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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

SCOPING MEETING FOR THE
SALUDA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT NO. 516-459

DATE: Wednesday, April 8, 2009

TIME: 6:20 p.m.

LOCATION: Saluda Shoals Park
5605 Bush River Road
Columbia, South Carolina

REPORTED BY: CYNTHIA FIRST, RPR, CRR, CCP

1

2 MR. CREAMER: Okay, everyone, time to settle
3 in. My name is Alan Creamer. I'm with FERC. I'd like
4 to welcome you to our second of two Scoping Meetings for
5 the Saluda Project. I think we're here for at least
6 three hours tonight. If we need to go longer, maybe. I
7 don't know. I've been to meetings where I've been
8 11:00, midnight. Hopefully, we won't go that long.
9 Hopefully, we won't go that long.

10 Anyway, I would like to welcome you here
11 tonight. Is there any what? Excuse me?

12 THE AUDIENCE: Air condition.

13 MR. CREAMER: We are working on that.

14 THE AUDIENCE: Try to speak up a little bit.
15 Can you use the microphone? There is a vent right here
16 and we can't hear.

17 MR. CREAMER: I didn't have to do this today.
18 Can y'all hear me now? All right.

19 As I was saying, welcome and hopefully we're
20 going to have a good meeting and hear a lot of good
21 comments.

22 Okay. Our agenda. Introductions. We're
23 going to go through introductions of the staff that's
24 here with FERC and our contractor. The first thing I
25 would like to mention is registration. If you haven't

1 registered, we would like you to -- we have registration
2 forms out at the table. We'd like to have a record of
3 everybody that's here. We're going to go through and
4 I'm going to talk briefly about what the purpose of
5 this -- what the purpose of this meeting is. We're
6 going to talk a little bit about our EA schedule, how
7 we're going to proceed through this from this point
8 forward.

9 We're going to talk a little bit about our
10 request for information, the type of things that we're
11 looking for that's going to inform our decisions as we
12 go on through the process. Bill Argentieri is going to
13 talk a little bit about the project itself, the
14 facilities and what they're proposing to do. We're
15 going to talk a little bit about the proposed
16 environmental measures. We're going to talk a little
17 bit about the scope of the cumulative effects. That's
18 just one of the things that NEPA requires us to take a
19 look at. We're going to take a look at the resource
20 issues as we see them now. And I say that because
21 they're tentative. This could change as we go through
22 this process.

23 And then we're -- once we get through that,
24 and I'm anticipating about a half an hour, maybe not
25 that, and then we're going to open it up. I think as of

1 now, we have 18 people who have signed up to comment.
2 With that number of people, we're going to have to limit
3 our time a little bit. So we're going to start with
4 five minutes. We're going to limit the comments to five
5 minutes. If we have time at the end, we will come back
6 and allow people to continue to talk. And then two
7 avenues for commenting: One is here tonight, the other
8 is filing written comments. We're going to talk a
9 little bit about that, the process for doing that.

10 A few ground rules. I would ask that everyone
11 show respect for everyone else. I have been to meetings
12 where issues got -- people got so passionate about their
13 issues that they would interrupt and didn't have respect
14 for what other people were saying. We would ask that
15 everyone show respect for the speakers. Adhere to time
16 limits. We certainly don't want to be here until 10:00,
17 11:00, so we're going to, like I said, start with five
18 minutes and see where that gets us.

19 Sign in. If you haven't signed in -- I
20 mentioned that early. When you speak, we have a court
21 reporter here, and I would ask you to clearly state your
22 name so that we can get an accurate record of who is
23 actually providing a comment.

24 And if you don't feel like speaking, if you
25 have written comments, you can leave those with us or

1 you can file them with the secretary, which we'll talk
2 about a little bit later.

3 Okay. Real briefly, our introductions. Come
4 on in. There's chairs up at the top.

5 Those of us who are here tonight, like I said,
6 my name is Alan Creamer, and I am a fisheries biologist
7 and a senior technical expert in our East Branch. Lee
8 Emery, sitting down here, is the project coordinator.
9 He is also a fisheries biologist. We have Pat
10 Weslowski. She is with Louis Berger Group, and she's
11 their coordinator for the relicensing, preparation of
12 the NEPA document. Peter Foote, sitting around here
13 somewhere -- he's outside. He is a fisheries biologist.
14 Ken Hodge, who is also out at the registration table, is
15 with Louis Berger Group. And John Hart, who is sitting
16 down front, is with Louis Berger. He's a hydrologist.
17 We have two other individuals who were with us this
18 morning that are not here tonight. One is a recreation
19 person, Leslie Pomaville with Louis Berger, and Bernard
20 Hay. He is a sediment/geology person. He is also with
21 Louis Berger Group.

22 Okay. Why are we here? NEPA, FERC
23 regulations, and other applicable law require us to
24 evaluate the environmental effects of licensing
25 hydropower projects. Projects operate with licenses for

1 a certain number of years, anywhere from 30 to 50 years.
2 In this particular case, we have a project that's in for
3 relicensing and they have to get a new -- well, they
4 have to get a new license and we need to evaluate the
5 effects of that project. And so part of that process is
6 actually scoping, which leads me to the second bullet.

7 Scoping is part of the NEPA process used to
8 identify issues and concerns. Input is solicited from
9 agencies, Indian tribes, nongovernmental organizations
10 and the public. We issued, and many of you have a copy
11 of it, I believe, Scoping Document II, which was issued
12 March 12th. As I said earlier, that document identifies
13 the issues that we see as of right now. Those could
14 change as we go through this. We'll sit down and listen
15 to what we've heard tonight and decide how our issues
16 are going to change, if we missed things, we need to add
17 things. Maybe there are issues we identified that
18 aren't issues, and we might take them out.

19 Our schedule as we see it. During scoping
20 this month, we anticipate issuing a ready for
21 environmental assessment. What that basically means is
22 when we issue that notice, we're saying that we have
23 everything we need to do to go forward. We anticipate
24 that in July of this month, a Draft Environmental
25 Assessment issued in January of next year, and a final

1 in April of next year.

2 Request for information. I had mentioned this
3 earlier. The type of information that we're looking
4 for, anything that can help us identify significant
5 environmental issues that we need to address, any other
6 type of studies that have been done in the project area
7 that may not have been accounted for in the pre-filing,
8 information or data describing past and present
9 conditions of the project area. That helps us with our
10 cumulative effects analysis both from a geographic
11 perspective and a temporal perspective. Resource plans
12 and future proposals in a project area. A good example
13 that I always mention here are things such as water
14 withdrawals. We need to make sure that we understand
15 everything that's for the near term that may affect our
16 analysis of the project.

17 And I mentioned earlier, comments can be given
18 tonight orally or written comments can be provided, and
19 we need to make sure our court reporter gets a copy of
20 those. Or they can be mailed to the FERC, addressed to
21 the secretary. And the Scoping Document actually
22 provides the information on how to do that.

23 Okay. At this point I'm going to turn this
24 over to Mr. Argentieri to talk a little bit about the
25 project and their proposal.

1 MR. ARGENTIERI: I'm going to try to talk
2 loud. Can you hear me?

3 THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

4 MR. ARGENTIERI: Thanks, Alan. Before I get
5 started, I wanted to let everybody know that I was asked
6 to provide a brief description of the project and
7 discuss the proposed measures presented in our final
8 License Application. What I'm going to present here is
9 a snapshot of what was presented in the final License
10 Application that was filed with the Commission. All of
11 the items referenced in this Scoping Document were
12 presented in the final License Application or in the
13 Additional Information Request. They are all draft
14 proposals. Some have already been modified or
15 eliminated, and some are still being discussed through
16 our consultation with the stakeholders involved in the
17 relicensing process, which means some of these measures
18 will likely be changed or we will be adding some
19 measures that were not -- that are not being presented
20 here.

21 We believe over the past several months we
22 have made tremendous progress in the development of a
23 Settlement Agreement and are working toward a resolution
24 of the issues with many or all of the stakeholders.
25 SCE&G still plans to file a comprehensive Settlement

1 Agreement or our final proposals by July 31st, 2009.

2 With that, I'll talk a little bit about the
3 project. Saluda Hydro Project is located in four
4 counties: Richland, Newberry, Saluda and Lexington.
5 The dam is located right here, with the powerhouse just
6 below the dam. The project encompasses all of Lake
7 Murray and about a 10-mile stretch of the lower Saluda
8 River. This is a photograph of the dam, or I should say
9 of both dams. The original dam is right here and this
10 is the new backup dam that was constructed between 2002
11 and 2005. These are the intake towers and this is the
12 powerhouse.

13 This project is a single development on the
14 Saluda River. By single development, according to the
15 FERC, there's just one project, one facility, basically.
16 It includes Lake Murray, which is approximately 41 miles
17 long and approximately 14 miles wide, and it also
18 includes about 10 miles of the lower Saluda River. The
19 project has an installed capacity of 207.3 megawatts.

20 There are 20 public access sites that are
21 owned by SCE&G. And in the current license, there is
22 no -- there is not a minimum flow requirement. However,
23 we do have an agreement with DHEC for 180 cfs, that's
24 cubic feet per second, minimum flow.

25 There are approximately 29 proposed measures

1 that I'll be talking about. This first one has to do
2 with the new guide curve. The guide curve has to do
3 with the lake and how we're going to manage the lake
4 levels. We're going to target an elevation of 358 plant
5 datum from March 1st to September 1st. This other
6 elevation that you see here, NAVD, is a more recent
7 elevation, and that's what we filed in our License
8 Application. But most everybody here probably is more
9 familiar with the plant datum elevation, so I'll be
10 talking and using the plant datum elevations when I'm
11 talking about the lake levels.

12 There will be a gradual decrease from
13 September 1st to December 1st, down to elevation 356.
14 Then from December 1st to December 31st, the lake will
15 be brought down to elevation 354. Then from January 1st
16 to March 1st, we'll bring the lake back up to elevation
17 358.

18 And this is a graph that pretty much shows the
19 same thing that I was just talking about. Our
20 elevations are here, 354. This is the 358 elevation
21 from March 1st to September 1st. Here is the increase
22 from January 1st to March 1st, and then the decrease
23 back down by December 31st. The dotted line here is the
24 current rule curve in our current license. You can see
25 we have about one month of the lake being at elevation

1 358. And in the past we would take the elevation down
2 to 350 for approximately a one-month period.

3 The second measure has to do with minimum
4 flows. These are new proposed minimum flows. We're
5 looking at 700 cubic feet per second from January
6 through March, 1,000 minimum flow, plus some additional
7 what we call striped bass flows. These are flows that
8 will be based on the flows that we have in the Broad
9 River at the Broad River at Alston gage. And there will
10 be a calculation, basically, when we have certain flows
11 in the Broad River, we'll try to provide an amount of
12 flow in the lower Saluda so that by the time they both
13 reach the Congaree, there is an adequate flow for
14 helping to improve the striped bass habitat in the
15 Congaree River. Then starting May 11th through the end
16 of May, we'll drop back to a 1,000 cfs minimum flow.
17 And then from June through December, we'll have the 700
18 cfs minimum flow.

19 This proposal is something that was changed
20 when we filed our Additional Information Request. So
21 our final License Application actually had a different
22 minimum flow regime. And when we filed our Additional
23 Information Request in February of this year, this is
24 the latest proposal. So that's why it shows here with
25 our new proposed minimum flows.

1 We also plan to provide and implement a
2 Maintenance, Emergency and Low Inflow Protocol. We
3 propose to install new runners on all five of our units.
4 We propose to hold annual meetings for water quality
5 enhancements efforts, continue macroinvertebrate
6 sampling, implement a freshwater mussel restoration
7 plan, operate Unit 5 as a first on, last off basis,
8 continue to participate in the Santee River Basin Accord
9 for diadromous fish protection, restoration and
10 enhancement. This is a program that we developed with
11 Duke Energy and several other state and federal
12 agencies, and we just implemented that -- actually, it
13 was signed April of 2008.

14 Implement a long-term management program with
15 National Marine Fisheries Service for shortnose sturgeon
16 and Atlantic sturgeon, implement an adaptive management
17 strategy for the trout fishery in the lower Saluda
18 River, develop a program to address entrainment and
19 turbine mortality of the fish, implement a rocky shoals
20 spider lily program, and formalize our bald eagle
21 management plan.

22 Finalize a Memorandum of Understanding with
23 the Aquatic Plant Management Council to address aquatic
24 plant management on Lake Murray, implement proposed
25 minimum flows that could benefit Congaree National Park,

1 implement a rare, threatened and endangered species
2 brochure, also implement a wood stork management
3 program.

4 Implement a final Historic Properties
5 Management Plan, which addresses the cultural resource
6 and historic properties that we found around the -- that
7 were found around the lake, review some of the
8 archeologically sensitive areas, implement a recreation
9 plan. The plan also includes -- this recreation plan
10 also includes improving some of the facilities and
11 implementing barrier-free access to some of the
12 recreation sites. Also to develop recreation sites at
13 several -- or recreation facilities at some of the
14 access sites.

15 Set aside project lands for future recreation,
16 provide recreational flows. In addition to the minimum
17 flows, we'll provide recreational flows in the lower
18 Saluda River. Install additional warning and strobe
19 lights along the lower Saluda River for safety. Review
20 the Shoreline Management Plan land use classifications.
21 Basically, in this we reclassified several lands that
22 were designated as future development, then put them in
23 a more restrictive and protected classification. Also
24 modify our Shoreline Management Plan to establish buffer
25 zones, and revise the shoreline permitting program

1 requirements.

2 So basically that is a list of the items that
3 are listed in our final License Application.

4 At this time I'm going to turn this program
5 over to Pat Weslowski with Louis Berger.

6 MS. WESLOWSKI: Thank you, Bill. I'm going to
7 try to talk loudly, too, so let me know if you don't
8 hear me.

9 The next several slides will deal with our
10 cumulative effects analysis and with the resource issues
11 that we've identified thus far based on the proposed
12 measures that Bill just summarized.

13 The cumulative effects analysis, we propose to
14 include water resources, both water quantity and water
15 quality, fisheries resources and terrestrial resources.
16 The geographic scope that we are considering extends
17 from upstream of the project at Lake Greenwood, through
18 the project, downstream to the confluence with the
19 Congaree River. For fisheries resources we propose to
20 extend that to the Atlantic Ocean, for migrating
21 fisheries. The timeframe of the analysis for past,
22 present and foreseeably future actions will be 30 to 50
23 years.

24 The Environmental Assessment will include
25 discussions of aquatics, water resources, water quality,

1 water quantity, fisheries; terrestrial resources,
2 wildlife, plants; threatened and endangered species,
3 both fish and wildlife, and also plants; recreation;
4 land use, and aesthetics; cultural resources, which
5 include archeological sites and historic properties; and
6 socioeconomics.

7 The effects that we've identified thus far,
8 potential effects that we propose to consider in the
9 Environmental Assessment at this point include the
10 effects of the proposed and alternative flow regimes on
11 water use, lake levels, and water availability flows.
12 The McMeekin -- I seem to have a problem with that --
13 Station water use and discharge, effects of continued
14 project operation and proposed water levels on water
15 quality, scouring and sedimentation, sediment
16 deposition, backwater flooding, and invasive aquatic
17 species, those dreaded weeds that are in your lake.

18 The effects of continued project operation on
19 water quality in the lower Saluda River, the ability of
20 the project to provide adequate flows to the lower
21 Saluda River, the effects of the proposed lake levels on
22 resident fishes, and the effect of proposed flows on
23 several other aquatic species, migrating fisheries, for
24 instance.

25 The effects of continued project operations on

1 the entrainment and mortality of resident fish, that is,
2 how the fish might be harmed going through the turbines,
3 the effect of project operations and maintenance on
4 wetlands, floodplains, shoreline vegetation, wildlife
5 and vegetation, including species, state species of
6 concern, exotic invasive and nuisance species, waterfowl
7 and federally listed threatened and endangered species.

8 The effect of continued operations on
9 recreation access and recreation opportunities,
10 whitewater flows, the land classification, the Shoreline
11 Management Plan, and the shoreline permitting
12 requirements, and land use and aesthetic resources. The
13 effects of project operations on the ability of
14 recreational facilities and enhancements to meet the
15 recreational demand.

16 The effects on proposed land recreational
17 improvements, on aesthetic resources. The effects of
18 the proposed action and alternatives on properties that
19 are eligible or listed on the National Register of
20 Historic Places, the effects of the project on -- or the
21 effects of the proposed shoreline management measures on
22 historic properties, and the effects of the Shoreline
23 Management Plan on socioeconomics. So we're looking at
24 the effects of the proposed measures on the different
25 resources that we outlined earlier.

1 All right. That's where we are now as far as
2 identifying the potential effects based on the proposed
3 measures and the various filings that have been made
4 subsequent in response to the Additional Information
5 Request.

6 Now we're going to hear from you. That's the
7 basic purpose of the meeting, to get your feedback on
8 what issues you think need to be included, any that
9 we've missed or further comment on those that we have
10 included. When you registered, we asked you to indicate
11 whether you wanted to speak, and we kept a log in the
12 order in which you registered. As Alan indicated, we'd
13 like you to keep your comments to five minutes, given
14 the number of people who would like to comment and
15 wanting the ability to have others toward the end.

16 You can provide -- I'll get back to the first
17 item. You can provide your written comments subsequent
18 to this meeting on or before May 8th. The filings need
19 to be properly identified. You need the project number,
20 P-516, and the subdocket number, 459. There are
21 instructions in the Scoping Document on how to file. I
22 realize not all of you were able to pick up a copy. We
23 did bring 150, but they've been picked up between this
24 morning's meeting and the early people today. So the
25 address for written comments is Kimberly D. Bose,

1 B-O-S-E, secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory
2 Commission, 888 First Street Northeast, Washington D.C.,
3 20426.

4 The Commission strongly encourages electronic
5 filings, and there are instructions in the Scoping
6 Document which is also available on the Commission's
7 website at fed.gov.

8 Okay. When it's your turn to speak, would you
9 kindly stand, would you give your name, and would you
10 spell your name. We have a stenographer keeping a
11 transcript of this proceeding, and we want to make sure
12 we get your names spelled correctly.

13 MR. MUNGO: May I make a suggestion? There
14 are several constituencies represented by groups that
15 have a representative here, that represent large numbers
16 of us. It would probably lessen the need for many of us
17 to speak if they were able to speak first.

18 MS. WESLOWSKI: I'll tell you what. Alan, if
19 you agree, they can yield over to people if they feel --

20 MR. CREAMER: If people want to yield their
21 time, we just want to make sure everybody has a chance.
22 And as of right now, we have 21 people that have said
23 they want to say something. So we just want to make
24 sure that everybody is heard. So if people feel like
25 yielding their time to somebody else, and if we have

1 time at the end and we can come back to somebody, we can
2 do that. I have no problem doing that.

3 THE AUDIENCE: Y'all are going to have to use
4 that microphone because it's almost impossible. You
5 start out loud and as you go along, you get low.

6 MR. CREAMER: The question was about there
7 were several constituents here --

8 THE AUDIENCE: Please use the microphone.

9 MR. EMERY: They can't hear up there because
10 that fan is blowing.

11 MR. CREAMER: All right. The question was,
12 can -- there are several constituents here --

13 THE AUDIENCE: We heard the question. His
14 point was can we start with the group representative,
15 and then we'll go to the extra 21 people.

16 MR. CREAMER: What I was saying is I have no
17 problem if people want to yield their time. We have 21
18 people. What I originally had said was we want to make
19 sure everybody is heard, so we established the
20 five-minute time limit. Now, if people want to yield
21 their time to give somebody 10 minutes, I have no
22 problem doing that, but understand that if you're
23 yielding your time, we may not have time to come back to
24 you.

25 MR. MUNGO: Can we just vote?

1 MR. CREAMER: No voting. So if you want to
2 yield time, that's fine, but understand that if we don't
3 have time, you may miss your chance.

4 MS. WESLOWSKI: Our first speaker this
5 evening, Regis Parsons. Regis?

6 MR. PARSONS: My name is Regis Parsons. I'm a
7 shoreline homeowner on the south side of Lake Murray,
8 and I'm here tonight to try and support a comment in the
9 Exhibit E of the application. It's on page 743 and I
10 think again on 753, and that comment refers to a request
11 for reconsideration by FERC of a designation that they
12 ordered several years ago for two coves that are on the
13 south side of the lake. They are located, one right in
14 this area and the other one back up here (indicating).
15 These coves are known as -- the one on the closest to
16 the dam, Two Bird Cove, and the other one is referenced
17 as Hurricane Hole Cove.

18 Let me give you a little bit of background
19 real quickly. In 2003, we had a member of a yacht club
20 file a request to please make these two coves, preserve
21 these two coves. They're relatively pristine coves.
22 And FERC took that under consideration. In 2004 they
23 issued an order asking SCE&G to make those areas special
24 recreation areas for overnight boating.

25 That was a response that sort of missed the

1 mark, I think. Certainly the folks who were -- Lake
2 Murray Association and others filed a request back
3 saying, "Hey, you missed the mark. We're worried about
4 the shoreline, not the cove waters."

5 At a point three months later, FERC reissued
6 the order and said, "Look, we want you to put the
7 designation on this cove. Despite what folks are
8 saying, we feel it should be designated as an area for
9 overnight boating," anchoring boats overnight, I should
10 say.

11 We feel like at this point, we finally saw
12 SCE&G two years later get to the point where they
13 actually published this, so shoreline owners became
14 aware of it. The folks who live around the cove got
15 alarmed, directed various things to y'all about their
16 concerns. We were directed to participate in this
17 process that we've gone through, and we have done that.
18 And that's how we arrived finally, by participating in
19 this process, with the comments that are in that
20 application.

21 I brought with me tonight a map of one of
22 those coves. This is Two Bird Cove. The purpose of me
23 bringing this is to try and share with you a little bit
24 of information about the discussion that took place and
25 how we arrived at the determination to ask you to remove

1 that designation. As you can see, it's a very shallow
2 cove. This area right around here, Two Bird Cove, is
3 currently owned and designated as for development. This
4 is what folks were worried about. They didn't want this
5 developed.

6 The folks at SCE&G and the RCG that
7 participated in this lake and land management and
8 recreation area have changed the designation or are
9 proposing that the designation be changed to forced
10 management, which will allow passive recreation and,
11 more importantly, development will not take place. So
12 the folks in the RCG became, I think, satisfied with,
13 hey, this is the solution we asked for.

14 What we want to do is, hopefully, in exchange
15 for everybody's cooperation on this, get you folks to
16 lift the designation on the waters of a special
17 recreation area. There was a number of things we
18 considered in that. One was designation -- it's not
19 really a designation that's well defined by the
20 Commission. It only says, "Hey, you can park a boat
21 here." And these are public waters, so that's already
22 possible. So it really didn't accomplish anything in
23 putting that designation.

24 It's a very narrow, shallow cove, as you can
25 see. And basically, we're concerned that if we put this

1 thing on Exhibits R and whatnot -- the historical use of
2 this is not necessarily just for the purposes of
3 overnight anchoring. This is a very quiet cove. It is
4 used mostly for fishing. It is for people on pleasure
5 boats who come in and like to look around and enjoy the
6 peace and quiet of this area. You can see -- this is
7 when the water was down -- just how shallow that is.
8 All these areas around in here are ESA environments,
9 environmentally-sensitive areas.

10 So as you think about what you've done, which
11 is say, "Hey, everybody, come on in here," what we don't
12 want to do is change this thing so that it's so
13 overcrowded that pollution occurs in here, and the very
14 reason people are coming gets negated by the fact that
15 it's overcrowded and polluted.

16 So again, we think we've satisfied everybody
17 by changing the designation on the land, and we hope
18 you'll reconsider your designation on the water. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. WESLOWSKI: Thank you. Ross Jernigan.

21 MR. JERNIGAN: My name is C. Russell Jernigan,
22 J-E-R-N-I-G-A-N. I'd like to thank the officials for
23 allowing us to speak before you. I was unaware that we
24 would have an opportunity to speak until I got here,
25 therefore my remarks are very poorly prepared.

1 The thing that I am most concerned about is
2 that I understand that DNR and certain other parties
3 wish to have release to the lower Saluda River. It's my
4 understanding that they have requested a certain amount
5 of water to be released regardless of rainfall,
6 regardless of a drought situation or what have you. I
7 think that that needs to be considered.

8 You can't look at just the average and say we
9 can do thus and so, because I've been in this area for
10 28 years, and I believe we've had somewhat of a drought
11 for the past several summers. I fail to understand why
12 the Saluda River should get priority over the lake. We
13 have a lot more shoreline, we have a lot more users, we
14 have a lot more fishermen, we have a lot more business
15 persons, people, we have a lot more people doing
16 business that affects the economy based on the lake.

17 I understand that some people feel like this
18 would help the trout in the lower Saluda. Well, I don't
19 believe the trout are native to the Saluda River. The
20 people that I've talked to have been catching trout out
21 of the Saluda River for years and years, so I don't know
22 why we need to do something that would be detrimental to
23 the number of persons that reside on the lake, use the
24 lake, fish in the lake, for a 10- to 15-mile stretch
25 down the Saluda River.

1 We also know that the lower water levels make
2 safety more dangerous. And that's the biggest point
3 that I have and that I'm against. I've always supported
4 DNR. I think generally they do a fine job, but I cannot
5 support them in requesting or demanding that more flow
6 is coming out of the river -- I mean out of the lake
7 than is coming in in dry periods. And I think
8 commonsense should be used in that respect.

9 If I had time to put some remarks together,
10 I'm sure that I missed a lot of important ones, but
11 those are some of the things that are very important to
12 me, to a lot of other people on the lake and around the
13 lake and that appreciate the lake. Thank you very much.

14 MR. EMERY: You have until May 8th to provide
15 written comments, if you'd like, sir.

16 MR. JERNIGAN: Thank you, sir.

17 MS. WESLOWSKI: We know there's a lot of
18 enthusiasm in the crowd tonight, but we would ask if
19 perhaps you could hold the applause.

20 THE AUDIENCE: Are you a federal employee? I
21 pay your salary.

22 MR. McCARY: My name is Luke McCary.

23 MR. EMERY: The spelling of that, please.

24 MR. McCARY: M-C-C-A-R-Y. I am a resident of
25 the Saluda River chapter of Trout, Unlimited. We do

1 have some talking points that I'd like to address.

2 Our chapter has been heavily involved in the
3 relicensing process, both in addressing our concerns, as
4 well as participating in the scientific studies that led
5 to the suggested protocol.

6 I'm here tonight to say that we support the
7 new guide curve that has been proposed by SCE&G and the
8 committee. We also support the proposed cfs based on
9 the scientific research that was done, not only for the
10 trout in the Saluda River, but also the other ecological
11 systems that lay below the Saluda River, the other fish
12 and other creatures that live below the dam. So these
13 studies are not just based on what's best for trout. We
14 have gone along with what's best for the ecosystem as a
15 whole, and we believe that the proposed flows reflect
16 that.

17 Let's see. The main thing I'd like to talk
18 about tonight is we are in support of the two-foot
19 trigger for the Low Inflow Protocol and not the one-foot
20 trigger. We believe this is also supported by DNR.
21 These triggers are supported by scientific research.

22 The reason we support these are as follows: A
23 two-foot trigger will result in the LIP being
24 implemented when about seven percent of storage from
25 Lake Murray was used. That is not a lot of water.

1 Based on almost 28 years of historic data, which include
2 10 of the driest years on record. Using a two-foot
3 trigger kept lake levels within two feet of the guide
4 curve 88 percent of the time, and within one foot of the
5 guide curve about 73 percent of the time. Based on the
6 same hydraulic period, a two-foot trigger would reduce
7 downstream flows 8.7 percent of the time while a
8 one-foot trigger would reduce downstream flows
9 14.4 percent of the time. A two-foot trigger would have
10 been implemented in 10 years, while a one-foot trigger
11 would have been implemented 17 of the 28 years examined.
12 A one-foot trigger would have resulted in the
13 implementation of the LIP in 17 of the past 28 years.
14 Since we have had a drought in 10 of the past 28 years,
15 the one-foot trigger would cause the LIP implemented to
16 be implemented during non-drought conditions.

17 These studies are based -- this information is
18 based on studies done by DNR with the help of the people
19 on the committees, and we support the scientific
20 research behind these. Thank you.

21 MR. EMERY: Thank you.

22 MS. WESLOWSKI: Miriam Atria. Am I
23 pronouncing that correctly?

24 MS. ATRIA: That's A-T-R-I-A. I'll leave my
25 speech with you so you don't have to take notes. I have

1 with me tonight Butch Wallace, representing Joe Wilson,
2 of the Second Congressional District. From Joe Wilson's
3 office, this is Butch Wallace.

4 I am Miriam Atria, president and CEO of
5 Capital City Lake Murray Country, the regional tourism
6 board that has had the pleasure and success of promoting
7 the four-county area that Lake Murray covers for the
8 last 30-some years. I've been on staff for 28 years, so
9 I kind of know what I'm talking about.

10 We branded the Lake Murray region "The Jewel
11 of South Carolina" for obvious reasons. The lake is the
12 centerpiece in this region for recreational activity and
13 for tourism. It is the primary attraction for
14 vacationing, overnight stays in this four-county region.
15 Last year this region -- or Lake Murray itself attracted
16 over 1.3 million visitors, fishing folks, and that also
17 included special events.

18 It is a huge economic engine, as someone
19 mentioned earlier. Let's talk about some real numbers.
20 Tourism because of Lake Murray generated \$72.8 million
21 in payroll. That represents thousands of jobs and
22 businesses that service tourism. Our boat dealers, our
23 fishing guides, boat rentals, the list is long, tour
24 boats, vacation homes, hoteliers, restaurants, you name
25 it, gas docks. The list is just too long to talk in my

1 five minutes. About 39 percent of \$939 million in
2 tourism expenditures in 2007 were generated for this
3 region because of Lake Murray. This does not even touch
4 the economic impact of the property taxes, sales tax
5 revenues which are generated for our state and local
6 governments. And that's thanks to the residents of Lake
7 Murray.

8 We don't have any residents on the river, I
9 don't believe. Of course, bass fishing tournaments, our
10 organization has brought them in for years, and
11 obviously they are a major economic engine, as well. As
12 recently as August of 2008, the Forrest Woods Cup -- we
13 were honored to feature that -- it left a mark on our
14 region, giving us a \$46.5 million economic impact. This
15 one event generated over 11,000 room nights. This, when
16 our economy is suffering. Our organization actually
17 received the most distinguished award that you can
18 receive in the tourism industry this year because of the
19 Forrest Woods Cup. We were the recipient at the 44th
20 Annual Governor's Conference on Tourism and Travel of
21 the 2009 Governor's Cup on Tourism.

22 There's no doubt that protecting and enhancing
23 this valuable resource should be a major consideration
24 in the development of the new license. Lake Murray's
25 fishery is a major draw for tourism, but others are, as

1 well. As mentioned, the real estate, sailing and
2 boating events, eventually we'll have two state parks,
3 family outings, tour boats, vacation rentals -- hey, we
4 could even have the Olympics here. So Lake Murray is
5 quite an economic engine.

6 Over the years our organization has worked
7 with SCE&G on several serious lake issues. We have also
8 worked with the Lake Murray Association. Some of the
9 members of our Board of Directors actually are part of
10 the Lake Murray Association. Again and again South
11 Carolina Electric and Gas has shown professional and
12 community insight into each and every one of these
13 situations. They looked at all sides of the issues and
14 in the end have consistently provided this community
15 with fair consideration.

16 We are here tonight to show support to South
17 Carolina Electric and Gas and continued support -- join
18 in support with the Lake Murray Association on SCE&G's
19 proposal for the Low Inflow Protocol. This is fair to
20 all and ensures that all share in the pain if there were
21 a drought in -- during any drought times.

22 We also want to recognize and compliment
23 Saluda County Planning Department -- Tom is here tonight
24 from Saluda County -- for their work through Clemson
25 Exchange Extension. They have just received a grant, I

1 believe, for looking at a serious problem on the little
2 Saluda River on Cloud's Creek Watershed. And they were
3 seeking an EPA claim water grant. They have received
4 this or are going to receive this grant, and our
5 organization is going to help them. They're interested
6 in Lake Murray clean water and they're doing something
7 about it, as well.

8 So in the end, what we're saying is that we
9 are supporting the SCE&G one-foot trigger -- I guess
10 that's how you say that -- for the low protocol. I
11 would like to have all the businesses, lake residents,
12 if you make a living off of Lake Murray, please join me
13 and stand with me and show me in this room who is for
14 this agreement. Thank you.

15 MR. WALLACE: I really wasn't anticipating
16 speaking tonight. I was going to come and listen and be
17 here on Miriam's behalf and the regional tourism board
18 and the community of Lake Murray. But I will tell you
19 the Congressman will be filing a letter tomorrow in
20 support of what Lake Murray Regional Community
21 Development Board will be doing and the community and
22 citizens of Lexington County and Richland County who
23 live on the lake. I asked her to send me information
24 that was both opposing and favoring what she was asking,
25 and she was very diligent in doing that. And I think

1 the words that came out were "share the pain." And I
2 think that is the right word and I think that is the
3 right analogy. And the Congressman will be supporting
4 that. Thank you very much.

5 MR. JONES: My name is Stan Jones. I am the
6 manager of Lighthouse Marina, which is Lake Murray's
7 largest marina. I am the vice president of the South
8 Carolina Marine Association. I am also director of the
9 Lake Murray Association.

10 The two-foot trigger is a very, very large
11 concern to me. I want to make it very clear that I
12 support the one-foot trigger, along with Lake Murray
13 Association, SCE&G.

14 What my concern is is revenue and safety to
15 the businesses around the lake. I have 500 boats at our
16 marina alone. These are people that do not live on the
17 lake but they do enjoy the lake. They come from the
18 surrounding counties as far away as Atlanta, Lake
19 Hartwell, who has no water, and other areas. So this is
20 a very large group of people that care very much about
21 lake level.

22 Some of the issues that I see with the
23 two-foot trigger is we're getting further along into the
24 season. One, we've got a lot more leaving our dam,
25 going down river, with the new license. But if the

1 trigger doesn't catch it quick enough, we could drop
2 feet and it would be right in the middle of our season.
3 Our business is extremely seasonal. Really our entire
4 year is between June and August. If the lake level
5 drops too much, safety problems. Ramp heights going
6 down to our docks become extremely steep. This becomes
7 a problem for our ADA, our folks that have disabilities.
8 It becomes a problem, if there was a problem, with
9 paramedics being able to access the docks safely. Loss
10 of revenue. If the lake level drops too much in season,
11 we lose an entire seawall that people use to tie up to
12 our restaurant. We lose slips where people, you know,
13 rent slips from us.

14 Another main concern with me is our seawall
15 that supports our forklifts. It's an 80,000-pound
16 forklift. That seawall was designed to have the lake
17 level basically act as a support. It was designed to
18 use the weight of the lake to keep it up. So if we have
19 an 80,000-pound forklift on one side and no water on the
20 other, there's the potential for disaster there.

21 Like I said, I definitely support the one-foot
22 trigger. Thank you.

23 MS. WESLOWSKI: Anthony Bell.

24 MR. BELL: I'm going to try to speak loudly
25 enough so everyone can hear. Can everybody hear me? My

1 name is Anthony Bell. It's A-N-T-H-O-N-Y, B-E-L-L. I
2 am a member of the United States Surf Kayak Team. I
3 train on this river. I use this river for recreation.
4 I'm in favor of the two-foot trigger. I'm also in favor
5 of the proposed minimum flow releases. And I believe
6 those keep the Saluda healthy.

7 I'm all for commerce. I'm all for keeping our
8 economy. I'm also in favor of keeping the river
9 healthy, so there's a balance there. And I think the
10 minimum flows that have proposed are going to achieve
11 that balance. Thank you.

12 MS. WESLOWSKI: Thank you. Randy Walston.

13 MR. WALSTON: I was going to give up my time,
14 but I'll speak for a second. I support the one-foot
15 trigger also. My name is Walston, W-A-L-S-T-O-N. I own
16 a company called Lake Murray Vacation Rentals. I'm also
17 on the board with Capital City Lake Murray Country.

18 Lake Murray will probably never see a hotel on
19 it. That's good for some people, bad for others,
20 possibly. Also I'm a marina owner, so I support what
21 Stan had to say. But I do operate 42 lakefront homes
22 right now as vacation rentals. There are about 25
23 others. So there is in excess of 65 homes for rental on
24 Lake Murray. Prior to me starting this business, there
25 were about 13 homes. So that is our motel. These

1 vacation homes bring in people across the United States.
2 I've had guests from all 50 states, repeat that, Alaska,
3 Hawaii, all 50 states use this lake. I don't know about
4 the 10-mile stretch of the river, but 50 states use this
5 lake to stay in these over 300 beds that we rent these
6 homes out.

7 When the lake is down, so is business. That
8 means these people from the other 50 states don't come
9 to Lake Murray, don't use this lake, don't enjoy this
10 lake. They'll go to some other state. This state loses
11 more in revenue than any of y'all believe when this lake
12 is down. I started this business before the big
13 drawdown because of the dam reconstruction. I can tell
14 you.

15 I also own a real estate company, and real
16 estate sales are terrible for two reasons: Taxes and
17 when the water levels are down. That's the only two
18 things that stop real estate sales. And they do affect
19 every one of us if you have a property on Lake Murray.
20 That's my time. Thank you.

21

22 MS. WESLOWSKI: Steven Mungo.

23 MR. MUNGO: I can't talk loud. Steven with a
24 V, Mungo, M-U-N-G-O.

25 I think it's interesting for all these

1 scientific studies we've had done, they've all been done
2 by fisheries biologists and none have been done by
3 sociologists or economists. And I think if we're going
4 to have balanced science, we have to balance all the
5 disciplines in this. There seem to -- I fish the river,
6 I live on the lake. There seems to be plenty of fish on
7 the river now with a six-inch trigger. There should be
8 more with a one-foot trigger, if increased water flow
9 improves that. We're talking about preserving the river
10 and keeping it. I heard that said, clean. Well, if
11 it's clean with a six-inch trigger, it will even be
12 cleaner with a one-foot trigger. I'm not sure we need a
13 two-foot trigger to keep it clean.

14 The most important thing is Columbia needs a
15 vital lake for its quality of life. Columbia, other
16 than being the hottest place on earth, we don't really
17 have a whole lot to offer people, and the lake is one of
18 our biggest calling cards. And if we jeopardize the
19 lake -- and the downstream fisheries is about
20 recreation. So we're weighing the interest of one
21 recreational source versus another. But I think when
22 you rob Peter to pay Paul in this case, that you're
23 hurting a lot of other interests to the betterment of
24 the interest of downstream.

25 I'm all for a healthy river. I'm all for a

1 great environment, but I do think that as long as
2 one-foot trigger is going to adequately give the river
3 enough flow, that we need to consider how many people
4 get to use and utilize the lake versus the river. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. WESLOWSKI: Roy Parker.

7 MR. PARKER: I'm Roy Parker with Lake Murray
8 Association. And we, as an organization, we represent
9 all lake users. And one of the major concerns that
10 we've had over the years, not just during the last few
11 years where we've had the drawdown for the dam repair,
12 we've always been concerned with keeping lake levels up.
13 And I would like to say that we are very supportive of
14 the guide curve that SCE&G has proposed for operating
15 the lake, bringing the lake up to 358 on March the 1st
16 and holding it at that level until September the 1st.

17 When we have normal flow and we have normal
18 rainfall, there's not a problem with releases to provide
19 the water that the people downstream want. There's not
20 a problem with it. Where the contention comes in is
21 where we have a drought situation. And that's where we
22 disagree with the downstream people. We support holding
23 the lake to a one-foot trigger. In other words, the
24 restriction of outflow or the releases of outflow from
25 Lake Murray do not -- are not confined until we get a

1 one-foot trigger.

2 The people downstream are proposing a two-foot
3 trigger. So we cut the releases sooner to keep that
4 lake level up because in a dry situation, and we've had
5 some dry years -- seven out of the last 10 years have
6 been droughts.

7 So under those circumstances, if you're
8 waiting until the lake comes down two feet before you
9 begin restricting the flow, with the summer heat and the
10 evaporation and the draw on the lake from
11 municipalities, the lake can drop very quickly. And
12 that's when we get into problems with the economics. We
13 also -- there is also a safety issue that we're
14 concerned with, underwater hazards that can't be seen
15 when the water -- when the lake level is low.

16 So we fully support SCE&G's proposal for
17 operating the lake, and we just strongly support just a
18 one-foot trigger.

19 MS. WESLOWSKI: Carol Schelble. Is that
20 close?

21 MS. SCHELBLE: My name is Carol Schelble.
22 That's S-C-H-E-L-B-L-E. I've been a resident on Lake
23 Murray for 21 years this year. And I would just like to
24 say I am a member of Lake Murray Association. I am not
25 on the board of anything. I'm just a lake resident.

1 I find it difficult to understand why, when
2 there is a drought, the river gets normal water and
3 everybody else has to suffer, fish, people, everybody.
4 It seems to me that if there is low rainfall, no water,
5 that that should be spread throughout the system, that
6 the fish downstream will have to suffer just as the fish
7 in the lake if the water is lower.

8 There are many issues involved here, but it
9 seems to me that there should be a compromise when there
10 is low rainfall, that the trigger should definitely not
11 be arbitrary. I think it's commonsense that the
12 suffering has to be shared by all.

13 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

14 MS. WESLOWSKI: Robert Hollaway.

15 MR. HOLLAWAY: Can everybody hear me okay? I
16 hope. My name is Robert or Bob Hollaway,
17 H-O-L-L-A-W-A-Y. And I suppose as most of you can tell
18 in here, I'm not from here originally. I'm from -- I
19 know what you refer to me as. I'm from Michigan. And
20 while I wasn't born here, I got here as fast as I could.

21 And I'm only representing myself. I have
22 really no association with anything on the lake, other
23 than the sail club I belong to. We raise exotic birds,
24 parrots. And so to be honest, I can somewhat
25 commiserate here with DNR and what they're trying to do

1 insofar as trying to take care of the fish and that
2 downstream. I think that's a good idea, honestly. I
3 think it's a very noble idea. The only thing that I'm a
4 bit concerned about is that I personally, and I'm sure a
5 lot of you here would agree with me, I don't want to be
6 part of number 17, which was originally put up on the
7 screen. I don't want to become one of the endangered
8 species around here insofar as I've got some rental
9 property on the lake, I live on the lake, I pay a lot of
10 taxes.

11 The sail club I belong to spent upwards of a
12 half a million dollars dredging and renovating their
13 dock system just a few years ago. And with the severe
14 drop in lake levels, I honestly don't know how we're
15 going to get the sailboats out of our back cove. And if
16 we did, where are we supposed to put them? And I think
17 you're probably looking at just, as Miriam Atria
18 mentioned, a severe economic impact if this thing goes
19 through as DNR would like it to. I think the proposal
20 of the one-foot thing with SCE&G makes a lot of sense.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. WESLOWSKI: Heath Hewett.

23 MR. HEWETT: Yes, ma'am. I would like to
24 defer to Charlene Coleman, if I may.

25 MS. WESLOWSKI: Okay.

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thanks, Heath. I'm Charlene
2 Coleman, C-H-A-R-L-E-N-E, C-O-L-E-M-A-N. I'm with
3 American Whitewater. That's a national organization
4 started in 1954. We are a part of memberships of
5 different clubs, different people, a lot of highly
6 educated technical people that do a lot of study before
7 we jump into anything, just to let you know. We're not
8 a bunch of wet motorcycle club or anything. We're in
9 Cullowhee, North Carolina. Our mission is to conserve
10 and the restoration of America's whitewater resources
11 and to enhance the opportunities to enjoy them safely.
12 Actually, this is pretty much going to sound like a
13 who's who of what I own, so far.

14 Protection and preservation: For the last six
15 years, it's been a lot of people sitting in a room
16 looking at each other, diligently working for the
17 resource. Yes, some special interest, but ultimately
18 the resource. It has been wonderful to work on this
19 document. It's been an honor and a privilege to work
20 with everyone involved. And of all the projects
21 nationwide that I've been part of, this has been the
22 most open, carefully thought through, and before now no
23 one ever considered the people at the rapid, at the zoo
24 as a user group, but we did because we had to consider
25 their safety. They motivated the possibility of using

1 sophisticated systems to warn people about the river.

2 As a course of record, we're for two feet, by
3 the way. There's now a call down system, a web page,
4 marked poles, sirens and strobes, and even the fire
5 department is warned in time enough to go down there and
6 tell everyone that the river is coming up. We didn't
7 work on this just because we wanted all your water.
8 Okay?

9 The recreational releases provide an economic
10 opportunity for those communities in this area. We
11 brought the Junior Olympics. That's nations. For
12 everybody that was belittling the fact that that release
13 was done, we're talking about families that spend
14 thousands of dollars, endless hours of time for their
15 kids to train for an international event that involved
16 those five gold rings. Okay. It's not just a kayak
17 event. It was the Olympics. It was a great opportunity
18 for the City of Columbia to be highlighted on an
19 international level.

20 As a result of the recreational releases, we
21 will further put this area in a regional/national
22 spotlight for events that are now possible. American
23 Whitewater requests you accept our stakeholder
24 agreements as honest, equitable, protectively written
25 documents backed by careful thought and concern for

1 these resources. We have not based anything we have
2 decided on with anecdotal data or some now -- as some
3 have now requested. The aspect of lake level, river
4 flow, safety, user group, community and operation has
5 been carefully scrutinized.

6 It has not been a Dr. Seuss effort. Though
7 humerus, anecdotal fish stories are just that, stories,
8 and have little fact. Please consider the relevance of
9 data as compared to one fish, two fish, red fish, blue
10 fish recommendations we have heard here.

11 South Carolina is a hurricane state. We
12 receive large amounts of rain in short periods of time.
13 As a rescuer, I have absolutely no desire to deal with a
14 catastrophic event. The lake levels and the responsible
15 consideration for the evaluation of what has been
16 determined using DNR's excellent data and research, and
17 nature provides the proof as we have recently seen, we
18 request that you consider data and not anecdote when
19 considering all the things that we have come up with.

20 American Whitewater thanks SCANA, SCE&G, and
21 for the open, honest and forthright approach to making
22 Lake Murray and the Saluda River gemstones of central
23 Carolina. We feel a great document is soon to be
24 finalized in stakeholder meetings, and as a national
25 organization we also feel it has great potential as a

1 template for other areas.

2 I just want to point out, because it kind of
3 irritates me a little bit, that I spent six years of my
4 life sitting in a room looking at about 25 people that
5 have used days off, vacation, and even called in sick to
6 use their free time all day long to sit and look at
7 empirical data, listen to people whine about different
8 special interests. And then they put it all aside,
9 piled the data up, looked at it carefully, and this is
10 what we've come up with. I think it would be nice just
11 to have somebody recognize that there is a lot of people
12 that put a lot of work in these numbers and we didn't
13 just throw them in a hat and pull them out. Thank you.

14 MS. WESLOWSKI: Hartley Barber.

15 MR. BARBER: My name is Hartley,
16 H-A-R-T-L-E-Y, Barber, B-A-R-B-E-R.

17 First and foremost, I'm a father. I have two
18 small children. We recreate on the lake. We recreate
19 on the river. I'm a teacher. Not only do I teach your
20 everyday subject matter, but I'm also involved in an
21 outdoor program at a local school. We take the kids to
22 the lake. We take the kids to the river. We use both
23 sources as an educational medium. We are all about
24 preservation. We don't want to hurt the lake. We don't
25 want to hurt the river.

1 The difficult thing, from my standpoint right
2 now, is that the river -- I can't think of a better way
3 to say this. The river is sick. I don't know how many
4 of you have been in that river within the last couple of
5 years. I don't know how often you've been in the river
6 within the last couple of years. But a lot of people
7 have gotten sick from being in the river over the last
8 couple of years. This is because of a lot of effluent
9 that's in the river. I know that's not Lake Murray's
10 problem.

11 However, dilution is the solution. If it is
12 possible to guarantee minimum flows that do not damage
13 recreational use in the lake, it will benefit not only
14 this area, but it will benefit the City of Columbia and
15 all of its inhabitants, as well as the people who visit.
16 That's all I have to say.

17 MS. WESLOWSKI: Andrew Mazzoli.

18 MR. MAZZOLI: That's A-N-D-R-E-W,
19 M-A-Z-Z-O-L-I.

20 First I'd like to say thank you. I hold no
21 special credentials. I am merely a property owner on
22 the lake. I will let you know, though, that my little
23 bitty piece of property with a single-wide mobile home,
24 30 years old, I have on good authority I pay as much
25 taxes for that as I do for folks down on Hilton Head

1 Island that have 1,700 square feet in a gated community.

2 My neighbors told me you can go to the meeting
3 and hear all the carrying on -- that's a quote -- but
4 they're going to do what they want to anyway. I stand
5 here hoping that that's just not the case, and I am
6 appreciative of being here.

7 An interesting response to the data question.
8 I happen to know -- I work in data-rich environment in
9 the medical community, and I happen to know if you put
10 water into a system that's full, water will flow out.
11 That's a simple empirical concept, and I hope that you
12 will carry that home with you. It seems to me that as
13 Lake Murray is the glass of water, then when it fills,
14 that it should be emptied. What I didn't see on the
15 data curve is how low will the lake go before we'll say
16 stop. And by the way, dilution is not the solution for
17 effluent. It's capturing the effluent.

18 I'm sorry. I need to refer to notes.
19 Senescence is getting to me. The lake has an ecosystem,
20 too, and I'm concerned with preserving that. I likewise
21 have children and I have been here for some time, in and
22 out, and I'd like to preserve that part of it. I don't
23 own a business on the lake. I promise you I don't. And
24 I'm a little concerned that sooner or later it's going
25 to come down to dollars, and I really do want to keep

1 these parties in concern -- by the way, I do like to
2 whitewater raft. My real concern here -- and I support
3 some kind of compromise, but I certainly don't want the
4 lake empty and I certainly don't want to go on
5 anecdotal -- I don't know where she went -- anecdotal
6 data either. It seems to me that when the water fills
7 up the lake and when the drought occurs, then we all
8 suffer from the drought. I wish that somebody would
9 tell me, how low does the lake go before we have to say,
10 you know, we do really have to share the pain. And I'd
11 like an answer to that sometime somehow. I guess I'll
12 get to the government and find that out. If a half a
13 foot is not clean enough, a foot seems to me to be
14 plenty, and we can all share the pain.

15 Thank you. I appreciate your time.

16 MS. WESLOWSKI: Pete Olmstead.

17 MR. OLMSTEAD: Pete Olmstead, O-L-M-S-T-E-A-D.
18 I'm commodore of the Columbia Sailing Club. That's that
19 ugly blue roof up there by the dam. Our greatest enemy
20 is low water. Sailboats draw four or five or six feet.
21 We have 200 members and their families, which number
22 about a thousand people.

23 There will be a large regatta this weekend.
24 People from all over the country will be sailing, and so
25 I appreciate the opportunity to speak here for the club.

1 We just hope that we keep the water level to the point
2 that we can all sail. Our charter is to promote
3 sailing, and we are an educational institution. We
4 welcome you all to our open houses and to our classes.
5 And so thank you for the opportunity.

6 MS. WESLOWSKI: Rick Kellemeier.

7 MR. KELLEMEYER: Okay. I represent the Lake
8 Murray Fishermen's Focus Group which was formed to
9 assess how various lake level stages impact the fishing
10 habitat and the spawning. This group comprised of
11 striped bass, largemouth bass and crappy guides and
12 fishermen has over a hundred years of fishing experience
13 on Lake Murray. Lake Murray has undergone -- last name
14 is spelled K-E-L-L-E-M-E-Y-E-R.

15 Lake Murray has undergone a developmental
16 explosion in the past two decades. This has caused the
17 destruction or degradation of shoreline and shallow
18 water habitats that are important for the protection and
19 maintenance of fish and wildlife resources.

20 In the past DNR has expressed concerns over
21 the unregulated and rapid development of Lake Murray
22 shoreline and its potential negative impacts on the
23 fishery resources of this Midlands reservoir. They
24 published a report called DNR Fisheries Investigations
25 of Lakes and Streams for District 3 in 2000. They

1 showed they were concerned how water level management
2 impacts the fish and wildlife resources.

3 We have observed over the past two decades a
4 steady decline in most species, including largemouth
5 bass, crappie and brim, knowing the striped bass are
6 stocked. Years ago it was not uncommon to catch
7 30-pound stringers in a bass tournament. Recent
8 tournaments are yielding winning catches in the 20- to
9 22-pound range.

10 A DNR creel survey -- you could read that as
11 data -- in 2001 and 2002 found it took approximately six
12 hours to catch one largemouth bass. That's a success
13 rate per unit of effort of 0.17, not very high. Because
14 of loss of habitat, the fishermen's group believes it's
15 essential that the new license include language that
16 would maintain the water level between 358 and 357
17 during the spawning season.

18 Based on many years of experience in our
19 assessment during various lake level stages, we believe
20 that levels at or below 356 would dewater approximately
21 90 percent of the vegetative shoreline. Not having this
22 shoreline vegetation available may prevent spawning of
23 most species and would eliminate the most protective
24 cover that the fry need to survive until they mature
25 sufficiently to live in deeper water.

1 Our request is similar to a request by DNR for
2 Lake Greenwood in 1992 that was a Hayes study. Duke
3 Power agreed to bring the level of that lake one foot
4 higher during the spring, which resulted in the flooding
5 of shoreline structure which normally would have been
6 still exposed. Several years later, DNR found that
7 harvest rates increased dramatically from a harvest rate
8 in 1992 of 1.5 fish per trap net night to an average of
9 9.55 fish per trap net night. That's a 600 percent
10 increase in fish harvestry, and all they did was bring
11 the water up a foot during the spawning season. That's
12 not a lot of investment involved in that.

13 Like I said, I'm representing people that
14 spent 100 years fishing in Lake Murray and make a
15 living, in some cases, doing that. Thank you for your
16 time. If we can help you in any way, we'd be glad to do
17 it.

18 MS. WESLOWSKI: Bertina Floyd?

19 MS. FLOYD: Bertina Floyd, and I am Chair of
20 the Lake Murray Homeowners Coalition. And we have been
21 involved in the relicensing process for several years
22 now. And I would also like to thank SCE&G for the
23 opportunity to have been involved in that. We've had
24 representatives on various committees, Lake and Land
25 Management, Water Quality, Recreation and others.

1 What I'd like to focus on tonight is lake
2 levels, and particularly as how lake levels affect
3 recreational opportunities, safety, as well as the
4 economy. The Lake Murray Homeowners Coalition
5 represents 23 lake communities with an estimated 4,500
6 residents, plus some additional individual members. As
7 residents, our quality of life, property values and our
8 enjoyment and participation in recreational
9 opportunities are impacted by how the lake and its
10 resources are managed now and in the future. On the
11 average, we utilize the lake resources much more than
12 the casual visitor.

13 Lake residents are a vital part of the
14 recreational pool, and low lake levels greatly impact
15 those recreational opportunities. There are currently
16 about 9,000 docks. Based on a Meade-Hunt study done in
17 2002, it was estimated that there are close to a million
18 recreation visits per year by lake residents alone, not
19 counting the relatives and friends who use the lake via
20 those private docks. This is more than double the
21 amount of recreational visits by users launching boats
22 from SCE&G's park facilities. With a total buildout
23 there could be more like a million 4 of recreational
24 visits per year. So as you can see, lots of recreation
25 opportunities and use by homeowners on the lake.

1 And the Lake Murray Association did a study a
2 couple of years ago and said that when the lake drops
3 below 356, lake residents start losing the use of their
4 docks. At 354, approximately 50 percent lose the use of
5 the docks. So you can see how this would affect
6 recreational opportunities. And FERC officials for
7 years have approved private docks on Lake Murray as a
8 means of enhancing recreational access and
9 opportunities. Private docks play a major role, we
10 believe, in FERC's obligation to protect and enhance
11 recreational access.

12 Lake levels below 356 -- above 356, excuse me,
13 provide optimum conditions for recreational
14 opportunities. And based on our analysis, lake levels
15 below 354 contribute to boating safety concerns due to
16 the unmarked hazards. A field survey in the Billy
17 Dreher Island area in 2008 identified 12 unmarked
18 hazards at levels 354 and below. And this survey was
19 conducted by our organization with the assistance of
20 long-time Newberry fishing guide, Doug Lown. Mr. Lown
21 indicated that he believed DNR would need to add an
22 additional 150 buoys lakewide in order to mark all
23 significant hazards when lake levels drop below the 354
24 elevation.

25 Lake Murray residents spend approximately

1 \$45 million each year on water-based recreation
2 activities. Again, the Meade-Hunt study in 2002. And
3 this does not include the purchase of boats, does not
4 include spending of relatives and friends. If
5 50 percent of the homeowners lose the use of their docks
6 for one month, it can result in an estimated loss of
7 3.5 million in water-based expenditures.

8 Lake businesses, of course, marinas and
9 restaurants and all of those suffer. And we've heard
10 some of those mentioned tonight. It's estimated there's
11 44,000 registered boats in the four-county area. It is
12 likely that one-third to one-half of those boats are
13 owned by lake residents.

14 So a lake level management plan that restricts
15 homeowners' uses of docks impacts the boat sales. A
16 lake level management scheme that results in low lake
17 levels will impact property values, obviously, and real
18 estate sales, especially properties on the market during
19 the recreation season. And I won't go into the tax
20 coffers and the taxes paid by the lake residents.

21 Our organization has been very concerned about
22 some of the proposed Low Inflow Protocol plans. And in
23 fact, we were of the opinion that reductions in outflow
24 should begin at six inches, but we do support SCE&G's
25 one-foot LIP proposal, which I believe is currently in

1 the application. And we're supportive of their position
2 on water quality drawdowns that may be necessary, if the
3 data supports that.

4 We do not support DNR's position. They talk
5 about sharing the pain, but we feel that they want more
6 of their share of the water. And Ms. Coleman, I spent
7 many hours and days in meetings, as well. No one has
8 ever said that anybody's pulling numbers out of a hat,
9 but we've also done a lot of analysis and we've
10 presented some scenarios for consideration that show
11 this lake. If you go by DNR's desires, which started
12 out at four foot -- four feet, so they've come to two
13 feet now -- if we were in a severe drought situation,
14 this lake could drop. And somebody asked a minute ago,
15 "How far would it drop?" I don't know. Way down there.
16 Way down there. I mean, we've run some scenarios that
17 show that.

18 So we support the one-foot LIP. And I think
19 that's all I have to say. Thank you so much for giving
20 me an opportunity to speak.

21 MS. WESLOWSKI: Steve Wagstaff.

22 MR. WAGSTAFF: My name is Steve Wagstaff.
23 That's W-A-G-S-T-A-F-F. I'm a kayaker. I kayak on both
24 the lake and the river. I own property, along with my
25 wife, that is adjacent to Saluda Shoals Park near Corley

1 Mill Island. So I'm at the river a lot. I go swimming.
2 It gets to be kind of pathetic when the flows are
3 extremely low.

4 A couple of things I'd like to recognize, DNR
5 and everybody else's work. I've read through the
6 research and it looks really good. As far as the Low
7 Input Protocol, I'm not quite sure whether to lean
8 toward the two or the one foot, but the way the DNR
9 presents it, the two foot sounds viable.

10 As far as the lake water, if you look at the
11 new proposed guide curve, it looks like the lakefront
12 property people are getting a pretty good deal out of
13 this. You're going to have more security with your lake
14 levels. If they could show the graph, you would see
15 that, you know, previously you had the guaranteed one
16 month out of the year. Now it's many more months.
17 So -- excuse me, not a guarantee, but a guideline.

18 So in addition, I have a couple concerns.
19 Charlene Coleman mentioned one thing about the safety of
20 the dam. We are in a hurricane area. On top of that,
21 there's a lot of septic systems installed within 50 foot
22 or so of the 360 contour. What happens if we go one or
23 two foot over that? How many of your septic systems
24 will fail at that point? What will -- excuse me. What
25 would happen to the water quality at that point?

1 And I guess that's all I have to say. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. WESLOWSKI: Reed Bull.

4 MR. BULL: That's Reed, R-E-E-D, B-U-L-L. I
5 am a representative of the Midlands Striper Club here in
6 Columbia. We have 10 months on Lake Murray, and a big
7 support of DNR. And I have served on the -- as their
8 representative on the resource group dealing with water
9 quality. And several issues I want to deal with you
10 tonight is, one, we support DNR's studies and believe
11 the two-foot Low Inflow Protocol should be the trigger.
12 We also support the flows for striped bass during April
13 and May, to support the spawning and try to revitalize
14 the Santee Cooper, which was once one of the greatest
15 striper lakes in the world. In fact, the first one with
16 landlocked stripers in it. And basically now it is very
17 depressed and in very bad shape. So we support that.

18 Another issue I'm here to talk about tonight,
19 in support as a member of the water quality group, is
20 looking at lake drawdowns. Lake Murray is now 79 years
21 old. And every year prior to this, Lake Murray's been
22 drawn down in the winter and come back up. Now, all of
23 us are very sensitive to lake levels. For 22 years I've
24 lived in a subdivision on Lake Murray. I live on the
25 second row, but we have an access area. And I spent an

1 awful lot of time with my boys in the last 22 years on
2 Lake Murray and feel that I know something about Lake
3 Murray fishing and enjoyment and watching the developers
4 rape the shoreline and dump all the sediment into the
5 lake. Hopefully the buffer zones that we're looking at
6 here and some of the new regulations are going to help
7 that situation.

8 But the drawdown situation, I think, is very
9 critical. I'm a civil engineer and I studied hydrology,
10 and I know something about that, plus I've been
11 involved, when I grew up with my father, in managing a
12 pond and have observed a lot of other ponds dealing with
13 drawdown. Jim Ruane, who was hired -- he's a resource
14 management specialist out of Chattanooga, Tennessee, who
15 was hired by SCE&G to perform studies -- he has done
16 work on reservoirs all over this country and, I think,
17 even in some foreign countries. He's very knowledgeable
18 of reservoirs and how they behave and the ecosystems.
19 And one of his studies looks at the lack of drawdowns on
20 Lake Murray and some of the very serious consequences
21 that we could have if that's done. And I'll use the
22 example of two problems. One is sediment in shallow
23 coves. The other is the deposition of organic matter in
24 shallow coves and that matter staying there and not
25 being washed away, which occurs during a drawdown. For

1 instance, the drawdown of sediment. If you look at Lake
2 Wiley, Lake Wiley restricted lowering lake levels here
3 some years back. If you go up to Lake Wiley -- and I've
4 actually gone up and looked at it myself -- they've had
5 serious sedimentation in the backs of coves up there.
6 Coves have settled in and there are actually trees
7 growing and they've become islands.

8 If you don't draw down Lake Murray -- we've
9 got a lot of coves, the major one being Little Saluda
10 River. That is a very shallow cove system. If you keep
11 the lake levels up and don't have a drawdown at some
12 frequency, then you get sediment in there which fills
13 the cove in and creates an organic situation that will
14 severely reduce the water quality in Lake Murray. This
15 has been proven. Jim Ruane's study -- and we have a
16 report. It's on the website if you want to review it.
17 It shows that could have detrimental effects on water
18 quality in Lake Murray over a period of time. And the
19 sediment is going to impact a lot of people who live in
20 the back of coves. I live near several coves over where
21 old Snelgrove Landing is, near Spencer's Point, and I've
22 watched sediment occur with the development of several
23 subdivisions. And then I watched what happened when we
24 drew the lake down to 345 in cleaning those coves out.

25 But Mr. Ruane's study has supported a

1 frequency of every other year we started out. That's
2 been developed on a rainfall situation through November
3 to try to guarantee high lake levels. And I understand
4 high lake level. I would love to have the lake level at
5 358 all year long. But if that's going to be
6 detrimental to the water quality in the lake, then I
7 think we need to take another look at it. But there's
8 very serious consequences.

9 Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia stopped having
10 drawdowns there, and right now they are instituting a
11 half-million-dollar study to try to figure out what to
12 do with all the sediment that has occurred in the upper
13 ends of that lake. And basically, probably there's no
14 way they'll be able to ever fix it. So the drawdown
15 that's recommended by Jim Ruane would occur probably
16 every other year or every three years, depending on a
17 very complicated flow situation during the month of
18 November. But this is something that we as a Midlands
19 Striper Club believe needs to be done. We support DNR
20 and DHEC, which believes the drawdown is needed. And
21 you know, I'm supporting that we have high lake levels
22 during the majority of the year. The drawdowns would
23 only occur during December and January. Now, they will
24 impact during low flow years getting the water back up
25 to 358, but you've got to look at the consequences of

1 not having that lake drawn down.

2 So basically I want to say that we support DNR
3 on the two-foot trigger. We support the striper flows
4 for increasing spawning in the Congaree River. And we
5 also support a frequency of drawdown that would improve
6 the water quality on Lake Murray. Thank you. I
7 appreciate the opportunity to speak.

8 MS. WESLOWSKI: David Rhoten.

9 MR. RHOTEN: My name is David Rhoten. That's
10 R-H-O-T-E-N. I'm a Lake Murray homeowner. I'm from the
11 Ballentine area, a neighbor of Lake Murray Marina.

12 And I am here to speak on behalf of the river
13 and to support DNR's proposed bull curve. The technical
14 staff at DNR was considering both the lake and the river
15 when they came up with this.

16 We on the lake do not have a right to hoard
17 the water in the lake during a time of drought. Lake
18 Murray is an artificial feature imposed upon the river.
19 It was created by drowning many miles, probably about
20 50 miles of free-flowing river. If it wasn't for the
21 river, we would not have this jewel here in the
22 Midlands. The water comes from the river. We owe
23 something back to the river. The lake can mitigate the
24 impact of a flood, it can mitigate the impact of a
25 drought, and it should.

1 I've heard a lot of talk about dollars and
2 politics here. Well, maybe it's the economic thing to
3 do to hoard the water in the lake during a drought.
4 Maybe it's the political thing to do to hoard the water
5 in the lake during a drought. But that certainly does
6 not make it the right thing to do. Thank you.

7 MS. WESLOWSKI: William Odom.

8 THE AUDIENCE: He left.

9 MS. WESLOWSKI: He was the last scheduled
10 speaker, so we can open it up to others who have
11 comments.

12 THE AUDIENCE: Comment.

13 MR. EMERY: Identify yourself.

14 MR. ABRAMS: Keith Abrams, A-B-R-A-M-S. Leave
15 the H out.

16 I am a property owner and I'm going to talk
17 about data. I worked 30 years, 60 to 80 hours a week,
18 to come up with the money be able to afford a home on
19 the lake under the proposition that the government could
20 be consistent in enforcement of the rules and the
21 regulations that establish the property value of my
22 investment of a lifetime on Lake Murray.

23 Now, God help the fish. I don't know how they
24 survived all these years with only a six-inch trigger.
25 I just don't know how they've done it. God bless them.

1 And you don't get sick in a river that's got effluent in
2 it if you're smart enough to stay the hell out of it.
3 You've got to stop the people from dropping effluent in
4 it, because that's not what I'm doing.

5 I have my own project scope. My project scope
6 was to live on the lake. The timeframe for my scope was
7 for my grandchildren, my children's children and on down
8 to be able to enjoy the freedoms that America is
9 supposed to offer. I have seen an example of the water
10 management policies of the federal government where
11 farmers cannot farm because fish need to be saved. The
12 idiocy of the bureaucracy that can allow such a
13 situation where people's food source is at risk so that
14 fish can be preserved is beyond my scope of imagination
15 or my acceptance of ignorance.

16 I do not speak with respect to the potential
17 idiocy that can come from this type of a discussion.
18 This type of discussion is a discussion -- where are the
19 people who consider the minority interest here? I am
20 the minority. I am a white working male who pays taxes.
21 And I suspect there are some other minorities in here,
22 too, as regards to people who put in six to eight hours
23 going over data to establish the validity of fish. I
24 suspect that time could have been just as well spent on
25 the lake, enjoying it, to come to a different

1 conclusion.

2 My grandfather told me when I was a little
3 boy, "Figures never lie. Liars figure." Take the end
4 result, take the data you've got and come up with the
5 answer you want. All right. But I can tell you, if you
6 want to have more water in the lower river -- not my
7 God, the holy river -- the dam was built in 1950s. The
8 lake has been here forever. It's underneath of a
9 federal permit. That's all existed. Now we're talking
10 about renegotiating, because the government is not a
11 partner of good faith. It must change the deal. Ask
12 the people from AIG who got bonuses. Ninety percent
13 tax.

14 Why am I here? Do I expect to be heard or to
15 have my rights respected? Not really. I'm here because
16 my frustration level is beyond acceptable. And the
17 bottom line here is I made an investment of a lifetime
18 of my work and labor for the scope of the project that
19 has my children, my grandchildren and their children.
20 That is what is important here, not the dollars, not the
21 fish, not the effluent. I'm not responsible for any of
22 that. I came in under a deal, a deal that was in place.
23 Now the deal wants to be renegotiated. You want to put
24 a one-foot trigger down the river? Fine. You want a
25 drawdown? Just guarantee me water. You don't draw down

1 if my level is below a certain level. I've paid for
2 that. I pay for that every year on the tax bill. You
3 want higher levels now? Make the permits and the
4 recreational permits on the river below the dam as
5 expensive as hell and offset my taxes so I can explain
6 to my children why such a bad investment was made on
7 good faith under a government program. All right.

8 But to expect me to sit back and allow a
9 drawdown that has no limit in terms of where the lake
10 level can go in order to be able to guarantee a trigger
11 down river is nonsensical, nonsensical. It is a
12 disrespect for those people who have made a good
13 investment on good faith. Thank you.

14 MR. FAUST: I'm John Faust, F-A-U-S-T, and I
15 live here in Lexington County in a Mungo home, back when
16 quality meant more than quantity. I spend a lot of
17 money, a lot of tax dollars in Lexington County. I
18 spend a lot of money at the gas station. I spend a lot
19 of money on the lake. I also spend a lot of money on
20 the lower Saluda River. I take my children on the lower
21 Saluda River. They love it. I met a lot of great
22 people. This gentleman over here is one of the first
23 people I ever met when I was dragging my kid down the
24 river on an intertube. It's meant more to me and my
25 family than any time I spent on the lake. It's been

1 great on the lake. I spent my life there. I grew up
2 here, camped on those islands countless times. But to
3 stand here and listen to especially this gentleman
4 talking about making an investment and bringing this guy
5 down, talking about the idiocy of dilution, I'm so sorry
6 that this gentleman is going to have to walk his
7 children and grandchildren 10 extra feet to get to the
8 water's edge, but there's a whole ecosystem from the dam
9 down that needs to be considered.

10 My mom lives on Lake Marion and has concern.
11 The river itself from the dam to the City of Columbia is
12 a concern. There's a whole economic sector that's being
13 ignored with the City of Columbia. We've got the
14 Congaree Vista, which the whole premise of that is
15 looking at the actual river, having the river as a
16 resource, having the waterfront parks built there. The
17 reason its not the economic resource now that it could
18 be is because we've got people like this gentleman over
19 here who are just so adamant about making the relatively
20 small sector of people within the scope of the City of
21 Columbia a primary concern. Thank you very much.

22 MS. WESLOWSKI: Anyone else?

23 MR. KIMBALL: I've got just two comments.

24 MR. EMERY: Your name?

25 MR. KIMBALL: Perry Kimball, K-I-M-B-A-L-L. I

1 lived on the lake for about 40 years at one place, and
2 my father had a place about 20 years on the other. And
3 to address this gentleman, the lake has only been over
4 360 one time, and SCE&G swore that would never happen
5 again. And you bet your dollar that will never happen
6 again.

7 You had 28 or 30-some programs up on your
8 board to begin with. Not one of them, not one of them
9 that I could read addressed the homeowners on Lake
10 Murray. Every one of them was about stripers or some
11 crap, you know, some other stuff. You know, we got
12 rights, too. You're a federal employee? Are you a
13 federal employee? You know who pays your salary?
14 Taxes. And we pay -- all these people that live on Lake
15 Murray pay a lot of taxes to live there. We pay your
16 salary. So I want you to remember that when you go to
17 fill out that form. Okay? Thank you very much.

18 MS. CONNELLY: Hello. My name is Rebecca
19 Connelly.

20 MR. EMERY: Spelling?

21 MS. CONNELLY: C-O-N-N-E-L-L-Y.

22 I grew up on Lake Murray. My dad grew up on
23 Lake Murray. My grandparents grew up on Lake Murray.
24 My grandparents were on the Saluda River before Lake
25 Murray. My great-grandparents were on the Saluda River

1 before Lake Murray. Most likely I have a family
2 generation more than anyone else in this room that lives
3 on Lake Murray. My family probably owns more people
4 than most people in this room on Lake Murray. You talk
5 about your taxes. Well, your houses have run up our
6 taxes like crazy. We try to maintain our property that
7 we've had for years, and it's a struggle, just like it's
8 a struggle for everyone else here to maintain your house
9 and pay your taxes and keep your property.

10 Property values are down. My house in
11 Columbia's property value is down. Everybody's is down.
12 But the lake is not just one entity, just like everyone
13 here has said. There's the river above, there's Lake
14 Greenwood above, there's the river below. And for all
15 my life, I can't say there's been one single time I
16 could not use Lake Murray. Even in the drawdown four or
17 five years ago, you could get on Lake Murray and use
18 Lake Murray. You could fish. You could boat. You
19 could do everything you wanted to.

20 The study here is for the benefit of all, not
21 just yourselves, not just one person, but to everyone
22 who's here. And they have put a lot into it and a lot
23 of your tax dollars have gone into this study. You have
24 to trust these people for what they have said. I use
25 the river below, I use the lake. Just like everyone

1 here, I want to go in that lake, and I've seen that lake
2 get dirtier and dirtier and dirtier every single year.
3 I remember when it was clean, I could run around as a
4 kid and play in it. Now it's so filled up with
5 sediment, the hydrilla, which was horrible. You
6 couldn't go out on the lake and swim because you were in
7 this hydrilla that was all the way up, you know,
8 10 feet, 15 feet. I tried scuba diving one time. I
9 couldn't go below like three feet of water because of
10 hydrilla. I think we finally got rid of it due to the
11 drawdown. A bunch of chemicals were pumped into it.
12 And yeah, the fish, the last time I checked -- I eat a
13 lot of fish. I also grow a lot of crops and eat it all.

14 So think a little beyond where you're sitting
15 yourself. That lake, your property value is not going
16 to change. People are out there every day. I'm filthy
17 dirty. You'll have to forgive me. But I've been
18 working at a boat marina, and we are busy as we can be
19 repairing boats. People enjoy the lake. They have
20 always enjoyed it. That will not change. But let this
21 resource be managed correctly. The drawdown is
22 excellent. The sediment got out of the coves, the
23 hydrilla went away, and it improved your lake. You had
24 to suffer a little bit for a lower lake or a bigger
25 shore. It came back. It's still there. Your houses

1 are still there. Your house value is not down because
2 the water went down. It affected it during that time,
3 but it's still there. It's going to stay there. They
4 put a new dam. It's not going anywhere.

5 I like to be able to go to the river. Until
6 you've been on that river and seen that river, it's
7 beautiful. It also increases the capital of your state,
8 the value of it, the beauty of it. Like several of us
9 here, we bring our kids there. And we need to work on
10 what's being dumped in our river. Yeah, a lot of people
11 got sick during that time, and that's uncalled for. You
12 might get sick in that lake if you don't maintain it
13 because it's going to grow bacteria and algae, and it's
14 a big deal.

15 So trust these people when they put your money
16 to use to make a study that benefits you and everyone
17 else above you and below you. Thank you.

18 MS. WESLOWSKI: Anyone else?

19 MR. EMERY: This is your chance to speak.
20 Anything else?

21 MR. JERNIGAN: I spoke one time, but it's my
22 understanding that it was not the drawdown that got rid
23 of the hydrilla. It was sterile carp.

24 MR. EMERY: Your name again, please?

25 MR. JERNIGAN: Jernigan, J-E-R-N-I-G-A-N.

1 THE AUDIENCE: If we're allowed to speak a
2 second time, I have something else to say.

3 MR. EMERY: Sure. Your name again?

4 MR. RHOTEN: My name is David Rhoten,
5 R-H-O-T-E-N.

6 I've been a paramedic in this area for the
7 past 20 years. I've heard a lot of talk about safety
8 issues with low lake levels. Well, I was boating on
9 Lake Murray during the worst of the drawdown, when they
10 were rebuilding the dam, building the backup dam, did it
11 safely.

12 I've dealt with quite a few tragedies and
13 serious injuries on Lake Murray in my EMS career. I
14 have never seen a death or an injury that was a result
15 of low water. I have seen quite a few that were the
16 result of negligent boating, negligent lake use. You
17 have to be aware of the situation you are boating in.
18 The rocks that will get you out there right now won't
19 get you when the water is low. They're out of the
20 water. You can't get to them with your boat when the
21 water is low. You've got to watch out for those that
22 are down deeper. It's a matter of knowing what you're
23 doing and boating properly. There is no safety issue
24 with low lake levels.

25 MR. EMERY: Thank you very much for

1 participating this evening.

2 (Meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, CYNTHIA FIRST, RPR, CRR, hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me in the above cause and that it is a correct transcript of the same.

CYNTHIA FIRST, RPR
Certified Realtime Reporter