

Duke unveils \$6 million in recreational upgrades

Plan calls for work at parks, access areas on lakes Keowee, Jocassee

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SENECA — The more than 44,000 visitors, who each year enjoy Lake Keowee by way of the Stamp Creek Landing Road off of S.C. Highway 183, can look forward to an array of new recreational facilities that include a fishing pier, a natural beach, picnic areas and restrooms.

The improvements, scheduled to be completed by December 2013 at a cost of about \$1 million, is part of the Recreation Management Plan unveiled by Duke Energy on Thursday.

More than 80 residents packed the World of Energy auditorium to hear details of the RMP, which would include a sundry list of upgrades at parks and boating access areas in Oconee and Pickens counties at a total cost of up to \$6 million.

The plan was submitted by Duke to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last month. None of the scheduled

work can begin until FERC approves the management plan.

Bill Ambrose, one of the Duke consultants who presented a PowerPoint presentation of the plan, said approval from FERC is expected sometime this year but admitted no one knows exactly when that would be.

"These things won't happen immediately," Ambrose said.

Other improvements outlined by Duke includes:

- \$1.3 million at Devils Fork State Park for ramp extensions and restrooms at the North and South remote access areas, along with other repairs and upgrades to be completed by December 2011

- \$1.2 million at Fall Creek Access Area for restrooms, paved parking, picnic tables and courtesy docks, by December 2015

- \$775,000 at Cane Creek Access Area for restrooms, lighting, vehicle parking and picnic/fishing sites, by December 2012

- \$425,000 at South Cove County Park for a restroom between the fishing pier parking and boat ramp turnaround, an American with Disabilities ACT trail from the fishing pier parking to the restroom and a courtesy dock, by December 2014

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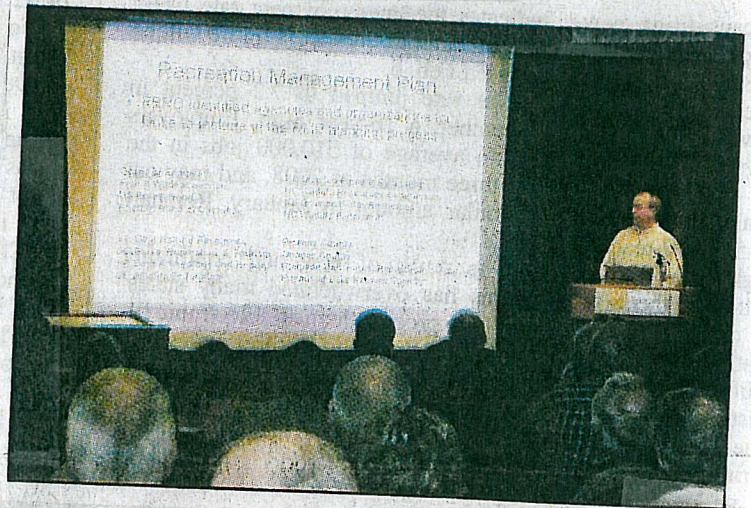
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Duke's plan also outlines improvements to the privately-funded \$25.3 million Warpath Landing development on the Pickens County side of Lake Keowee. The Warpath project includes a marina, fueling station, restaurant and lodging.

The RMP is based on a Recreation Use and Needs study filed by Duke with FERC on May 28, 2008, which provided current information on existing and estimated future public use and facility needs in the Keowee-Toxaway Project Lands and Water.

The 72-page RMP, as well as comments by officials from Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) and Advocates for Quality Development (AQD), are available at <http://www.ferc.gov>. FOLKS and AQD generally commended Duke for presenting a plan that reflected users input during the survey.

However, both FOLKS and Advocates for Quality Development are concerned of



Carlos Galarza/Staff

Duke Energy consultant Bill Ambrose highlights sections of the Fortune 500 company's Recreation Management Plan that would pump up to \$6 million in upgrades to parks and access areas along lakes Keowee and Jocassee during the next six years.

the possibility of more private commercial developments, such as Warpath Landing, gobbling up more access areas to Lake Keowee.

All of the improvements indicated in the RMP would be completed before Duke's current license with FERC expires in 2016.



File Photo

In this file photo, David Smith, back boat, and Jane and George Polk and Terry Keane, front boat, sail along Lake Keowee. Duke Energy on Thursday night at the World of Energy unveiled \$6 million in parks and lake access improvements along lakes Keowee and Jocassee, which are slated to be completed before 2016.