

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426
March 14, 2007

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2197-073 - North Carolina
Yadkin Hydroelectric Project
Alcoa Power Generating, Inc.

Robert W. Petree
Chairman of the Board
SaveHighRockLake.org
Post Office Box 628
Southmont, NC 27351

RE: Response of Additional Study Request

Dear Mr. Petree:

In response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's notice of tendering of application issued on May 10, 2006, for the Yadkin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2197), you filed a request that Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. (Alcoa Generating) conduct additional studies relating to navigability of High Rock Lake under certain drawdown scenarios. You raised the concern that large winter drawdowns result in boating hazards because of High Rock Lake's shallow nature. In the letter you mentioned specifically the winter drawdown of up to 12 feet that was part of Alcoa Generating's license application proposal. Under existing operations, Alcoa Generating draws down High Rock Lake 12 to 15 feet in the winter. Under its agreement in principle, Alcoa Generating proposes a maximum drawdown for High Rock Lake of 10 feet during the winter. At the Commission's Yadkin Project scoping meetings in January of 2007, you and others suggested the winter drawdown be no greater than 6 feet.

In your June 26, 2006 letter, you requested that a number of issues be addressed for drawdowns greater than one half the average depth of High Rock Lake (or 8 feet). Specifically you requested identification of: 1) areas unsafe for boating; 2) hazards within 4 feet of the water surface; 3) operating guidelines to reduce hazards; 4) techniques for clearly marking hazards; and 5) strategies for making hazards visible at night.

We reviewed your additional study request for acceptability based on the standards set forth in section 4.32(b)(7) of the Commission's regulations. We have

required additional studies only when we determined that such studies would provide information necessary to form an adequate, factual basis for a complete analysis of the potential effects of the proposed project.

We will be analyzing the bathymetry data and recreational use survey data that Alcoa Generating included in its license application for the project. Based on this information, we will evaluate the effects that various drawdown scenarios could have on recreational boating and navigation within the High Rock impoundment.

We conclude that the information described above will provide adequate information for us to analyze the potential effects of the alternative High Rock Lake operating regimes on recreational boating in the High Rock impoundment. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Bowler at (202) 502-6861 or Stephen.bowler@ferc.gov or Lee Emery at (202) 502-8379 or lee.emery@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark Pawlowski, Chief
Hydro East Branch 2

cc: Mr. Gene Ellis, Licensing and Property Manager
Alcoa Power Generating, Inc., Yadkin Division
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Badin, NC 28009-0576.