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Duke to survey Lake Keowee, Lake Jocassee users

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SENECA — Boaters and outdoor enthusiasts using public recreation access areas on Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee may be asked to participate in surveys designed to gather feedback on recreation amenities on the lakes.

This recreation study is one of 14 under way as part of Duke Energy's Keowee-Toxaway hydroelectric relicensing effort. Duke Energy has engaged the services of a consultant to survey public recreation access area visitors during the peak recreation season of March 15 to Sept. 30, 2012. In addition to surveying access area visitors, surveys also will be conducted later this year with shoreline property owners, governmental agencies, recreation organizations and a random sample of county residents.

"This recreation study is an excellent opportunity for relicensing stakeholders to hear directly from the community about how they experience today's recreation amenities and what enhancements they'd like to see in the future," said Scott Jolley, project manager.

The survey is part of the overall recreation study designed to characterize current public recreation activity and satisfaction levels, while also estimating demand for future facilities. It will estimate current boating density and "carrying capacity" — a measure of how many boats can use the lake safely at once — while assessing boating safety in constricted areas on Lake Keowee. Finally, it will describe the economic value of recreation resulting from the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project.

The contractors facilitating surveys at the public recreation access areas will work in morning, afternoon and evening shifts. They will be wearing identification and will rotate among the access areas to gather opinions. They will conduct exit surveys as visitors are leaving access areas and may approach visitors to discuss their recreation experience that day.

Duke Energy Carolinas owns nuclear, coal-fired, natural gas and hydroelectric generation. That diverse fuel mix provides approximately 19,500 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 2.4 million customers in a 24,000-square-mile service area of North Carolina and South Carolina.

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