

# Lake residents face watering restrictions

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**SENECA** — As daytime temperatures climb into the 80s, azalea bushes fill with blooms and lawns begin to grow, irrigation restrictions placed on property owners on Keowee and Jocassee lakes last winter take on new meaning.

Watering wasn't much of an issue back in February, when Duke Energy restricted the use of lake pumps for irrigation on the lakes to two days each week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The restriction was imposed in response to current severe drought conditions and remains in effect.

"As the weather warms up we expect residents will be landscaping and making annual spring improvements," said Joe Hall, lake services director for Duke.

"We want to thank everyone for supporting con-

servation efforts and ask everyone to continue to limit watering to the two designated days per week."

Jocassee is more than 22 feet below full pond, and Keowee is more than four feet below full pond, according to Duke Energy data.

Watering lawns and landscaping are significant uses of water, Hall said.

The last soaking rain in the Upstate was March 3, said Doug Outlaw, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Greer. The next possibility for a soaking rain is Sunday.

Rainfall totals are 3.61 inches below normal so far this year at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport and 4.42 inches below normal for the year at the Anderson Airport, according to the National Weather Service.

Anyone observing misuse of lake pumps can contact Duke's lake services line at 1-800-443-5193.