

Duke opens input on plants

By John C. Stevenson

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PICKENS - Duke Energy has kicked off the two-year relicensing process for its Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project, which will include public input on the two hydroelectric plants as well as Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee.

The original 50-year license issued for the two neighboring sites - Keowee Hydro Facility with

Lake Keowee and the Jocassee Pumped Storage Facility with Lake Jocassee - was issued in 1966 and is due to expire in 2016, according to Duke Energy spokeswoman Sandra Magee.

The license is issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which will hold public input sessions, with one scheduled for June 15 at Seneca High School, she said.

"We believe that a process that includes the com-

munity and the organizations who have interests in the project is important," Magee said. "So we encourage people who have an interest, who have a question or a particular issue, to make us aware of that throughout the process."

One local naturalist predicted some of that input will be critical of Duke Energy and the project, which flooded thousands of acres to create the two lakes.

Dennis Chastain said he

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

To keep track of the relicensing for the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project or to submit input, go to <http://www.duke-energy.com/keowee-toxaway-relicensing/keowee-toxaway-project.asp>.

still hears from people whose families sold their land to Duke, and many feel they were "short-sheeted" by the utility.