# **MEETING NOTES**

## SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY Joint RCG Meeting

## October 9, 2014

#### Final KDM 12-15-14

### ATTENDEES:

Steve Summer (SCANA) Milton Quattlebaum (SCANA) Bill Marshall (SCDNR) Randy Mahan (SCANA) Bill Argentieri (SCE&G) John Fantry (Town of Winnsboro) Byron Hamstead (USFWS) Pace Wilber (NOAA) via conference call Amy Bresnahan (SCE&G) Greg Mixon (SCDNR)

Bill Stangler (Congaree Riverkeeper) David Eargle (SCDHEC) Dick Christie (SCDNR) Tommy Boozer (SCE&G) Beth Trump (SCE&G) Henry Mealing (Kleinschmidt) Kelly Miller (Kleinschmidt) Shane Boring (Kleinschmidt) Alison Jakupca (Kleinschmidt)

These notes serve to be a summary of the major points presented during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

The purpose of the joint RCG meeting was to discuss the draft Parr Hydroelectric Project Preliminary Application Document (PAD). The draft PAD was developed using existing Project data to describe the Project resources and how it operates under the current FERC license. The draft PAD was distributed to stakeholders to review and comment on prior to submittal to FERC.

Henry opened the meeting by explaining that a PAD is not the Final License Application or a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. It is a starting point for relicensing based upon the results of the collection of existing Project related data. No new, relicensing-focused studies have been conducted and the actual relicensing process doesn't begin until the PAD is filed with FERC.

Bill A. told the group that he has received several letters from agencies and NGOs endorsing or expressing a neutral stance on SCE&G's request to use the Traditional Licensing Process. Bill A. explained that he will be visiting FERC in October and additional letters of concurrence would be appreciated.

Kelly then began reviewing the comments received on the PAD. Comments were submitted by SCDNR, SCDHEC, USFWS, and the Congaree Riverkeeper. Kelly told the group that many comments or edits were simply accepted, or added to the document, but several comments needed further discussion with the group. She told the group that all comments were combined into one document so the document could be reviewed from beginning to end during our meeting. During

the review, Kelly noted the comments that were accepted, and identified the comments that required additional discussion.

PAD comments that were discussed at the meeting are listed below.

- Byron asked for further explanation of the 6 deviations listed in the Parr Hydro Minimum Flow Compliance Summary (Table 3-3). The footnote was expanded to clarify information on these deviations.
- SCDNR asked for further explanation on Article 50 and 51 regarding odor monitoring. Bill A. explained the history of the two license articles and that discontinuation of odor monitoring was approved by SCDHEC and FERC in 1982 and 1983, respectively. (see PAD Section 3.8: Compliance Summary).
- Byron asked for additional information on erosion within the Project Boundary. Parr and Monticello Reservoir erosion studies were added to the PAD, including maps that indicate erosion levels along each reservoir's shoreline. (See PAD section 4.1.4: Existing Erosion, Mass Soil Movement, Slumping, or Other Forms of Instability)
  - Greg asked if SCE&G monitored the islands on Lake Monticello for erosion. Bill A. said that they currently do not, but that this may be something to consider in the future. It was noted that currently no islands were indicated as areas of concern for cultural resources in the SHPO studies.
- Several comments were submitted regarding the dissolved oxygen levels downstream of Parr Shoals Dam. Kelly added information in the PAD to address this concern. (See PAD section 4.3.2: Effects of Project Operations on Existing Water Quality)
- Byron suggested that the information included in the PAD on the Santee River Basin Accord for Diadromous Fish Protection, Restoration and Enhancement be expanded to discuss the triggers for fish passage at Parr Shoals Dam. Kelly included the trigger information, along with information on passage at the Columbia Dam. (See PAD section 4.4.1.4: Diadromous Fish)
- Byron asked for additional clarification of the macroinvertebrate studies that were included in the PAD try to summarize and shorten this section of the PAD. Kelly said that this section (PAD section 4.4.2: Macroinvertebrate Species and Habitats) would be reviewed and revised to provide a clearer, more concise summary of the studies. Byron said he would submit comments to aid in this effort.
- David asked that the Japanese Mystery Snail be added to PAD section 4.4.4 Invasive Aquatic Species. This section will also be reviewed to ensure all invasive aquatic species in the Project Area are listed.
- Dick said he would like to review the section on striped bass and submit additional comments.
- SCDNR asked for additional information on Land Use at the Project several times throughout the document. Alison discussed the information that was included in the PAD (Table 4-30: Land Use Classifications within the Project Boundary).

Additional edits to the PAD, including information on striped bass and macroinvertebrates, will be distributed to the group for final review. A copy of the final Parr Reservoir Erosion Report will also be distributed to the group when it becomes available.

Due to the size of the PAD, the edited version is not attached to the end of the notes, however, it will be provided upon request via email. If you would like a copy of the edited PAD, which reflects



in track changes comments submitted before and during the meeting, please call or email Kelly. The final Parr Hydro Project PAD is scheduled to be submitted to FERC the first week of January 2015. A copy of the final PAD will also be emailed to the stakeholders and will be posted to the Project website at <u>www.parrhydrorelicense.com</u>.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Dick will submit additional comments on striped bass.
- Byron will submit additional comments on the macroinvertebrate section of the PAD.
- Kelly will review and clarify the section on macroinvertebrates.
- Additional major edits will be circulated to the group for review and approval.
- The final PAD will be distributed to the group when it is filed with FERC in 2015.

