Residents want lakes protected from development

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Local residents attending hearings on relicensing of hydro-electric facilities on Lakes Jocassee and Keowee told federal regulators Wednesday they want assurance the area around the lakes will be preserved from development.

Many of those who spoke at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hearings at Seneca High School said they want development of marinas and other commercial businesses limited.

Preservationists pushed the fact that the original 50-year license promised that at least 60,000 acres of woods would be available to the public.

Duke spokeswoman Sandra Magee said the utility has protected about 57,000 acres of land for public use in the Keowee-Toxaway area.

Regulators will accept written comments through July 15.

The current license expires in 2016.

RIVERS AND LAKES

Lake	Change (As of 7 a.m. yesterday)	Full pool
Hartwell Lake	659.07 down .16	660.0
Lake Keowee	95.2 up .2	100.0
Lake Russell	473.09 up .18	480.0
Lake Thurmond	327.58 up .05	330.0
Lake Jocassee	97.6 down .1	100.0