lake use permit requests.

Revised Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMG). The SMG are a set of detailed procedures and criteria that regulate activities within reservoirs owned or managed by Duke Energy. The development of these guidelines for permitting activities within the Project boundary is required

by Duke Energy's FERC license in the Standard Land Use article.

What's new in the 2006 SMP?

Important habitat shoreline remains consistent since 2001 update with 24 percent protected. Clarify (This reflects that the fact that there was no net loss/or gain of protected shoreline - 24% of all the shoreline is in a protected class that would have rules against development such as Impact Minimization Zone, recreation, future recreation classes)

More accurate maps utilizing higher resolution aerial photography.

Balance of development interests with habitat preservation through SMG incentive criteria that can preserve shoreline in a natural state.

SMG update that provides more comprehensive permitting programs with more specific criteria.

Opportunity to partner with municipalities, counties and states for data sharing, buffer enforcement, permitting reviews and delineation of authority.

Revised SMP and SMG effective on September 1, 2006.

Methodology to be developed to study effects of SMG on near-shore and riparian habitat.

Full update of the Shoreline Classification Maps every 10 years.

Periodic full review and update of the SMG.

3-Step Review Process for All Lake Use Permit Activity Requests

Duke Energy Lake Services staff utilizes a 3-step review process for all lake use permit activity requests. Each request is evaluated based on review of the applicable Lake Use Policy Statements, the Shoreline Management Plan maps (where applicable) and associated lake use restrictions, and compliance with the Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMG).

Lake Use Policy Statements (LUPS)

The LUPS delineate the types of access and activities that may be allowed on all reservoirs owned or managed by Duke Energy based on license requirements (for all licensed hydro reservoirs); federal, state, and/or local regulations; and specific business management objectives. These policy statements cover all reservoirs owned or managed by Duke Energy. Specific license or other regulatory requirements that are also a part of these policies are publicly available.

The LUPS allow for review of four basic types of lake access:

- 1) Private Access;
- 2) Public Recreational Access;
- 3) Public Infrastructure Access; and
- 4) Business/Industrial Access on the lakes with existing private and business development (James, Rhodhiss, Hickory, Lookout Shoals, Norman, Mountain Island, Wylie, Fishing Creek, Cedar Creek Reservoir, Wateree, Keowee, and Jocassee).

Public infrastructure and business/industrial access will be allowed in accordance with the standard land use articles included in the licenses for the Catawba-Wateree Project and Keowee-Toxaway Project.

See Duke Energy website for comprehensive relicensing agreement and shoreline classifications:

<http://www.duke-energy.com/shoreline-management/catawba-wateree.asp>