

Dear Elected Officials

I'm asking your help and support in **opposing a DNR** action that will hurt Lake Murray.. SCE&G is submitting a plan to FERC for re-licensing the management of Lake Murray for the next 30-50 years.

- DNR (Dept. of Natural Resources) is unwilling to compromise on the issue of the amount of water to be released to the rivers during drought situations. (There has been drought 7 of the last 10 years.) Managing the lake during periods of drought is called the LIP or Low Inflow Protocol.
- **DNR** is demanding high releases of water be guaranteed during the spring to the downstream rivers to improve the spawning of the striped bass in the Congaree and Saluda Rivers regardless of a drought situation. (Present license states 200 cfs. (cubic feet per second) was later amended to 400 cfs. now they want up to 700 year around and in spring it could be from 1000 up to 2700 cfs.
- Fluctuating lake levels in the spring and summer can dry up shorelines and disturb the spawning activity of fish in the lake. Fish in the lake are just as important as fish in the river.
- DNR also wants a striped bass regime that could be 35% of the Broad River flow in the spring season. During a drought, Lake Murray would then experience low lake levels resulting in docks sitting on the bottom and boats unusable during prime season.
- Low lake levels would hurt our economy: 1.3 million visitors in the 4 county area bordering the lake spent \$58.5 million last year. We would re-experience the loss of revenue we had during the water drawdown necessary for dam remediation.
- **All have agreed to slow down releases during a drought, it is the trigger that determines when to slow down releases of water.** How much it drops determines the amount of water that will be a guaranteed release...DNR does not want to change anything unless it drops 2 feet! LMA has compromised at a 1-foot trigger, though we prefer 6" drop to trigger a slow down of the water released. SCE&G agrees with the 1 foot. **DNR needs to agree as well.**

During droughts, both the river and the lake should "**share the pain**".

PLEASE VOICE YOUR CONCERN and help us preserve the use of Lake Murray...we NEED you!
Please do not let DNR be the final decision on Lake Level. DNR feels they should be able to control the water in Lake Murray-**the stakeholders strongly disagree!**

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