

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY Joint RCG Meeting**

**November 30, 2017**

Final KMK 01-05-17

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#### **ATTENDEES:**

Bill Argentieri (SCE&G)	Dick Christie (SCDNR)
Ray Ammarell (SCE&G)	Bill Marshall (SCDNR)
Beth Trump (SCE&G)	Gerrit Jobsis (American Rivers)
Caleb Gaston (SCE&G)	Bill Stangler (Congaree Riverkeeper)
Randy Mahan (SCE&G)	Henry Mealing (Kleinschmidt)
Pace Wilber (NOAA) via conf. call	Kelly Kirven (Kleinschmidt)
Rusty Wenerick (SCDHEC)	

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*These notes are a summary of the major points presented during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.*

Bill A. opened the meeting with a safety moment and introductions. The purpose of this meeting was to continue discussion of the various components of the Comprehensive Relicensing Settlement Agreement (CRSA).

#### **Freshwater Mussel Monitoring Plan**

Henry told the group that revisions were made to the Freshwater Mussel Monitoring Plan to include monitoring in Monticello Reservoir due to the presence of the Carolina creekshell mussel. Prior to the meeting, SCE&G spoke with Melanie Olds with USFWS and she indicated that she was in agreement with the changes made. The stakeholders attending the meeting also agreed with the changes. Henry said this document will be finalized and refiled on the Project website.

#### **Turbine Venting Memo #2**

Henry summarized the data included in the Turbine Venting Memo #2. There were some periodic excursions of dissolved oxygen (DO) levels less than the state standard of 4.0 mg/L during the 2017 turbine venting season, however DO was primarily recorded above the state standard. Henry told the group that during the study period, fouling affected the accuracy of the DO readings from the USGS Jenkinsville gage. SCE&G notified the USGS of the situation and the data was corrected.

Henry said that SCE&G will continue to collect DO data in 2018. He said that, once implemented, the new minimum flow will hopefully help increase DO levels in the Parr tailrace. Dick asked if SCE&G has considered any other options to help increase DO if it continues to be low and the turbine venting doesn't appear to help. Henry said no thought has been put into that since the DO levels were fine in 2016. Dick said the group can continue to watch the DO levels in the tailrace

with the implementation of the Turbine Venting Plan and determine if anything needs to be done during the new license term. Henry added that SCDHEC may require action through the 401 water quality certification.

Bill A. told the group that SCE&G is planning to change out the bearings on the units, which may help pull more air in during generation. A schedule has not yet been determined for this maintenance. Bill A. noted that after these changes have been made, it might be good to do another test to determine if some units vent better than others. The Turbine Venting Plan can then be revised based on the results of that test.

Gerrit said that he noticed at other projects when generation is low, water appears to be pulled from one area of the water column, causing low DO downstream. Dick said that there doesn't appear to be a consistent pattern between DO and Project operations in the data provided in the memo. Caleb said that he thinks there is a diurnal affect, and since there is more vegetation in the tailrace area than there used to be, this may start a trend in the coming years. Henry said they will try to collect more data in 2018, especially when DO is low.

Bill M. asked if the USGS probe was still located in an eddy and Caleb answered yes. However, Caleb added that there does appear to be a good bit of current passing by the probe, so the location of the probe is likely fine. Rusty said that he thinks the USGS meter located above Parr Reservoir at Carlisle has consistently higher DO levels than the one at Jenkinsville. He said this makes him question where this low DO is coming from and what would the DO be if the Project weren't there. Bill A. added that the Carlisle gage is 21 miles upstream and there are a lot of other influences (including the Tyger and Enoree Rivers) in that span. Rusty said that this conversation would be different if there wasn't one of the best mussel communities in the state located immediately downstream of the Project.

### **Navigation Flow Demonstration and Navigation Report**

After the Navigation Flow Demonstration on November 9, 2017, Henry provided stakeholders with a recap of the trip via an email. Bill M. agreed with Henry's assessment of the trip. While a flow of 1,000 cfs appeared to be a good aquatic flow, it didn't provide a good navigation passage for a Jon boat. While some passage is possible, this flow does not meet the state recommendation. Ray noted that this condition would prevail even if the Project were not there because of normal river flows.

The group then reviewed the edits made to the Navigation Report. Bill M. said that for future reference, it would be good to include an explanation as to why the modeling presented in the report didn't clearly show that navigation at the 1,000 cfs flow would be difficult. Henry said that the analysis did not include the leading edge of the shoal. Gerrit agreed with Bill M. that a sentence should be added that explained that the modeling method used (straight line approach) didn't accurately capture the intent of the SCDNR policy or actual field conditions. Bill M. stated that he would send recommended wording to Kelly for inclusion.

Caleb noted that during the flow demonstration trip, one population of the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily had fresh blooms on it. Caleb will send some photos he collected during the flow demonstration. Henry said that the revised Navigation Report will be repackaged with the Recreation Flow Memo and the package will be refiled on the website.

## **Hydroacoustic Survey with PME Recommendation**

Henry reviewed the addition made to the Hydroacoustic Survey Report regarding the PME recommendation of turning lights off in the Fairfield tailrace under normal operating conditions. The group approved this revision.

## **CRSA Appendix A**

Kelly reviewed the changes made to the CRSA Appendix A. Everyone agreed to these changes.

## **CRSA Appendix B**

Kelly reviewed the changes made to the CRSA Appendix B. Bill A. noted that SCE&G was able to keep the Parr Reservoir water level up this year to aid in the filling of the Broad River Waterfowl Management Area (WMA) impoundments because they still have the lower minimum flow requirement. When the new license requirements take effect, this may not be possible. Bill A. also noted that it appears to be taking longer than the estimated 48-72 hours to fill the impoundments, so wording may need to be changed before this agreement is finalized.

The group reviewed the new Appendix B-1 attachment that coincides with the agreement to lease property to SCDNR for inclusion in the WMA program. Bill M. noted that the map included in Appendix B-1 does not show the entire parcel that SCDNR leases. Beth T. will confirm this with the SCE&G Land Department. Bill A. said he will revise the map to include the area where the SCDNR sheds are located as long as the SCE&G Land Department agrees.

## **CRSA Appendix E**

Kelly reviewed the changes made to the CRSA Appendix E. The group discussed the similarity in the names of the Monticello Reservoir Habitat Enhancement Plan and the Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP). Everyone agreed to change the name of the Monticello Reservoir Habitat Enhancement Plan to the “Monticello Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Enhancement Plan” to provide more clarity.

The group also agreed to remove the “DATE” placeholders from the proposed articles.

Kelly will put together a CD with the CRSA, appendices, and associated documents for stakeholders to give to their attorneys for review. Areas in the plans that still need to be finalized will be highlighted.

The meeting was adjourned. Action items are listed below.

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### ***ACTION ITEMS:***

- Kleinschmidt will finalize the Mussel Monitoring Plan and refile on the Project website.

- The Navigation Report will be finalized and repackaged with the Recreation Flow Memo and refiled on the Project website.
- Bill M. will provide suggested wording for the navigation modeling analysis.
- Kelly will revise the Appendix E based on meeting discussions. The new title of the Monticello Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Enhancement Plan will be carried over into applicable documents.
- Beth T. will confirm SCE&G Land Department agrees to changing map in Appendix B-1.
- Bill A. will revise the Appendix B-1 map and resend to stakeholders as agreed to by SCE&G Land Department.
- Caleb will send to the group photos of RSSL taken during the flow demonstration trip.
- Kleinschmidt will put together CDs with CRSA documents for agency to submit to their lawyers for review. Issues that still need to be finalized will be highlighted.