FOLKS forum Thursday to address levels, requirements for area lakes

Staff Reports

SENECA — George Galleher of Duke Energy Hydroelectric Operations will discuss questions regarding lake levels and requirements at a 6:30 p.m., Thursday, forum at the Duke World of Energy.

According to Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) Executive Director Ben Turetzky, FOLKS has been receiving many more telephone calls than usual asking "why is Lake Keowee so low when Hartwell is almost full?"

"Lake Jocassee is down about 15 feet, and Keowee has been ranging from 3-5 feet down," Turetzky said. "The last word from Duke Hydro Operations was that Jocassee would gradually drop and that Lake Keowee would remain at 'current levels,' which will vary from down 3-5 feet for the summer."

Galleher will discuss the following questions and others during his presentation:

- The drought has been declared "over," but is it really over?
- We've had some heavy, but scattered rain over the past week, but how much of it fell in the Jocassee and Keowee watersheds and made it to the lakes?
- How much has the ground water recovered?
- What are the summer, fall and long-range forecasts?
- What are the requirements for water releases by Duke Energy to Lake Hartwell?