

SALEM

Public access limited at Fall Creek during fence installation

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SALEM — Public access to the southern area of Fall Creek Landing will be temporarily closed beginning Sunday as officials install what they hope will be deterrents for visitors trying to swim to "jumping-off rock."

Duke Energy officials said the area is

scheduled to be closed through Dec. 20 to install fencing and shoreline stabilization in an effort to "prevent pedestrian access to the peninsula from the main access area parking lot."

"Over the past several years, drownings in the vicinity of the Fall

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Creek Access Area have occurred from individuals accessing the Fall Creek peninsula by foot to reach an island commonly referred to as "jumping-off rock," Duke Energy spokeswoman Kim Crawford said in a news release. "In an effort to help prevent future drownings, Duke Energy, in consultation with Oconee County officials, determined it was necessary to restrict pedestrian access to the peninsula from the main

Fall Creek Access Area parking lot."

Oconee County Councilman Julian Davis announced the fence and rip-rap installation at the Oct. 15 meeting after receiving an official notification of commitment from Duke Energy district manager Emily DeRoberts.

In addition to the fence to prevent pedestrian traffic to the popular hangout spot on Lake Keowee, Duke Energy also plans to stabilize a portion of the shoreline on the peninsula to prevent further ero-

sion and deter pedestrian access to the island.

The peninsula will remain accessible by boat for bank fishing and wildlife viewing, Crawford said.

The northern access at Fall Creek Landing will remain open for boating, fishing, wildlife viewing and swimming.

Updates will be posted and available under "water access alerts" for Lake Keowee at duke-energy.com/community/lakes.