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Duke relaxes watering restrictions

Lake pump use now allowed twice weekly

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SENECA -- Now that recent rains have brought area to normal levels, Duke Energy will allow lake residents to water with lake pumps two days a week instead of only one.

Duke announced that pumps drawing water from lakes Keowee and Jocassee may be used on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Joe Hall, lake services and permitting director, said the public support of conservation efforts including the restricted use of lake pumps is appreciated.

Duke asks for continued support in limiting watering to two days per week, he said. Watering lawns and landscaping is one of the largest non-essential uses of water within the basin.

"As summer approaches and temperatures increase, we remain cautiously optimistic about water levels. We have not completely recovered from the drought, Hall said. We encourage all water users to continue to conserve water and use less."

A warning will be issued the first time a lake pump is observed being used for lawns or landscaping outside the designated days. Duke will take action to remove the pumping facilities from the lake boundary on a second voilation.

Continued failure to comply with these restrictions can result in the loss of dock access and future consideration of other lake use authorizations for up to five years. Anyone observing misuse of lake pumps can report those to Duke Energy's lake services line at 1-800-443-5193.

For more information on lake levels and other related topics, please visit the web at http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes.