independentmail.com
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOLKS plans workshop Thursday

Independent Mail
Originally published 04:08 p.m., June 16, 2009
Updated 04:08 p.m., June 16, 2009

SENECA — Bill Graham, president of Friends of Lake Keowee Society, says that the society is vitally concerned and will be deeply involved in the five-year relicensing process of the Keowee-Toxaway Project, the official name for the Lake Keowee/Jocassee Hydroelectric Project.

The original 50-year license will expire in 2016 and Duke-Energy has already geared up to deliver its relicensing request to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by the deadline in 2014, Graham said.

"This workshop will be an opportunity for the public to become familiar with the relicensing process," Graham said. "We hope to have a large public turnout on June 18."

The workshop will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the World of Energy on SC 130 at the Oconee Nuclear Station.

Graham said the current Recreation Management Plan (RMP) still in the FERC approval process will control improvements to the public access areas on Lake Keowee until 2016. The same is the case for the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).

Examples of the various types of studies and issues that are addressed in relicensing are available at websites for Lake Murray and Catawba Wateree:

http://www.saludahydrorelicense.com/ and

http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/catawba-wateree-relicensing.asp

Graham said that "the relicensing is the last opportunity in many of our lifetimes to impact many of the aspects of how the lake system is managed.

Among the areas that FOLKS is mainly concerned about are minimizing commercialization of the public access service areas.

Graham said that "FOLKS has been an active stakeholder in the SMP, RUNS, and RMP and looks forward to being an active participant in this extremely important five-year endeavor.

For additional information call Graham at (864) 638-0927 or FOLKS executive director Ben Turetzky at (864) 903-4692.