Duke Energy to begin lake renovation, removal program

SENECA — Duke Energy employees soon will begin patrolling the shorelines around lakes Jocassee and Keowee to make all areas comply with state and local health and safety requirements.

Joe Hall, director of Duke's Lake Services, said company survey crews will look for signs of obvious neglect such as missing planks, inadequate flotation or clear structural failure. Hall said that abandoned boats also would be identified.

When unsafe conditions are found, Hall said owners would be notified and asked to contact Duke Energy with a plan for repair or removal. If repairs are not made, structures and abandoned boats could be removed at the owner's expense and any active permits revoked.

The renovation and removal program around Jocassee and Keowee begins before the end of the March and should be completed by the end of the year.

Under a license to generate hydropower on the lakes that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued to Duke Energy, the power company also is responsible for permitting of piers, seawalls and other activities to enhance the recreational use of the lakes.

Property owners with questions may call Duke's Lake Services at (800) 443-5193.