

Program available to help residents with septic systems

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Some residents who live near Lake Keowee in Oconee and Pickens counties could be eligible for financial assistance to replace and repair septic systems.

Lake Keowee Source Water Protection Team (LKSAPT) chairwoman Scottie Ferguson said there is an automatic 60 percent match regardless of income coming from the project thanks to grant money from Duke Energy and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The grants are to find and fix failing septic systems that impact the boundaries of any Duke project.

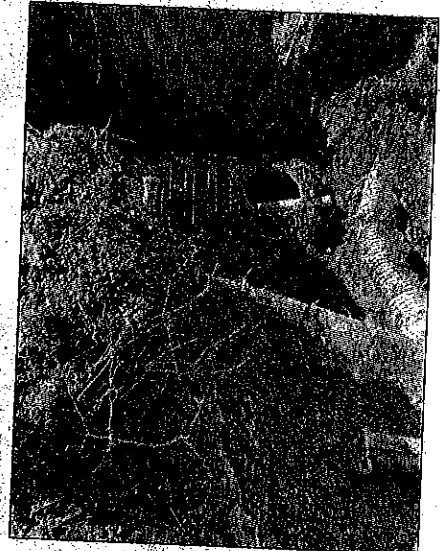
The LKSAPT nonprofit was created during the licensing process for the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project through Duke Energy. There is also assistance based on income, according to Ferguson, who also works with the Pickens County Department of Storm Management, said the program is focused on "protecting water quality."

"The Lake Keowee Source Water Protection Program provides many benefits to Upstate South Carolina," Duke Energy program manager Alan Stuart said in a statement. "Most important, these

benefits include implementing measurable on-the-ground watershed improvement projects with local citizens interested in protecting water quality and developing water conservation initiatives at local, regional and state levels."

Officers representing LKSAPT are members of the Friends of Lake Keowee Society, Seneca Light and Water, Greenville Water, Oconee County, Pickens County, Advocates for Quality Development and Upstate Forever.

Inquiries for funding should be directed to (864) 605-1895 or lakekeoweewatershed.org, where assistance is available to find out if your septic system is eligible for funding.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The Lake Keowee Source Water Protection Team (LKSAPT), a nonprofit created during the relicensing process for the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project, recently awarded the first funds to repair a failing septic system in the Lake Keowee watershed.

