



FILE PHOTO

Lake levels remain low despite recent rainfall. State officials kept all counties on moderate drought status Thursday.

# SC keeps 'moderate drought' level in place, for now

BY CARLOS GALARRIZA  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A Duke Energy official said this week that recent rainfall helped the lakes "gain a small amount of storage."

George Galleher, the Hydro Fleet Operations engineer for Duke Energy, said that prior to the rain event, stream flows in the Duke Energy service area, including the Keowee-Toxaway River Basins, "were running very low."

Galleher made his comments during a meeting this week via teleconference with the South Carolina Drought Response team.

The committee decided Thursday to keep all counties under a moderate drought status despite the rain received by most areas from Sept. 20-28.

Drought Response officials are concerned that the rainfall may have only

been a short-term interruption to a pattern of below-normal rainfall that is forecast to continue.

Doug Mills with the state Forestry Commission said the recent rains have caused a welcome reduction in wildfires around the state. However, he warned that ongoing drought conditions would keep the risk of fires high throughout the fall season.

State Climatologist Hope Mizzell said it would be critical to monitor indexes over the next several weeks for potential deterioration of drought conditions.

The moderate drought status does not require any action by local government officials, but the committee recommends that organizations take the opportunity to review local drought plans.

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raising most money. (864) 888-8616 or chuck.bellsouth.net.

**Moving Forward for Widowed Persons breakfast** 8 a.m. at Seneca Family Restaurant. All widows and sons invited. (864) 972-9208 or (864) 483-1111

**Let's ride the dragon in honor of Page Holcomb** daughter of the Rev. Bobby and Allison Holcomb. Registration 8 a.m., Lucky Strike, Westminster. 8:30 a.m. All day ride in Georgia, N.C. and Tennessee. 247-1230 or (864) 247-5478

**Kids Workshop Annual Safety Event** 9 a.m. - Seneca Home Depot. Build a fire and rescue team.

**Fall For Seneca**, 5-9 p.m. in downtown Seneca. Community event for whole family sponsored by the Assembly of God. Games, inflatables, food and door movie on the green. Bring chair or blankets. Nations accepted for Foothills Pregnancy Care

**5K Run/1 Mile Walk to benefit adult citizen person County Special Needs program.** 8 a.m. Darwin Wright Park, Hwy. 178, Anderson. \$25. 287-0501 or (864) 276-7243 or StrictlyRunners

**SUNDAY, OCT. 2**

**Seneca Jr. Woman's Club meets** 6 p.m. hosted by Merle Norman of Seneca. For info., call Deanna Moore (864) 647-2490.

**MONDAY, OCT. 3**

**Clemson Area Amateur Astronomers meet** 7 p.m. at United Way, 409 E. N. 1st St., Seneca. (864) 6387 or <http://www.oconeeskies.com/caaa/>

**Cosmopolitan Woman's Club of Seneca meets** at Keowee Key 11:30 a.m. After lunch (reservations) there is a Tea Cup Auction with

## Legislators mixed sentiment pension perks

County, and I'm very pleased with the financial aspect of it."

While the USA Today article and

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USA Today