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Keowee hydro license up for renewal

By Anna Simon
CLEMSON BUREAU
asimon@greenvillenews.com

The federal license for Duke Energy's Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project is up for renewal – opening a rare window that gives Upstate residents a voice in how lakes Keowee and Jocassee will be managed for decades to come.

Duke will host an open house Thursday from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the World of Energy at Oconee Nuclear Station to share information on the plans and process for relicensing the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project, said Sandra Magee, Duke spokeswoman.

The current 50-year license expires in 2016. A new license is typically granted for 30-50 years, Magee said.

The public is invited to stop by during the four-hour event to speak with Duke Energy representatives.

The representatives will share information about how the relicensing process works, how the public can provide input during the process and about studies and other information needed for relicensing, Magee said.

Bill Graham, president of the Friends of Lake Keowee Society, said it is important that residents attend the open house in order to learn about the five-year relicensing process and be involved in decisions.