

Duke planning structure inspections on Keowee

Crews will look for neglected docks and piers, prohibited items

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Residents along the shores of Lake Keowee can expect to see inspectors from Duke Energy out and about starting in March.

The utility is sending crews out for its annual lake structure inspections, according to a Tuesday news release. Members of the Lake Services team will check for signs of obvious neglect to docks and piers, make sure shoreline facilities are properly maintained and remove any prohibited items that have been installed or abandoned in the lake.

"The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires Duke Energy to ensure shoreline structures remain in good condition and do not pose dangerous conditions for the public," Lake Services team manager Kelvin Reagan said.

Inspection crews will review all structure inside the project boundary of the lake, looking for signs of obvious neglect such as missing decking, inade-

quate flotation or structural failure, the release said. Duke Energy will notify structure owners of any unsafe conditions and ask for a plan for repair or removal.

If the owners don't make repairs or remove any unsafe structures, abandoned boats or other prohibited items, Duke will remove them at the owner's expense, the release said, and might not consider future lake use permit requests.

Anyone who is concerned their structure might be identified during the inspections will be allowed to submit a lake permit application for approval to repair it before the inspection begins.

"We last completed the inspection on Lake Keowee in 2009," Reagan said. "Lake neighbor cooperation with this effort was outstanding at that time and we hope and expect the same this time."

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Prohibited items like unauthorized mooring buoys will be removed as crews find them so they don't become a risk to boaters and swimmers and to prevent litter build up.

Duke Energy will store those items for at least 30 days to allow people time to claim them. Residents can call (800) 443-5193 to make an appointment to pick up their items.