

Lake Murray
Shoreline
Management Program



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Lake Murray

Policies and Procedures

INTRODUCTION

Work of clearing the site for the Saluda River Hydroelectric Development was started in April of 1927 under a permit granted by the Federal Power Commission to the Lexington Water Power Company.

In July of 1930 Lake Murray reached an elevation of 300 feet. The following December, the first electric power, 10,000 kilowatts, was delivered. At the time of its completion, Saluda Dam was the largest earth dam in cubical content for power purposes in the world¹. The dam itself is 211 feet high and contains over 11 million cubic yards of material. Lake Murray is 41 miles long and 14 miles wide at its widest point and contains 763 billion gallons of water. It has a shoreline of approximately 650 miles including the islands.

Residents and visitors to Lake Murray are familiar with its fluctuating water levels. In the Saluda River watershed, about 75 percent of the normal rainfall comes in the first six months of the calendar year. The lake level can reach 360 feet; however the normal high lake level is usually reached in May at about 358 feet above mean sea level. When rainfall decreases during the summer months and the demand for power increases, the elevation begins to drop with a normal minimum of about 350 feet elevation coming in the fall of the year.

Lake Murray, over the years, has been, and still is, a major power generation source and provider of recreational and commercial resources for the residents and visitors of South Carolina.

In the late 1960's a rapid change in the character and rate of development of the lake began to take place.

As development increases, due primarily to Lake Murray's close proximity to the Columbia Metropolitan area, the very values that attract families and visitors in the first place could be destroyed unless the potential for environmental degradation is recognized by all parties concerned.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, (SCE&G) as owner and Licensee of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 516, realizes the need for formulation of rules and regulations to promote and enhance the recreational potential of Lake Murray and protect its environmental quality while continuing to use Lake Murray as a major part of SCE&G's power production capabilities. All lake management policies are consistent with the regulations and requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under whose authority SCE&G owns and operates Lake Murray for the generation of power.

SCE&G's Lake Management Department is responsible for enforcing FERC directives regarding unauthorized uses of Lake Murray waters and land below the 360 foot contour elevation.

FERC directives require SCE&G to prevent or halt unauthorized actions by taking measures to stop such actions.

SCE&G has implemented a Shoreline Management Permitting Program (described in this booklet) to permit, upgrade, and properly maintain structures and facilities below the 360 contour. These regulations and inspection programs serve to maintain an environment at Lake Murray which has something to offer to everyone.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

1. General Policy and Purpose

a. The implementation by SCE&G of the Lake Murray Shoreline Management Program shall maintain and conserve the area's natural and man-made resources.

b. The purpose of the policy is to comply with the terms of the Project No. 516 License, the regulations and the orders of the FERC and to assist in providing a balance between recreation and environmental control.

2. Water Quality Standards

SCE&G will conduct a continuing water quality monitoring program to ensure that the waters of Lake Murray continue to be of an "A"

classification suitable for swimming, fishing and other water-related recreational activities.

3. Undeveloped Areas

SCE&G owned undeveloped land around the lake is managed by the Land Department. These properties will be maintained through a sound forest management program to ensure the health of the forest. Timber will be managed in a multiple use manner in compliance with the S. C. Best Management Practices to maintain a balance of quality watershed conditions, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and promotion of new timber growth.

II. PUBLIC FISHING, BOATING AND HUNTING

1. Fisheries Management

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources maintains an annual stocking program during the months of April, May and June. Fisheries Management of the lake in future years will consist of annual checks of the population by predator stocking (striped bass). Approximately 20,000 Rainbow Trout are stocked in the Saluda River below the dam annually. State fishing and safety regulations are enforced by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

2. Boating Safety

The boating laws of South Carolina are enforced by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Department on Lake Murray

3. Public Hunting

Approximately 6,225 acres of watershed land within and adjacent to Project No. 516 are leased to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as a part of the statewide

Game Management Program. This land is located adjacent to the western portions of Lake Murray and in many cases, adjacent to other privately held lands that are also in the management program. These public hunting areas are shown on Game Management Area Maps available through the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources..

III. PUBLIC LANDINGS

1. SCE&G Park Facilities

SCE&G presently maintains 12 parks on Lake Murray. for a total of 56 acres. Each park provides a variety of recreational opportunities available to the public. Recreational activities include boat launching, fishing and picnicking. At the recreational facilities located on the north and south ends of the Lake Murray Dam a parking fee is charged to provide security and traffic control in congested areas. (Park season is from April 1 through September 30).

In addition to the existing 12 developed public parks, there are 65 islands in Lake Murray consisting of 220 acres that are available for public recreation.

2. Criteria for Establishing New Company Facilities

Additional park sites have been set aside by SCE&G. When public demand justifies the need for additional parks, these sites will be developed in cooperation with state and county agencies or independently by SCE&G.

3. Saluda River Access

Public boat ramps are provided on the north and south sides of the Saluda River approximately 1 mile below the dam where Hope Ferry Road once crossed the river. They can be reached from the south by Corley Mill Road and on the north by Bush River Road.

A canoe portage facility is located approximately seven miles below the Lake Murray Dam on the north side of the Saluda River off of Bush River Road.

4. Commercial Facilities

Public access to the lake is also provided at privately-owned facilities. Boat launching and other recreation activities are available.

5. S. C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Dreher Island State Park provides boat ramps, camping, swimming, nature trails, sailing, and overlook areas. This 348 acre island is leased to PRT by SCE&G

IV. DOCKS

1. General

SCE&G requires that all docks, fixed, floating or combinations, be inspected by SCE&G agents to comply with Section IV, Paragraph 6, and that an inspection decal be prominently displayed on the approved dock.

2. Policy

SCE&G requires that anyone desiring to repair, replace, add to, or construct a dock must file an application before a permit will be issued prior to start of construction. Docks, whether fixed or floating must not interfere with surface water activities or navigation and must be compatible

with scenic values in the vicinity. Use of common docks will be encouraged where practical.

3. General Requirements

A minimum lot width of 100 feet along the 360 foot contour is required before an individual residential dock application will be considered.

Lots measuring less than 100 feet in width along the 360 contour requesting a dock, will be required to construct common docks with adjacent property owner(s). It is an applicant's responsibility to make arrangements with his neighbor(s) for common dock facilities. Common docks may accommodate up to five (5) individual lakefront property owners. A minimum distance of 100 feet is required between common docks and/or a common dock and an existing individual dock.

Lots measuring less than 100 feet in width in subdivisions established prior to 1989, where the adjacent lots have existing docks, may be considered for limited size docks.

If an existing lot having a permitted dock is subdivided, that dock permit will be canceled. A new permit will be issued only if the shoreline width requirement is met or if a common dock for all resulting lots is requested.

4. Watercraft Limitations

No watercraft exceeding 30 feet in length will be permitted to be permanently docked at a residential or common area dock.

Watercraft exceeding 30 feet must be docked at a multi-use docking facility

It is against both federal and state laws to discharge sewage from any description of watercraft into the waters of South Carolina.

5. Application Procedure for New Construction, Additions or Replacements

The applicant will be required to apply to SCE&G in writing and submit the following:

- a. Sketch showing location, design and dimensions of the proposed structure.
- b. Permitting fee required.
- c. Specific directions by land to applicant's property on Lake Murray.
- d. Plat of applicant's property reflecting, among other things, county tax map information..

6. Dock Specifications

- a. Private docks whether permanent, floating or a combination of both, may generally be up to 450 square feet in overall size (surface area) and 75 feet in length provided they do not interfere with navigation, ingress or egress to adjoining property or are in any manner hazardous. In some locations, such as narrow coves, the maximum size may not be permitted or docks may not be permitted at all. Floating docks attached to permanent docks may be moved out as the water level recedes, provided they do not interfere with adjacent property owner's access.
- b. A variance in the dimensions related to the length of docks may be granted in instances where conformity with existing structures would be practical and in cases where exceptions would be desirable due to curvature and/or slope of the shoreline. However, the effects on navigation and the aesthetic values of the surrounding area will control issuance of any variance.
- c. All permanent docks must be built horizontally between the elevation of 360 foot and 362 foot contour.

d. Docks must be located a minimum of 15 feet from adjacent property lines and the projected length should not encroach across the imaginary projected lot lines. The projection of the imaginary property line is a management tool to assist Lake Management Representatives and may be waived under certain circumstances. Common docks, between adjacent property owners, are encouraged. The sideline limitation of 15 feet will be waived for existing or proposed common use docks. A copy of the written agreement between participating property owners will be furnished to SCE&G. An acceptable form of agreement is available upon request.

e. Covers on docks are not permissible unless the covered portion is located within 15ft. of the 360 foot contour. Handrailings on docks are permissible, provided that the sides of docks are not enclosed so as to obscure cross-vision.

f. Sinks, toilets, showers, etc., or any type of equipment or construction which will create or cause any liquid or solid waste to be discharged into the waters of the lake will not be permitted.

g. Effective January 1, 1995, all new floating docks constructed on Lake Murray are required to use encased or encapsulated flotation. Exposed foam bead flotation billets, or metal drums will not be allowed. Foam bead flotation deteriorates, causing shoreline litter. It is subject to destruction by animals and becomes waterlogged.

The New regulation applies only to new dock construction. Existing docks will be required to install encapsulated flotation when the old existing flotation needs to be replaced.

h. Houseboats used for habitation may not be permanently moored at private docks. Permanent mooring must be at marinas with sewer pump-out and treatment facilities.

7. Common Dock Policy

Common docks are docks which provide lake access for two to five family residential lots. Common docks are encouraged for all lake property as an alternative to individual docks and will be required on property with poor access and/or limited lake frontage, or in such other circumstances that SCE&G deems appropriate. Property owners are encouraged to adopt the common dock concept to reduce the number of docks on the shoreline and limit congestion in heavily developed areas.

SCE&G does not guarantee water access. Each lot is affected by the existing contours of the lake bottom and the operation of the Saluda Hydro Electric Project. It is the applicant's responsibility to review the shoreline area where the dock is to be located and to apply the restrictions outlined in Section IV-6 above to ensure the dock will meet the applicant's needs and satisfy SCE&G's shoreline management requirements.

8. Commercial Dock Policy

The development and expansion of new or existing commercial docks will be negotiated on a case by case basis. The necessary Federal State and Local approved permits must be obtained before final approval by South Carolina Electric and Gas and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

V. Boat Ramps, Marine Railways & Boat Lifts

1. Policy

Boat ramps, marine railways, or boat lifts cannot be constructed, replaced or added to without a permit from SCE&G. The use of boat ramps at public and semi-public facilities shall be encouraged in preference to construction of private ramps. Refer to Section IX - 2. concerning boatramps on fringeland.

2. Application Procedure

Applications for permits to construct, add to, or replace boat ramps, marine railways, boat lifts shall be submitted to SCE&G in writing and must include the following:

- a. Sketch showing location and dimensions of the proposed ramp, boat lift and/or marine railway.
- b. Permitting fee required.
- c. Specific directions, by land, to applicant's property on Lake Murray.

3. Boat Ramp, Boat Lift and/or Marine Railway Specifications

- a. Ramps will be constructed of concrete. Asphalt compounds or petroleum base products are prohibited.
- b. All ramps should be located as not to interfere with neighboring property owners. Adjoining property owners are encouraged to agree to common use of the ramp. A copy of the written agreement between participating property owners will be furnished to SCE&G.
- c. Ramps may generally be up to 15 feet wide and required length to be functional. Public and semi -public ramps may be granted a variance.

d. Generally, marine railways to be constructed for access to the lake from facilities located above the 360 foot contour are permitted. Railways constructed below the 360 foot contour area restricted to two foot elevation above the natural lake basin.

e. Boat lifts should be located as not to interfere with the adjoining property owners' lake view. All boat lifts will be constructed adjacent to the owners' permanent dock and be a minimum of 15 feet from their property line. No covers are to be constructed over boatlifts.

VI. Moorings

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's Shoreline Management 's Program does not permit mooring on the waters of Lake Murray.

VII. Erosion Control

1. Policy

No rip-rapping, seawalls or retainer walls will be constructed, replaced, repaired or added to without a permit from SCE&G.

2. Application Procedure

Applicants for permits for erosion control shall be submitted to SCE&G in writing and must include the following:

- a. A copy of applicant's deed and plat to the property.
- b. Area on plat where located and type of erosion control proposed.
- c. Permitting fee required.
- d. Specific directions by land, to applicant's property on Lake Murray.

3. Specifications

a. Rip -rapping

Rip-rapping for erosion control at the 360 foot contour and below will generally be permitted provided it is aesthetically acceptable and materials used have prior approval by SCE&G. (No concrete blocks, bricks, or building materials may be used as rip-rap below the 360 foot contour).

b. Seawalls or retainer walls

Seawalls or retainer walls for erosion control will be permitted provided they are constructed on the 360 foot contour. Earth fills below the 360 foot contour are prohibited.

4. Limited Brushing

Trees, bushes, and vegetation growing below the 360 foot contour on the shoreline of Lake Murray play an important role in the overall environmental condition of the Lake. The ecological impact the vegetation has on the fish and wildlife habitat is necessary to ensure a sound, healthy Lake environment. South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's Shoreline Management Plan permits limited removal of the shoreline vegetation for the construction and installation of docks. Please be advised that unauthorized removal of shoreline vegetation (button bushes, willow trees, hardwood, etc.) will result in the cancellation of the dock permit and revegetation of the shoreline will be required. Removal of merchantable timber may require reimbursement subject to valuation by SCE&G's Land Department. Property owners must contact South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's Lake Management Department prior to any removal of shoreline vegetation below the 360' contour.

VIII. Excavations

1. Policy

Excavation below the 360 foot contour is not permitted without authorization from SCE&G. All authorized excavations must be in accordance with SCE&G specifications and requirements which may include an environmental assessment plan or report.

2. Application Procedure

Applications for permits to excavate shall be submitted to SCE&G in writing and will include the following:

- a. A copy of applicant's deed and plat of property.
- b. Specific directions, by land, to applicant's property on Lake Murray.
- c. Drawing to scale of area to be excavated.
- d. Required local, state and federal permits. Lake Management Department of SCE&G will assist in preparation of required local, state and federal permits.
- e. An application for an excavation not exceeding 150 cubic yards can be processed by SCE&G personnel. Any commercial excavation or individual individual excavation exceeding 150 cubic yards must be processed through the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and State agencies.
- f. Permitting fee required..

3. Excavation Specifications

- a. All excavating must be done directly in front of the permittee's lot.
- b. No excavation will be permitted when the excavation site is covered with water.

- c. All displaced soil must be moved above the 360 foot contour and must be stabilized and top seeded to prevent erosion.
- d. A 4 to 1 slope is the maximum slope allowed without rip rap. A 2 to 1 slope is permitted if rip-rap is installed.
- e. Excavations of wooded or vegetated areas located below the 360 foot contour is prohibited.
- f. No excavation will be permitted to alter the existing 360 contour.
- g. Excavation activities will be allowed only between October 1st of the current year and January 15th of the next year. Permits expire January 15 following the date of issuance

IX. LAND USE

1. Encroachments

Earth fills below the 360 foot contour are prohibited. Any that occurred prior to January 1, 1974, will be handled on a case by case basis.

2. Fringeland

Fringeland is that strip of land owned by SCE&G located between the 360 foot contour and the FERC Project Boundary Line. Fringeland is real estate and as such falls under the responsibility of the Land Department. The use of all fringeland is categorized under a Land Use Classification Plan. Fringeland under the Development Category is generally available for purchase by the adjoining back property owner subject to Land Department and FERC review and regulation. However, as landowner, the Company retains the discretion to determine the availability of parcels for sale on an individual basis. Residential landowners, who have property behind SCE&G fringeland will have the right of access by foot to and from the lake. However, they will not be allowed to encroach

with improvements, cut any trees or shrubs, place any water-oriented encroachments (dock or ramp) or otherwise alter the fringeland without written consent from the Lake Management Department. Appropriate action will be initiated to address such unauthorized violations. Upon the sale of fringeland to an individual, SCE&G generally retains title to a 75 foot buffer zone adjacent to the 360 foot contour.

Any unauthorized clearing of the trees or underbrush in the 75 foot buffer zone will result in the immediate cancellation of the individual's dock permit as well as possible legal action to require the revegetation of the affected area. Removal of merchantable timber will require reimbursement to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company subject to valuation of the Land Department.

X. WATER REMOVAL FROM THE LAKE

1. Application for a Permit

Applications for a commercial permit to remove water may be submitted to SCE&G. SCE&G will deny the application if it appears to conflict with the public interest. If not, it will be forwarded to FERC for approval if required. SCE&G will not endorse such applications. SCE&G will impose limits in granting permits for approved applications. The applicant will be required to compensate SCE&G for water withdrawn and to bear expenses of filing the application. Water removal for residential property must be for irrigation purposes only.

2. Application Procedure

A commercial application to withdraw water from the lake must include a complete description of the purpose for the removal and processes to be used, the volumes to be withdrawn and ultimately to be returned to the project waters, and copies of all required local, state, and federal permits and reports. A fee will be required.

XI. EFFLUENT DISCHARGES

1. Policy

SCE&G personnel will continue to notify appropriate governmental officials of any unauthorized effluent discharges which are discovered. Anyone found to have an unauthorized discharge source within the project boundary line will be required to remove it.

2. Installation of Sewage Pumping Stations at Marinas

Commercial marinas must have facilities to remove effluent wastes from boats pursuant to South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control regulations.

XII. GOVERNMENTAL CONSENTS

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has jurisdiction over navigation, wildlife, fisheries on Lake Murray. Applications for construction of new docks, boat ramps, excavations, filling and other encroachments may require evidence of consent from this agency.

The S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency have jurisdiction over effluent discharges and activities affecting water quality in Lake Murray. Permits and certificates from these agencies may also be required.

Permits or consents from local governments with jurisdiction over zoning or other land use laws may be required.

XIII. GENERAL

Aquatic Weeds

The management of the Aquatic Weed Program on Lake Murray is a cooperative agreement between the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's Lake Management Department. Lake visitors are requested to help prevent the spread of aquatic weeds by clearing off boats and trailers before launching into the waters of Lake Murray.

It is against both State and Federal regulations for individuals to spray or treat aquatic growth in the waters of Lake Murray without the necessary permits. Report all unauthorized spraying or aquatic weed problems to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's Lake Management Department.

Notice to Boaters (Overhead Powerlines Crossing Project Waters)

Overhead powerlines cross the waters of Lake Murray. Boaters should be aware of powerlines and approach with caution.

Deeds, permits or other instruments affecting Project 516 lands and waters will contain all standard covenants customarily imposed upon project property and such other covenants as in the sole discretion of SCE&G may be desirable or appropriate. The instrument may contain indemnity clauses and insurance provisions.

Inspection fees do not constitute a charge for admission to Project lands.

SCE&G retains the right to vary the amount of inspection fees.

No vested right or rights enforceable by third parties are created by SCE&G's Policies or Procedures.

All statements in this booklet are qualified by reference to SCE&G's Policy Memorandum and Procedure Memorandum governing Lake Murray, both of which are subject to change at any time. Regulations, Orders and Directives of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will take precedence.

Maps of Lake Murray showing public and commercial landings, parks, shoal markings and other information are available free of charge from the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company.

Inquiries concerning policies, procedures, applications or regulations as outlined in this booklet should be directed to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (096), Lake Murray Management Department, Columbia, South Carolina 29218. Telephone (803) 748-3015.



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