

# Duke Energy dock upgrade

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SENECA — Waterfront homeowners on lakes Keowee and Jocassee who were told in June they could start planning and permitting dock modifications under a program to begin next week have now been told by Duke Energy they'll have to wait.

Lake residents were alerted to the change in plans through emails

circulated last week by local stakeholders who for more than three years have been participating in the relicensing of Duke Energy's Keowee-Tox-away (K-T) Hydroelectric Project. Stakeholders said Duke Energy officials explained the reasons for the delay during a hastily called meeting Aug. 20.

The following day, Duke Energy issued a public statement saying the delay was in response to

feedback from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is responsible for licensing the K-T project.

Before announcing the delay, Duke said in June waterfront homeowners had a one-year period beginning next week and ending Aug. 31, 2016, in which to submit an application and receive written approval allowing them to add up to 200 square feet to the current maximum

size limit for boat docks.

Duke spokesperson Lisa Parrish described the mix-up with FERC as "simply a timing issue."

"Adding up to 200 square feet to a pier was in our view a minor modification and did not need FERC review," Parrish said. "Our practice has been to implement revisions when they are filed with the FERC. The timing of the opportunity to apply for modifications

## program on hold

was not, however, specified in the agreement, and this appears to be of most concern to FERC."

According to Parrish, FERC's position is that such a modification is tied to operational changes associated with the license application and should be analyzed in conjunction with the entire application.

"We don't control the licensing timeline — FERC does," Parrish said.

The original 50-year K-T project license issued by FERC in 1966 expires Aug. 31, 2016. The license regulates Duke's use of waters from lakes Keowee and Jocassee, which not only generate electricity for the power company, but also cool the three reactors at Oconee Nuclear Station.

Duke Energy lakes services director Joe Hall addressed the issue in

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## PROGRAM: Duke expects to have new license by August '16

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the company's statement issued last week.

"We recognize this is an eagerly anticipated program and appreciate the community's patience and understanding," Hall said. "This approach ensures the integrity of the process as we work to secure the new license, which will allow us to implement the many associated benefits."

The dock modification program came about through the relicensing

process entered into by Duke and stakeholders beginning in 2009.

Duke said it anticipates the dock program, which would also waive fees, will be offered once FERC issues a new license. Duke submitted its license application a year ago.

Parrish said Duke Energy expects to have the new license by August 2016, according to the current FERC schedule.

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