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The skinny on skinny water

As the Keowee-Toxaway Project moves closer to relicensing there has been plenty of talk about the potential to add to the square footage of boat docks to maintain usability during extended droughts at lakes Keowee and Jocassee. I will attempt to give you some of the basic guidelines involved in this process.

The Skinny

The Relicensing Agreement includes revisions to the Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMG). This discussion pertains to the revision labeled, "Modification of Existing Docks To Reach Deeper Water," which can be found in section 7.5 of the Relicensing Agreement, available on Duke Energy's relicensing website.

The intent of this revision is to provide a potential opportunity for property owners with existing docks and active permits, who potentially had no knowledge of the potential for lower lake levels during extended droughts, to improve their dock's usability during extended droughts. In other words, try to put their dock in deeper water, if it is available. Property owners installing docks after the "effective date" of the Relicensing Agreement should design their docks to maintain usability during extended droughts.

I have listed below some of the basic parameters of this revision.

Who qualifies?

Only property owners who meet one of the following criteria by the "effective date" of Dec. 1, 2013, will potentially be eligible for the additional square footage:

– Property owners with an existing, Duke Energy-approved boat dock;

– Property owners with a Duke Energy-approved permit for a not-yet constructed boat dock issued less than 12 months prior to Dec. 1, 2013. In other words, the dock permit must have been issued between Dec. 1, 2012 and Dec. 1, 2013.

What modifications can I make to my dock under this revision?

The normal maximum size limit of 1,000 square feet may possibly be increased to 1,200 square feet if the larger size is needed to reach deeper water.

Modifications can include complete replacement of a dock, relocation of the dock along the approved shoreline, reconfiguration, simple extensions of gangways or a combination of these.



This 200 square foot allowance is intended to provide space required to extend gangways or piers to reach deeper water, not to add deck space to the dock.

Docks must comply with all other Shoreline Management Guidelines.

When can this be done?

Lake Services will accept applications no sooner than Dec. 1, 2014.

Duke Energy will provide broad public notification at least 30 days prior to the opening of the window of opportunity. Once this window opens, Duke Energy Lake Services will accept eligible lake use permit applications for the surface area and build-out period exceptions for one year.

Waiver of permit fees

There will be no permit application fee or a Habitat Enhancement Program fee for approved dock modifications needed to reach deeper water.

This waiver will only apply to applications approved within the window of opportunity noted above.

Property owners who wish to modify their docks to reach deeper water either before or after the window of opportunity may do so with the proper approvals including written approval from Duke Energy Lake Services. In this situation the applicant is not eligible to increase the surface size above 1,000 square feet or be eligible for any fee waivers.

I will discuss this in more detail as we get closer to the allowable dates. In the interim you can access the Keowee-Toxaway Relicensing Agreement at http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/keowee-toxaway-relicensing.asp. Click on "

Keowee-Toxaway Online Library" then "Relicensing Agreement" at the top of the page.

Lake Hartwell

Below are some useful links regarding water management on Lake Hartwell and the Savanna Basin, including balancing the basin blog site:

http://balancingthebasin.armylive.dodlive.mil/2013/10/11/water-management-website-available-for-public-view/

http://balancingthebasin.armylive.dodlive.mil/2013/10/17/how-do-i-find-the-weekly-declaration-and-projection/#comment-428