

Catawba-Wateree Regional Stakeholder Conference Update

Presented to the

Catawba-Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission

December 11, 2017

Background

- **Hosted by the Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition and Duke Energy**

November 2	Morganton, NC	29
November 6	Belmont, NC	25
November 8	Catawba Indian Nation/Rock Hill, SC	25
November 16	Great Falls, SC	41
	Total	120

- **Purposes**

- To continue ***engaging stakeholders*** in the Catawba-Wateree River Basin on implementation of Duke Energy's new hydropower license and the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA).
- ***To include people and organizations who are new*** or who were not actively involved in the original relicensing process and who are now in positions or situations affected by the license and CRA.
- To learn as much as possible to ***ensure the implementation process goes smoothly and coordinates well with local plans*** for our river basin.
- To solicit feedback on building ***timely and effective ongoing communications*** and information connections.
- ***To understand your role.***

Topics Included

- Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement Modifications and License Amendments
(reviewed with the CWRBAC on October 6)
- License Status *(reviewed with the CWRBAC on October 6)*
- Water Supply Master Plan
- Recreation Management Plan
- Land Conservation
- Ecological Flows
- Habitat Enhancement Program
- Hydro Operations
- Water Quality Enhancements and Monitoring
- Shoreline Management

Interests Discussed

1. Information on long term source water protection.

The Catawba Wateree Water Management Group and the Catawba Wateree Initiative are both working on source water protection.

2. Timelines – How CRA and license requirements are related to Recreation Management Plan, license amendment, and license term litigation.

Pending Action	When will pending action occur?*	Activities “unlocked” when pending action taken	Time frame for “unlocked” activities
FERC approval of license amendment application filed 5/5/2017 (includes two implementation plans)	2017 (est.)	Initiates compliance schedule for installing all flow release provisions and water quality monitors	Projects range from already complete to 55 months after pending action is complete.
FERC approval of Recreation Management Plan (RMP) filed 11/2016	2017 (est.)	Initiates compliance schedule for 55 new or expanded license-required recreation areas	28 - 1 st five years 16 - 2 nd five years 8 - 3 rd five years 3 - 4 th five years
Final resolution to 40-vs.-50 year license term challenge, currently before the United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All court filings completed in March, 2017 Court has scheduled oral arguments for December 8, 2017 Potential for further appeals 	Initiates compliance schedule for completing additional flow release capacity on the Wateree spillway <u>Assuming a 50-year license:</u> 1. \$1.5M to NC to purchase recreation and conservation lands 2. \$1.5M to SC to purchase recreation and conservation lands	Eight years after date of final resolution <u>Assuming a 50-year license:</u> 1. Within three years after date of final resolution 2. Within three years after date of final resolution

Duke Energy has taken an action item to implement more regular update communications with Catawba-Wateree Stakeholders.

Interests Discussed

3. The possibility of Duke Energy providing “real time” flow release information.

Duke Energy has taken an action item to add links to its recreation flow release web page so paddlers can get a better feel for actual “real-time” flow releases.

4. Update on modification of the dam at Lake Wateree.

The timeline for the Wateree dam modifications will not start until the 40-vs-50 year license term challenge is resolved. Oral arguments were held on December 8, 2017.