Duke Energy pulls plug on Warpath Landing project

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THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Plans hatched nine years ago by a private developer to carve out a marina with a hotel and recreational facilities on the Pickens County side of Lake Keowee will not come to fruition.

The much-ballyhooed Warpath Landing project was delivered a deadly blow when Duke Energy, the lake's caretaker, terminated its lease with the development group effective last month.

Duke informed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of its decision in a letter dated March 6. FERC licenses Duke Energy to regulate activity on the lake.

"Given the inability of (Warpath Development Inc.) to get this project underway, Duke Energy terminated the lease with WDI, effective March 4, 2016," the power company informed FERC.

Friends of Lake Keowee Society, whose mission is to preserve, protect and enhance Lake Keowee, announced in its March-April Newsletter, The Sentinel, of Duke's decision.

FOLKS and other stakeholders in the area expressed some misgivings with aspects of the project, including safety concerns over the prospect that hundreds of additional boats entering the upper portion of the lake would increase water traffic in an area where bottlenecks already exist.

FOLKS also had concerns about the containment and processing of water runoff from paved surfaces before it leaves the site, as well as the handling of sanitary wastes generated from the proposed hotel, conference center, cabins and other amenities associated with the project.

The lease revoked by Duke Energy was executed with WDI on Jan. 3, 2007, and was to run through Sept. 12, 2046. However, WDI was scheduled to have completed recreation facilities by the end of 2015, but when the developer failed to get the project underway, Duke Energy chose to revoke the license.

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