

JOCASSEE, KEOWEE USES ON TABLE

# DOOR NOW OPEN TO LAKE CHANGES



KEN OSBURN / Staff

Water use and shoreline development are two key topics in the relicensing of Jocassee dam.

## Public gets to comment at meetings today

By Anna Simon

CLEMSON BUREAU  
asimon@greenvillenews.com

A nine-month outage is over at the Jocassee dam pump-storage hydroelectric facility where new stainless steel turbines provide peak power to the Carolinas even as Duke Energy's 50-year hydroelectric license nears an end.

Duke's license expires in 2016.

While it's unthinkable that the license wouldn't be renewed, changes could impact all who live on Duke's Upstate lakes, play on them and drink from them.

Conflicting wants and needs of a growing Upstate could collide as a new license for the next 30 to 50 years is forged. Today, members of the general public get their first chance to have a say.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will hold public meetings at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Seneca High.

Drinking water is on



Chad Luce, Jocassee Station superintendent, talks about one of the turbines during a tour of the Jocassee hydro station with federal energy officials and others involved in relicensing of Duke's hydro projects on Jocassee and Keowee.

Doug Young's mind. "I'm afraid that with growth in the Upstate, we'll run out of water," the Chickasaw Point resident said. "There's not enough water to support predicted growth."

Water supply is one of the main issues a group of

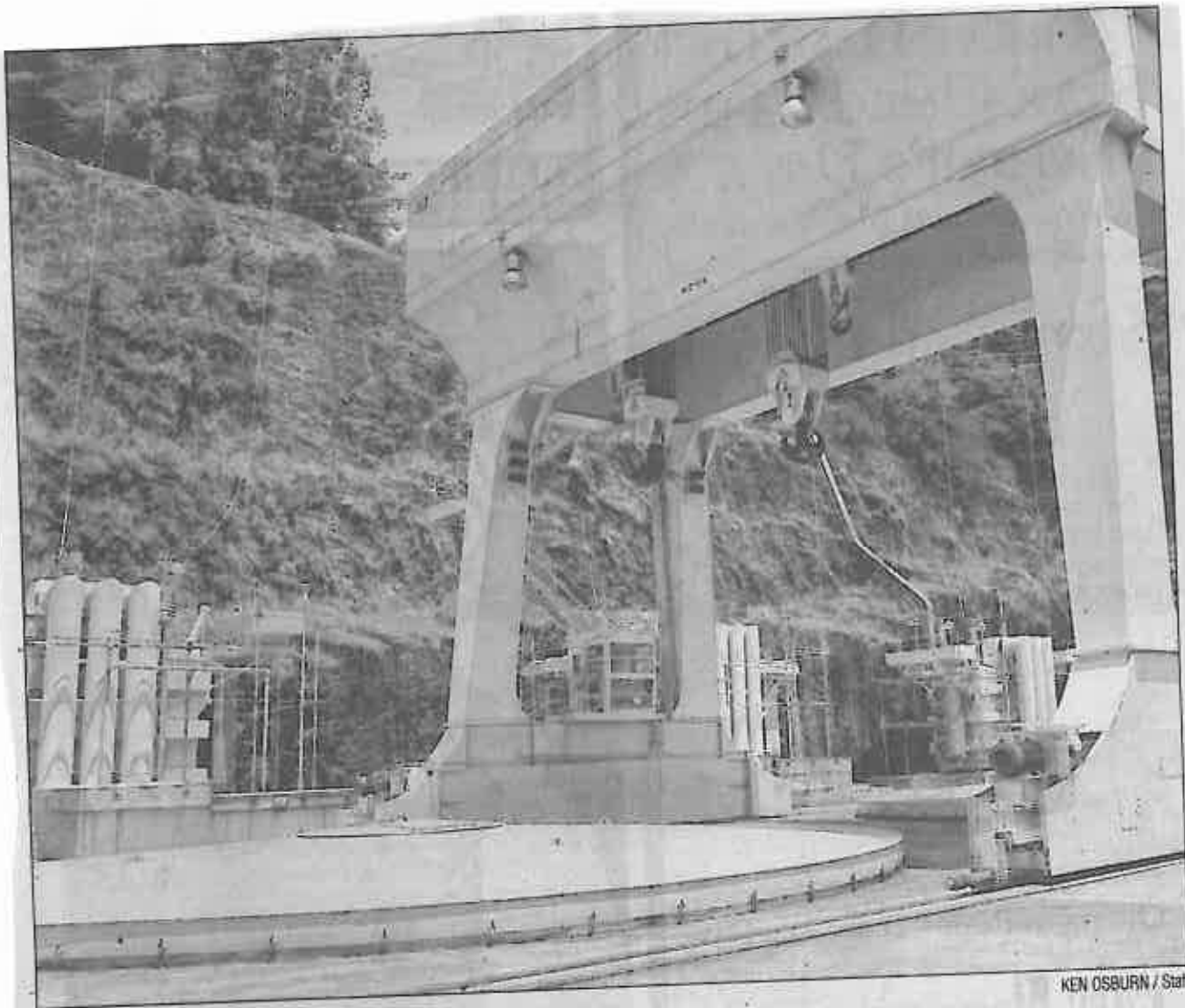
about 30 agencies and organizations selected as stakeholders in the relicensing have been discussing for two years, said Ken Kearns, who has been managing the talks.

Fear of water being di-

#### THE DOCUMENTS

Read more about the Keowee-Towaway relicensing and see more photos from Jocassee dam at the links with this story at GreenvilleOnline.com.

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KEN OSBURN / Staff

Duke Energy's pump-storage hydroelectric facility at Jocassee dam can generate 710-megawatts.

## DAM

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verted to a thirsty Atlanta have haunted the Upstate for years, and some residents in Pickens and Oconee are wary of the amount of water from Lake Keowee allotted to a growing Greenville.

Shoreline development — what can and can't be

built on the lakes and where various types of development such as marinas can be built — is another topic, Kearns said.

Recreation is another hot topic. More than 890,000 visits are made to recreational areas on Lake Keowee annually, according to Duke Energy estimates reported to FERC in 2009.

The numbers put a face on safety concerns recently raised by lake residents who halted development of

a marina near a large Keowee subdivision. Marina supporters wanted more public access where those unable to afford expensive lake homes could keep boats at the lake.

Lake level fluctuations is a topic of interest already dividing residents on Keowee and Lake Hartwell after the recent drought dried Hartwell coves while cooling water was kept in Keowee for the nuclear plant.

Protection of fish and wildlife and the power supply are other key topics for stakeholders, Kearns said.

FERC staffers toured the 710-megawatt Jocassee dam facility Tuesday and from the top of the dam had a view of man-made and natural resources including some smallmouth bass that swam by as if on cue.

All of these interests must be balanced as the terms of the new license are designed, Kearns said.