Marinas dot Keowee shoreline plan

Duke expert: Commercial marinas among most restricted

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WALHALLA — There are dozens of spots around Lake Keowee's shoreline that Duke Energy could allow a commercial marina to operate, a Duke shoreline management expert told the Planning Commission on Monday night.

Kelvin Reagan, a senior representative with Duke Energy Lake Services, said there are 50 areas on the company's Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) map that allow commercial marinas.



Heller

Reagan and Brett Garrison presented a PowerPoint overview of the SMP and tried to answer what it does and does not allow.

The Planning Commission requested the presentation in light of its ongoing review of citizen-initiated zoning petitions that — so far — have mostly centered on Lake Keowee communities.

Planners also wanted to hear from Duke's shoreline management experts before taking a vote on a proposal by District 1 Commission member Andrea "Andy" Heller to establish new non-residential use standards in the Lake Overlay District.

Following Duke's presentation and question and answer period, the commission adjourned the meeting without considering Heller's proposal.

Planning Department Director Art Holbrooks said the Lake Overlay District standards, which would require non-residential activities such as commercial marinas to comply with new greenspace, erosion control, lighting and parking requirements, could come up at the next meeting.

Reagan said that although the current SMP map would allow 50 commercial marinas around Lake Keowee, he said the permitting of one would immediately limit other commercial marinas from operating.

"Duke Energy won't allow a commercial marina within a half-mile radius of an existing one," Reagan said.

Reagan said that if 50 percent of the shoreline

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already were developed that too would keep a marina from operating in that area.

"It's (commercial marinas) one of the things we restrict the most," Reagan said.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved an SMP for Lake Keowee in 2007. An SMP for Lake Jocassee was submitted in December 2008 and has yet to be approved.

SMP goals include providing for public and private access to the lake and managing environmental and cultural resources.

Reagan said Duke's jurisdiction is the project boundary up to 810 feet from the shoreline.

Reagan said Duke Energy is making an effort to work with counties in regulating shoreline activity by entering into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local governments.

Garrison said Duke and Oconee County do not have an MOU.

Holbrooks said an MOU could be worked out as part of the 2016 relicensing of the Keowee-Toxaway project that created the lake in the 1960s.

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