

Keowee access point to get facelift

By Anna Mitchell

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SENECA — Lake Keowee will lose one of its nine public access points temporarily this winter as Duke Energy undertakes major upgrades to the facility.

The Cane Creek Access Area will close on Oct. 3, Duke spokesman Robert Cook said. Crews estimate that work will keep the site shut for safety reasons until February.

Improvements will include a new courtesy dock, new bathrooms, additional parking for picnic sites, and a paved entrance road to connect new parking to the existing site. New lighting will also be installed at the boat ramps and picnic areas.

"We are enhancing a number of our facilities," Cook said.

A portion of the Fall Creek Access Area closed in August for similar upgrades that should wrap up in November.

The Cane Creek Access Area is just off Cane Creek Landing Road in Oconee County. The South Cove County Park on nearby South Cove Road off S.C. 188 and S.C. 28 is the closest alternative public access point.

The number of visitors to the Cane Creek Access Area and costs of the improvements were not available Thursday.

Duke Energy provides recreational facilities to the public at Lake Keowee as part of its 1966 licensing agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Lake Keowee reservoir was created as part of a larger hydropower operation called the Keowee-Toxaway Project.

That license expires in 2016, and Duke officials are working with community members to study whether the utility should enhance or add to existing recreational facilities.

Cook said the changes under way at the Fall Creek and Cane Creek access points are part of the utility's continuing commitment to maintain public facilities at the lake.

More information about access points is available at 800-443-5193 or www.duke-energy.com/lakes/access-information.asp.

