

'Strategic improvement'



SAVANNAH BLAKE | THE JOURNAL

Though the pavement rehabilitation project may be years down the road, Duke Energy is moving its lines off the Keowee School Road bridge at Cane Creek Crossing this summer. New underground lines will allow for more reliability and support growth in the community, according to Duke Energy.

Duke Energy moving lines from bridge under lake

BY CAITLIN HERRINGTON
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Duke Energy plans to relocate some of its lines along Keowee School Road this summer, moving them from a bridge to a safe location 15 feet under Lake Keowee.

The \$2.6 million project requires underground boring on either side of the bridge on S.C. Highway 188 at Cane Creek, according to Duke Energy spokesman Ryan Mosier, and lake traffic will not be impacted by construction activities.

"Conductors supporting this line are installed

in conduit and attached to the bridge," Mosier said. "As the surrounding area experiences a growth in electric demand, it is necessary to extend a nearby line across the bridge as well and upgrade the conductors for both lines."

The project schedule is July through August and is a precursor to the South Carolina Department of Transportation rehabilitating the bridge in coming years, Mosier said.



Mosier

SCDOT did not have a timeline for the bridge project, engineer Joseph Fowler told The Journal, as the money for many road projects is generated from the state gas tax that has dwindled as residents travel less during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Keowee School Road bridge is about halfway down a list of more than 20 in the Upstate, he said, and road rehabilitation projects take place as the funds become available.

The proposed Duke Energy project requires nine runs of conduit, roughly 2,200 feet long,

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Ryan Mosier
Duke Energy spokesman

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being located under Lake Keowee via directional boring, according to the engineering firm charged with tackling the relocation. The lines will be a minimum of 15 feet below the lake bed, all ground disturbance will occur outside the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) boundaries and the plan accounts for stormwater pollution prevention as well.

Homeowners near the project will be contacted via mail with educational materials, Mosier said, and adjacent property owners will have the chance to meet face-to-

face to ask questions.

"We are making targeted investments to build a stronger, smarter and more resilient energy grid across South Carolina," Mosier said. "This project is a strategic improvement to increase reliabil-

ity, support the growth of the community and make our energy infrastructure more resilient against power outages around Lake Keowee."

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