

**Notes for NC/SC Subcommittee
Teleconference Meeting**

October 31, 2003

Members Participating

Mr. John Tiencken
Mr. Fred Richardson
Mayor Frank Willis

Guests

Geoff Penland
Larry Schwartz
John Dulude
Stuart Ames
Karen Addy
Gerrit Jobsis

Staff

Freddy Vang
David Baize
Danny Johnson
Hank Stallworth

Mr. Tiencken called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and reported that in compliance with the provisions of Section 30-4-80(e) (Freedom of Information Act), notification of this meeting was given to all persons, organizations, local news media, and other news media which have requested such notification.

On motion of Mayor Willis, seconded by Mr. Richardson, Mr. Tiencken was elected as Chairman of this Subcommittee.

The key issues were reviewed, including the importance to South Carolina of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process for the major dams in North Carolina that provide much of the storage available on rivers flowing into SC. This process will address streamflow into SC during normal times as well as during droughts. The Subcommittee will review the State Water Plan for ideas about balancing water needs and uses in the basin as well as the State's role in participating in the relicensing process. There was concern that FERC licenses can be issued for up to 50 years when we do not have the ability to project water demands nearly that far into the future.

Major alternatives to augment surface water when surface water is not sufficient were discussed. They include impoundments, conservation and conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water, to include enhanced natural recharge and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). Mr. Richardson noted that the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority has built a 90-day groundwater reserve through their use of ASR (at 70-80% of capacity).

Another issue is attenuation of major daily fluctuations in dam releases. Related, but not the same, is the issue of improving seasonal fluctuations.

The Subcommittee concluded that there probably are not any new laws that need to be enacted that are related to the FERC relicensing process. It also intends to be sure that the recommendations of the Subcommittee are in concert with the Drought Response Act.

Several water supply issues were discussed. The fluoride standard for drinking water may be appropriate for normal conditions, but the question of relaxing it during times of severe drought was raised as a means to temporarily reduce dependency on surface water.

The Subcommittee recognized the added value that regionalization offers public supply systems both in times of drought and in ordinary times. The City of Florence, Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority and Santee Cooper are all leaders in this area.

After a short recess to change teleconference arrangements, the meeting continued. At this point David Baize (DHEC) and Gerrit Jobsis (guest, SCCCL) joined the meeting. Mr. Tiencken reviewed the issues previously discussed.

Mr. Jobsis pointed out that the issues are the same for the Catawba River relicensing process as for the Yadkin/Pee Dee River, except South Carolina has a more direct influence because the DHEC must issue a Clean Water Act Section 401 permit for the Catawba license.

Given that DHEC has a time limit in which they must respond to Section 401 permit applications, the Subcommittee was concerned that DHEC might not have all relevant information in hand when they make their Section 401 decisions. Santee Cooper has made allowances in their handling of this issue to address this. The Subcommittee wants to be sure that the other utilities are as willing to cooperate with DHEC in ensuring that DHEC receives all pertinent information in a timely fashion and that DHEC is not constrained by the time limit.

The Subcommittee next addressed the need for additional studies or information for these relicensing procedures. The consensus was that the licensees are diligently working with stakeholder groups to provide the information necessary for an informed and deliberative process. Mayor Willis reported that the Pee Dee Coalition had commissioned a study of the Pee Dee that will address water demands and economic impacts. In addition, the Pee Dee Coalition may participate in funding a saltwater intrusion model for the Pee Dee River.

Mr. Jobsis informed the Subcommittee there will be a single hydrologic model created for the Catawba River, as all eleven impoundments on that river are under a single license issued to Duke Power Company. He further stated that several environmental organizations are funding a study of the entire Santee system.

The Subcommittee received notice that there was movement to create a Bi-State Catawba River Commission. They would like more information on this effort. Staff was directed to develop contact information for this and for other groups with interests on the Catawba and Yadkin/Pee Dee Rivers.

The next meeting of the NC/SC Subcommittee will be Friday, November 7, 2003, at 11:00 AM.