

**Yadkin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2197)  
Recreation, Aesthetics, and Shoreline Management IAG  
Final Meeting Summary**

**July 9, 2003  
Alcoa Conference Center  
Badin, North Carolina**

**Meeting Agenda**

See Attachment 1.

**Meeting Attendees**

See Attachment 2.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Jane Peoples, Meeting Director, opened the meeting with introductions. She noted that Yadkin had distributed an "Issue Advisory Group Update" via email in June 2003 to update the individual IAGs on the work of all IAGs. Continuing, Jane said that Yadkin scheduled five public meetings during the last week of July 2003. The public meeting schedule is as follows:

Davie County – Days Inn  
Tuesday, July 29, 2003 7 pm to 10 pm

Montgomery County – Montgomery County Community College  
Wednesday, July 30, 2003 1 pm to 4 pm

Stanly County – Stanly Community College  
Wednesday, July 30, 2003 7 pm to 10 pm

Davidson County – Quality Inn  
Thursday, July 31, 2003 1 pm to 4 pm

Rowan County – Holiday Inn  
Thursday, July 31, 2003 7 pm to 10 pm

Larry Jones, High Rock Lake Association, commented that afternoon public meetings are disrespectful of the working public who would like to attend the meetings. Jane explained that Yadkin, in response to this concern, scheduled the meetings opposite of when they were scheduled in November 2002 (e.g. the November 2002 Davie County was in the afternoon and the July 2003 meeting is scheduled in the evening).

Pete Petree, SaveHighRockLake.org, asked if the public meetings would provide an opportunity for public input. Jane Peoples said that at the public meetings, Yadkin will be reviewing the

Three-stage Communications Enhanced relicensing process and describing the role of the IAGS and the ongoing resource studies. She said that the public will have an opportunity to talk with Yadkin staff and consultants about the relicensing process and any ongoing studies. She clarified that the purpose of the meetings is not do redefine study issues.

Jane offered copies of the "Issue Advisory Group Meeting Guidelines" distributed at the May 20, 2003 IAG meeting to those who did not have the Guidelines.

Jane reviewed the meeting agenda. She noted that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) had asked Yadkin to discuss the Shoreline Management Plan Comparison Draft Study Plan earlier on in the meeting. Jane suggested discussing the draft study plan after the update on the Recreation Use Assessment. The IAG agreed to the agenda change.

### **Update on the Recreation Use Assessment**

Wendy Bley, Long View Associates, introduced David Blaha, ERM, who provided an update on the progress of the ongoing Recreation Use Assessment (the presentation slides are provided as Attachment 3). David said that ERM initiated spot counts and the Visitor Use Survey at approximately 40 recreation areas on May 10, 2003. Through mid-June, ERM had collected 222 surveys. David noted that the Resident Use Survey, the Tailwater Use Survey, and the ROS (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum) survey were initiated in June 2003. The May and June mailings of the Resident Use Survey have been completed. David clarified that the Resident Use Survey is being distributed monthly (rather than quarterly as originally proposed) and that all permit holders will have an opportunity to complete the survey. The response rate has been approximately 30% on High Rock Reservoir and 50% on Narrows Reservoir (Badin Lake). Continuing, David said that the canoe registries have been in place since early June and that there have been a few responses. The study components yet to be initiated include the campground and private club survey and the private community survey. ERM plans to initiate these surveys in August/September.

Greg Scarborough, Rowan Association of Realtors, commented that the survey of the private communities planned for late August, early September would miss part of the recreation season. David Blaha explained that the survey of the private communities would be quarterly, so the September survey would be for the months of June, July, and August. David said that with Yadkin's help, ERM would randomly select 500 lots to receive a mail survey.

Larry Jones asked how ERM/Yadkin plans to get names for the private community lots. David responded that ERM/Yadkin would gather the contact information from homeowner associations and/or tax maps.

### **Shoreline Management Plan Comparison Draft Study Plan**

As background, Wendy said that at the April 10, 2003 IAG meeting, there was a request to compare the Yadkin Project Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) to SMPs for other area hydropower reservoirs. She said that Long View Associates had drafted a study plan based on all

comments received on shoreline management planning issues. A draft study plan was distributed to the IAG in advance of the meeting on June 24, 2003 (see Attachment 4).

Jody Cason, Long View Associates, reviewed correspondence from the High Rock Lake Association (dated April 8, 2003) and SaveHighRockLake.org (dated April 10, 2003 and June 20, 2003) regarding SMP issues. The June 20, 2003 SaveHighRockLake.org correspondence specifically identified elements of SMPs to be included in the SMP Comparison Study (see Attachment 5).

Working from the Draft Study Plan, Jody said that the primary objective of the SMP Comparison Study is to understand the differences between the Yadkin Project SMP and other area SMPs. Jody reviewed a preliminary list of SMPs to be included in the comparison and the SMP requirements that would be the focus of the comparison. Chris Goudreau, NCWRC, (not in attendance at the meeting) provided comments on the Draft Study Plan (email dated June 25, 2003). Jody noted that Chris asked that the plan include more detail on the SMP requirements to be compared. He also asked that a description of the types of habitats and their use restrictions be discussed for each SMP.

Lisa Snow, Concerned Property Owners of High Rock Lake, asked whether “private pier configuration” included boat lifts. Gene Ellis, APCI Yadkin Division, said that boat lifts could be specifically identified in the study plan and included in the comparison. Gerrit Jobsis, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (SCCCL) and American Rivers, suggested that environmental protection areas and buffer requirements also be evaluated as part of the comparison. APCI agreed. Gerritt clarified that the SMP comparison should examine shoreline classification schemes that may be associated with other SMPs. Gerritt asked that the Lake Murray (South Carolina Electric and Gas Project No. 516) also be included in the comparison. Gerritt said that the 1997 Lake Murray SMP had been recently updated and a revised draft had been submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Larry Jones indicated that it might not be appropriate to evaluate “draft” plans because draft plans could be revised. Gene Ellis suggested that draft plans be included in the comparison, but be noted as “draft”. Bill Medlin, Yadkin Pee Dee Lakes Project, said that he would like for final plans, as well as draft plans, to be included in the comparison. Steve Reed, North Carolina Division of Water Resources, noted that the Duke Power plan for the Nantahala area had been finalized.

Larry Jones suggested that the Lake Oconee, Lake Keowee, Lake Lanier, and Lake Hartwell plans be included in the comparison.

Gerritt suggested a review of the shoreline zoning/classifications included in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) plans. Wendy Bley commented that the TVA plans are pretty general.

Scott Jackson, North Carolina Watershed Coalition, suggested including a table in the study report that summarizes the amount of land that is in different land use categories around the shoreline. He asked if “private pier facilities” also included multi-use facilities. Wendy Bley responded that study would evaluate the permitting of both private piers and multi-use facilities.

David Wright, US Forest Service, questioned whether it would be worthwhile to also evaluate the permitting process for public access areas (in addition to private recreation facilities). He thought there might be differences in permitting private and public access facilities.

Pete Petree asked if piers providing beneficial fish habitat is something that could be addressed in the comparison. He noted that in some cases, piers provide better habitat than woody debris. Gene Ellis commented that the Duke Watree plan includes some information on fish-friendly piers. He said that to the extent the other SMPs address piers as beneficial fish habitat, the information will be included in the comparison. Gerrit clarified that the Duke SMP only looks at game fish habitat and not at spawning areas/habitat. Bill Medlin said that some of the SMPs might not accept piers as fish friendly and that there might be detrimental affects on water quality and plant life. He asked that this also be noted in the comparison.

Continuing, Jody Cason said that LVA will also give consideration to each project's physical boundary, the environmental, cultural, and recreational resources being addressed by the plan, and, where applicable, the USFS Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS).

Larry Jones clarified that the focus of the comparison should be to determine whether other area SMPs require certain behaviors on private lands in order to get a private pier permit. He said that the intent of the study is not to criticize the other plans, but to look at the issue of equality amongst the plans. Jane Peebles said that the purpose of the study is not to make all area SMPs equal. Wendy Bley agreed and noted that the purpose of the study is to gather facts to provide a common basis for understanding the differences and similarities among the plans and if there are differences, to understand the reasons for those differences (i.e. are there certain resources that need protecting or are there issues specific to that reservoir that need to be addressed). LVA agreed to revise the purpose of the study in the study plan accordingly.

Larry asked that the study plan clarify that the IAG will also receive a copy of the final study report.

Jody summarized the comments on the draft study plan. She said that LVA would revise the draft study plan based on comments received and distribute the revised draft study plan to the IAG for a final review.

### **Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment**

Jody Cason distributed a Preliminary Scope of Work for the Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment (see Attachment 6) for review at the meeting. Jody reviewed the initial study request – to inventory public recreation facilities and opportunities and to evaluate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility at the Yadkin Project. She described the purpose of the study as being to inventory existing public recreation areas that provide direct access to Yadkin Project lands and/or waters. Jody explained that the 40 public access recreation areas included in the Recreation Use Assessment would be inventoried and assessed. These 40 recreation areas fall into one of three categories: 1) public recreation areas maintained by Yadkin, state or federal agencies, and/or municipalities; 2) privately owned commercial facilities

open for public use; and 3) unimproved or informal recreation areas on public or private lands. She noted that the group one areas would be inventoried and assessed in detail, while the group two and group three areas would be inventoried and assessed in less detail. Additionally, recreational access for the disabled would not be evaluated for groups two and three.

David Wright suggested that an accessibility assessment on some trails be done.

Larry Jones suggested that commercial operators be asked the reason(s) for not making improvements to their recreation areas.

Pete Petree asked if the FERC has guidelines for certain kinds of facilities, such as boat dump stations. If so, he asked if Yadkin would consider FERC's guidelines, as applicable. Gene Ellis said that EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) offers guidance on these types of facilities. If a marina operator wishes to have a dump station, Yadkin incorporates it into an operating permit, which holds the marina operator to those standards through the permit.

When asked about whether FERC offers any ADA guidance or has any requirements, Wendy Bley explained that FERC has no ADA requirements at licensed projects. She said that FERC provides only general guidelines. David Wright said that there is a body that has the legal authority to require accessible facilities. He noted that ADA standards and the authority to enforce them are not clear and that the standards are constantly changing. Lawrence Dorsey, NCWRC, stated that any new NCWRC facilities are constructed to ADA standards, where possible.

Larry Jones asked if the islands that support informal recreational use would be included in the inventory and assessment. Wendy responded yes. Elizabeth Wilson, High Rock Lake Business Owners Group, asked if areas outside of the project, such as bird viewing areas, would be included in the study. Jody replied that any recreational area that provides access to the Project would be included in the study.

Continuing, Jody reviewed the components of the recreation facility inventory. She noted that any plans to upgrade, expand, or build new facilities at a recreation area will be noted. Larry asked that construction plans not be considered if there is no given timeframe or schedule.

Next, Jody reviewed the components of the disabled access assessment. She noted that the Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Facilities, published by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board in 1999 would be used as the basis for the disabled access assessment. David Wright said that the 1999 guidelines had since been updated.

Jody explained that LVA would evaluate the existing physical condition of Project recreation facilities (using specific criteria) and identify any ongoing (persistent) operations, maintenance, and/or safety issues. Lawrence Dorsey commented that the evaluation should include notes about why a facility was rated a certain way. Larry Jones asked that parking areas be included in the condition assessment. David Wright asked that the age of the facility be recorded. He also distinguished between "functional" and "functionally obsolete".

Jody noted that the management standards of the NCWRC and USFS would be considered for recreation areas that are managed cooperatively. David Wright asked that the agency management standards be noted.

Jody said that the operations and maintenance of each recreation area would be reviewed and any potentially unsafe conditions and signs of overuse would be noted.

Jody summarized the comments on the draft study plan. She said that LVA would draft a study plan based on the preliminary scope of work and comments received on the scope for distribution to the IAG for review and comment.

### **Overall Project Aesthetic Study – Identification of Key Viewpoints**

David Blaha explained that the Overall Project Aesthetic Study would record the visual conditions at selected Key Observation Points (KOPs – public areas where there are views of the Project) during different seasons and reservoir levels to evaluate the effect of existing and alternative Project facilities and operations on area aesthetics. He said that ERM identified 64 potential KOPs (identified on maps around the room). David said that the purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed KOPs.

Larry Jones stated that I-85 as it crosses the Yadkin River is not an observation point. Bill Medlin commented that a group was recently formed to focus on this area. He said that there are plans underway to make this location a formal observation point. Wendy Bley added that “observation” does not necessarily mean to stop and look. She said that FERC is interested in areas where the public sees the Project. Wendy said that the vast majority of the public sees the Project from I-85. Larry noted that there is a view of Tuckertown Reservoir from Highway 49.

David provided examples of the type of information that will be collected at each KOP: Project feature, view location, primary viewer group, setting of the view, character/description of Project feature, distance, orientation, duration, frequency, dominance, and scenic integrity rating. Larry Jones questioned the “duration” listed for the Bringle Ferry Boat Access Area (listed as short). David said that the table is only illustrative (not necessarily accurate).

David showed some example photos taken from the KOPs.

Larry Jones questioned the goal or end result of the study. He asked if there is FERC criterion that requires a certain number of KOPs. David answered no. He explained that FERC is interested in knowing if the Project is compatible with the natural landscape. Larry asked why Lick Creek is a KOP. Wendy explained that the road crossing at Lick Creek provides a view of the Project. She said that the study must include representative views of the Project. Wendy said that a primary objective of the study is to evaluate the effect of existing and alternative Project facilities and operations on aesthetics in the Project area. Bill Medlin commented according to a 1999 Appalachian State study, scenic driving is the number one recreational activity in the region. He noted that Lick Creek is on a bicycle route.

Elizabeth questioned what is meant by “the effect of Project facilities and operations on the KOP”. Wendy provided two examples of Project effects on aesthetics: the operation of High Rock Reservoir (i.e. the seasonal drawdown makes views of the reservoir in September and January different) and Project transmission lines, which might be visible in the winter but not in the summer when the trees are full. She noted that each KOP would be photographed over the course of a year (summer, fall, winter).

David Blaha said that ERM would use information from several sources, including answers to questions on the Visitor Use Survey, to determine if there are any Project effects on area aesthetics.

Steve Reed commented that water clarity could be an issue in the photographs – an additional variable. David Blaha said that it would be important to try and control the variables in the photographs so that the reaction is to the Project and its operations.

David asked the group to review maps of the Project reservoirs and proposed KOPs. The group spent about 20 minutes reviewing the maps.

### **Closing Remarks**

In closing, Wendy Bley said that Yadkin would be distributing a revised SMP Comparison Draft Study Plan and a Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment Draft Study Plan for IAG review. Additionally, she said that ERM would revise the list of KOPs based on comments received at the meeting and distribute the list to the IAG for a final review.

After some discussion, the group agreed to a half-day meeting on October 8, 2003. Potential agenda items for this meeting include an update on the Recreation Use Assessment and a presentation of preliminary information collected as part of the SMP Comparison Study. Wendy said that if the group raises any significant questions/concerns/issues that require a group discussion in the interim, Yadkin will schedule a conference call.

Gerrit Jobsis asked how the question “does the existing Project boundary support recreation at the Project” would be addressed/answered. Wendy said the question would be best answered with information collected during the Recreation Use Assessment (who is using the Project and how) and the Regional Recreation Assessment (are recreational opportunities not available at the Project, available regionally).

The meeting adjourned at about 2:30 p.m.

**Attachment 1 – Meeting Agenda**

**Yadkin Project  
(FERC No. 2197)**

**Communications Enhanced Three-Stage Relicensing Process**

**Recreation, Aesthetics, and SMP Issue Advisory Group Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 9, 2003  
Alcoa Conference Center  
Badin, North Carolina**

**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Preliminary Agenda**

1. Introductions, Review Agenda
2. Review of April 10, 2003 IAG Meeting
3. Update on the Recreation Use Assessment
4. Discuss Recreation Facilities Inventory and Condition Assessment
5. Overall Project Aesthetic Study
  - Identification of Key Viewpoints
6. Review and Discuss SMP Comparison Draft Study Plan
7. Schedule and Agenda for Next Meeting

## Attachment 2 – Meeting Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bill Medlin	Yadkin Pee Dee Lakes Project	<a href="mailto:bmedlin@ctc.net">bmedlin@ctc.net</a>
Chip Conner	Uwharrie Point	<a href="mailto:chipconner@uwharriepoint.com">chipconner@uwharriepoint.com</a>
David Blaha	ERM	<a href="mailto:david.blaha@erm.com">david.blaha@erm.com</a>
David Wright	US Forest Service	<a href="mailto:dwright@fs.fed.us">dwright@fs.fed.us</a>
Donley Hill	US Forest Service	<a href="mailto:donleyhill@fs.fed.us">donleyhill@fs.fed.us</a>
Donna Davis	Stanly County Utilities	<a href="mailto:ddavis@co.stanly.nc.us">ddavis@co.stanly.nc.us</a>
Elizabeth Wilson	High Rock Lake Business Owners Group	<a href="mailto:ewilson@salisbury.net">ewilson@salisbury.net</a>
Gene Ellis	APGI, Yadkin Division	<a href="mailto:gene.ellis@alcoa.com">gene.ellis@alcoa.com</a>
Gerrit Jobsis	SC Coastal Conservation League/American Rivers	<a href="mailto:gerritj@scccl.org">gerritj@scccl.org</a>
Greg Scarborough	Rowan Association of Realtors	<a href="mailto:gscarborough@cbiinternet.com">gscarborough@cbiinternet.com</a>
Jane Peeples	Meeting Director	<a href="mailto:jpeeples@carolinapr.com">jpeeples@carolinapr.com</a>
Jody Cason	Long View Associates	<a href="mailto:jjcason@worldnet.att.net">jjcason@worldnet.att.net</a>
Julian Polk	APGI, Yadkin Division	<a href="mailto:julian.polk@alcoa.com">julian.polk@alcoa.com</a>
Larry Jones	High Rock Lake Association	<a href="mailto:larry@foxhollowfarm.org">larry@foxhollowfarm.org</a>
Lawrence Dorsey	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	<a href="mailto:dorseylg@vnet.net">dorseylg@vnet.net</a>
Lee Hinson	Concerned Property Owners of High Rock Lake	<a href="mailto:lhinson1@triad.rr.com">lhinson1@triad.rr.com</a>
Lisa Snow	Concerned Property Owners of High Rock Lake	<a href="mailto:tbargy@lexcominc.net">tbargy@lexcominc.net</a>
Robert Petree	SaveHighRockLake.org	<a href="mailto:pete@savehighrocklake.org">pete@savehighrocklake.org</a>
Scott Jackson	NC Watershed Coalition	<a href="mailto:scott@ncwatershedcoalition.org">scott@ncwatershedcoalition.org</a>
Scott Leonard	Davidson County	<a href="mailto:sleonard@co.davidson.nc.us">sleonard@co.davidson.nc.us</a>
Steve Reed	NC Division of Water Resources	<a href="mailto:steven.reed@ncmail.net">steven.reed@ncmail.net</a>
Tim Langford	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	<a href="mailto:timlangford@nc.rr.com">timlangford@nc.rr.com</a>
Wendy Bley	Long View Associates	<a href="mailto:bleylva@aol.com">bleylva@aol.com</a>

**Attachment 3 – ERM Presentation Slides**

# Yadkin Recreation Use Assessment



July 2003 Status Report

# Status of Surveys

- Spot Counts - initiated May 10th
  - 3 weekdays and 3 weekend days/month
  - 3 times each day
- Visitor Use Survey - initiated May 10th
  - 222 surveys so far (thru mid-June)
  - High Rock - 90                      Narrows - 101
  - Tuckertown - 27                      Falls - 4
- Tailwater Use Survey - initiated in June
- UNF ROS Survey - initiated in June

## Status of Surveys (Cont.)

- Resident Use Survey - initiated
  - Mailings go out beginning of each month for prior month - 410 per month
  - May and June mailings have gone out
  - May Response Rate
    - High Rock - 30%
    - Tuckertown/Narrows - 50%

## Status of Surveys (Cont.)

- Canoe Registry
  - in place since mid-June
  - we have gotten some responses
- Private Community Boat Survey
  - not yet initiated, expected in August
- Private Club Survey
  - not yet initiated, expected in July
- Campground Survey
  - not yet initiated, expected in July

# APGI / Yadkin Aesthetic Study



Initial Key Observation Points

# Key Observation Points

- KOP - 64 tentatively identified
  - 40 at public recreation access areas
  - 3 of powerlines
  - 10 from public roads
  - 8 of Project dams
  - 2 of canoe portages
  - 1 from railroad (Palmerville)

# Key Observation Points

- High Rock
  - 27 KOPs
- Tuckertown
  - 18 KOPs
- Narrows
  - 19 KOPs
- Falls
  - 3 KOPs

# Key Observation Points—Tuckertown Reservoir

KOP	Project Feature	Viewer Location	Primary Viewer Group	Setting/context of View	Character/Description of Project Feature	Distance	Orientation	Duration	Frequency	Dominance	Scenic Integrity Rating
TR 1	Bingle Ferry Boat Access	Undeveloped boat ramp.	Boaters	Access road to boat ramp.	Unimproved boat ramp with gravel access road and parking.	Middleground	Direct	Short	Moderate	Dominant	
TR 2	Lick Creek Fishing Pulloff	Lick Creek Bridge abutment on South Main St Ext.to E.	Motorists, anglers	Edge of roadway, with view of dirt access path through woods. Woods posted no trespassing.	No fishing from bridge and no parking signs along dirt footpath. No APGI facilities apparent.	Foreground	Direct views	Short	Moderate	Subordinate	
TR 3	Newsome Road Access	Newsome Road at Tuckertown Res., at boat ramp to Ellis Creek, to SE.	Boaters, anglers	Suburban/agricultural, access to Tuckertown Lake is across RR tracks. Enclosed view to boat ramp, forest, distant limited water views.	Undeveloped boat ramp to Ellis Creek, dispersed camping, picnic table. Gravel parking.	Middleground	Direct to peripheral views.	Short to moderate	Low	Dominant	
TR 4	Tuckertown Pulloff Fishing Access	Tuckertown Road along roadside to W.	Motorists, anglers	Forested, bordering RR tracks along roadside.	Undeveloped dirt roadside pulloff, with path to access to catchment facility. No boating access.	Near and Middleground	Peripheral views	Short	Low	Subordinate	
TR 5	Tuckertown Dam Tailrace Access	Tuckertown Road along path to tailrace fishing access.	Anglers, boaters	Open view of dam, tailrace and opposite shore; overhead powerlines.	Dam structure and overhead power lines. Nearby unsafe waters signs, concrete slope up to parking, powerhouse facility.	Middleground to back ground	Direct views	Long	Moderate	Dominant	
TR 6A	Highway 49 Boat Access	Highway 49 bridge at Tuckertown Res. Center of bridge upstream to N.	Motorists	Open view from major highway—open corridor through forested area.	Long view of Tuckertown Res., with forested banks.	Distant View	Direct views	Moderate	High	Dominant	

**Attachment 4 – SMP Comparison Draft Study Plan**

**Alcoa Power Generating Inc.  
Yadkin Hydroelectric Project  
Shoreline Management Plan Comparison  
Draft Study Plan  
June 3, 2003**

Alcoa Power Generating Inc. (APGI) is the licensee for the Yadkin Hydroelectric Project. The Yadkin Project is currently licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as Project No. 2197. This license expires in 2008 and APGI must file a new license application with FERC on or before April 30, 2006 to continue operation of the Project.

The Yadkin Project consists of four reservoirs, dams, and powerhouses (High Rock, Tuckertown, Narrows, and Falls) located on a 38-mile stretch of the Yadkin River in central North Carolina. The Project generates electricity to support the power needs of Alcoa's Badin Works, to support its other aluminum operations, or is sold on the open market.

As part of the relicensing process, APGI prepared and distributed, in September 2002, an Initial Consultation Document (ICD), which provides a general overview of the Project. Agencies, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and members of the public were given an opportunity to review the ICD and identify information and studies that are needed to address relicensing issues. To further assist in the identification of issues and data/study needs, APGI has formed several Issue Advisory Groups (IAGs) to advise APGI on resource issues throughout the relicensing process. IAGs will also have the opportunity to review and comment on Draft Study Plans. This Draft Study Plan has been developed in response to comments on the ICD and through discussions with the Recreation, Aesthetics, and Shoreline Management IAG, to provide additional necessary information for consideration in the relicensing process.

## **1.0 Study Purpose**

At the request of the Recreation, Aesthetics, and Shoreline Management IAG meeting, the purpose of this study will be to compare the Yadkin Project Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) to the plans for other area hydropower reservoirs.

This Draft Study Plan describes the technical approach for collecting and evaluating information to respond to this information need/issue, the study's final products, and a proposed study schedule.

## **2.0 Technical Approach**

### ***2.1 Comparison of SMP Requirements***

Long View Associates (LVA) will review several area plans (see the preliminary list below) and compare the requirements of those plans to the requirements of the Yadkin Project SMP. The primary objective of the study will be to understand the differences between the Yadkin Project SMP and other area SMPs.

Preliminary List of Area Shoreline Management Plans and/or Guidelines:

- Alcoa Power Generating Inc. (APGI), Yadkin Division's Yadkin Hydroelectric Project Specifications for Private Recreation Facilities, Shoreline Stewardship Policy (Effective July 1, 1999; revised July 1, 2002)
- Appalachian Power's Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project DRAFT Shoreline Management Plan (target completion date for Final SMP is June 30, 2003)
- Duke Power Nantahala Area's Revised Draft Shoreline Management Guidelines (effective July 1, 2003)
- Duke Power's Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project Shoreline Management Plan (Final updated SMP filed with FERC July 31, 2001; guidelines last revised June 1, 1996)
- Progress Energy's Yadkin Pee Dee Hydroelectric Project Lake Tillery Shoreline Management Plan (filed with FERC December 31, 2001)
- Dominion's Roanoke Rapids and Gaston Hydroelectric Project Shoreline Management Plan (December 2000)
- Santee Cooper Power's Santee Cooper Hydroelectric Project Permitting Policies and Procedures for Lots within Santee Cooper Subdivisions (Revised June 2000)

Based on comments provided by the IAG, LVA will focus on the shoreline management requirements of each plan in the following areas:

- Excavation and dredging
- Permits and fees
- Private pier minimum requirements (water depth, lot width, etc.)
- Private pier dimensions
- Private pier configuration (stationary, floating, etc.)
- Private pier construction materials
- Private shoreline boathouses
- Private boat ramps
- Shoreline erosion control
- Setback requirements
- Shoreline cleanup
- Shoreline vegetation removal
- Structures on private piers (boat shelters, gazebos, etc.)

In addition to the requirements listed above, LVA will also give consideration to each project's physical boundary (as defined by FERC), the environmental, cultural, and recreational resources being addressed by the plan, and, where applicable, the U.S. Forest Service Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) designation.

### **3.0 Study Reports and IAG Meetings**

#### ***3.1 Draft Study Report and IAG Meetings***

LVA will prepare a Draft Study Report and attend IAG meetings to discuss study results and review comments on the draft study report. The Draft Study Report will be provided to APGI, the IAG, and other interested stakeholders for review and comment.

### **3.2 *Final Study Report***

LVA will address APGI, the IAG, and other reviewer's comments on the Draft Study Report and prepare a Final Study Report. LVA will also provide APGI with an electronic copy of the Final Study Report as well as all databases that have been created.

### **4.0 Proposed Project Schedule**

This study should take approximately 6 months to complete a draft study report.

**Attachment 5 – SaveHighRockLake.org Correspondence dated June 20, 2003**

# SaveHighRockLake.org

Help Us Rescue "The Rock"

P.O. Box 628 Southmont, NC 27351

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In the April meeting of the Recreation, Aesthetics, and Shoreline Management IAG, SaveHighRockLake.org and the High Rock Lake Association both submitted requests for review of many aspects of the existing Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for Project 2197. As noted in the published summary of the meeting, APGI only recognized one of the issues included in our review requests as a request for a study to be done. Therefore, the only study APGI agreed to was our request for a comparison of the SMP for Project 2197 to the FERC approved SMP for other comparable projects. The ensuing conversations actually identified several specific elements that should be included in the study to address many of the issues listed in the requests from us and HRLA. At this time, the draft SMP Comparison study plan has not been created for review.

In preparation for discussions concerning the draft SMP Comparison study plan, we began reviewing the SMP for Project 2232 (Duke Power) and Project 2206 (Progress Energy). These two projects encompass 13 licensed hydropower impoundments within approximately 100 miles of Project 2197. Lake Wylie is about 3000 acres smaller than High Rock in size. While the average water depth is almost 50% greater (23 ft. vs. 16 ft.) it appears to be a reasonably comparable facility. There appear to be several lakes that would work as reasonable comparisons for Narrows (Badin Lake) in the other two projects.

After reviewing the meeting summary and the other SMPs, we felt there were a couple of issues for which specific elements of the study request may not have been adequately detailed. They are pier regulations, private boat houses and/or boat launch facilities, erosion control techniques and permit fees. Consequently we would like to request that the following elements be added to the things already identified in the April Meeting and included in the SMP comparison study.

1. Pier regulations
  - a. Required shoreline footage for qualification
  - b. Minimum water depth requirements
  - c. Allowable length
  - d. Allowable pier designs and specifications (total square footage, covered boat slips, covers/decks or gazebos, stationary vs. floating, ramps vs. steps, etc.)
  - e. Beneficial fish habitat of piers compared to coarse woody debris
  - f. Environmental and Aesthetic considerations
  
2. Private terrestrial Boat Houses and Boat Launch facilities
  - a. Determination of types of boat houses allowed (none, open sided or enclosed)
  - b. Restrictions and Regulations determining which types are allowed
  - c. Specifications (setback, size, height, width, square footage, etc.)
  - d. Legal jurisdictional authority of FERC and APGI outside the project boundary
  - e. Specifications used to determine length/width of allowed boat launch ramps
  - f. Environmental and Aesthetic considerations

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3. Erosion Control Techniques
  - a. Determination of types allowed
  - b. Restrictions and Regulations determining which types are allowed
  - c. Specifications
  - d. Environmental impacts of seawalls vs. rip rap
  - e. Aesthetic considerations
  
4. Permits and Fees
  - a. Permit Requirements
  - b. Fees Charged
  - c. Determination of "Reasonable and Customary" fees

We have also noticed, based on a review of the FERC "Form 80 - Licensed Hydropower Development Recreation Report" filed by each of the above mentioned project licensees, there seems to be a disparity of almost 60 days in the "defined recreation season" between Project 2197 and the other licensed projects. Therefore we would like to request that a review/study be added to the Recreation Studies to establish a more appropriate "defined recreation season" for Project 2197 that is at least comparable to that which is approved and accepted for similar Licensed Hydropower Developments or even longer if supported by the data from the recreation studies.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert W. Petree*

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**Attachment 6 – Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment Preliminary  
Scope of Work**

**Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment**  
**Preliminary Scope of Work**  
**July 2003**

**Study Purpose**

- To inventory existing public recreation areas that provide direct access to Yadkin Project lands and/or waters.
  - Describe the available recreation facilities, the condition of the recreation facilities, and identify any operational, maintenance, or safety issues at each recreation area.
  - Assess the present adequacies and future accessibility needs for people with disabilities to recreation facilities at public recreation areas.
- Recreation areas to be included in the inventory
  - Those areas that are open for public use that provide direct access to Project lands and/or waters.
  - Recreation areas will be divided into three groups:
    - 1) public recreation areas operated and maintained by Yadkin, state or federal agencies, and/or municipalities;
    - 2) privately owned commercial facilities that are open for public use, and
    - 3) unimproved or informal recreation areas on public or private lands that are routinely used for recreation or access to the Project.

**Recreation Facility Inventory**

- Inventory the recreation facilities available at each public recreation area.
  - Review existing information.
  - Consult with recreation area managers and/or private operators.
  - Conduct field investigations.
- Information will be collected for each of the public recreation areas using a Facilities Inventory and Condition Form.
- Inventory data and photo documentation will be collected on facilities such as, boat ramps, boat docks, fishing piers, bank fishing areas, picnic tables, camping areas, trail or road access, sanitary facilities, and utilities.
- Plans to upgrade, expand, or build new facilities will be noted.

## **Facility Accessibility**

- Assess present adequacies and future accessibility needs for people with disabilities to recreation facilities at public recreation areas.
- Focus on identifying major areas of concern related to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.
- Use a Recreation Facility Disabled Access Form to evaluate the accessibility of boating ramps and docks, pier and bank fishing facilities, campsites, swimming and picnic areas, and other associated facilities (access pathways, trash receptacles, restrooms etc.).
- Evaluations will be based on guidance for barrier-free recreation provided by the ADA itself and the Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Facilities (Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1999).

## **Recreation Facility Condition Assessment**

- Evaluate the existing physical condition of Project recreation facilities at public recreation areas and identify any ongoing (persistent) operations, maintenance, and/or safety issues
- Determine consistency with applicable standards (Yadkin Project, NCWRC, USFS).
- Use a Facilities Inventory and Condition Form and rate the recreation facilities available at each access area using specific criteria:
  - (N) Needs replacement (broken or missing components, or non-functional);
  - (R) Needs repair (structural damage or otherwise in obvious disrepair);
  - (M) Needs maintenance (ongoing maintenance issue, primarily cleaning); and
  - (G) Good condition (functional and well-maintained). Any potentially unsafe conditions and signs of overuse will be noted.
- Recreation areas cooperatively managed with the NCWRC and/or USFS will consider the respective management standards of the managing agency. (For example, the USFS uses a Meaningful Measures process to inventory the infrastructure, establish standards of quality, estimate costs, and prioritize work at its recreation areas).

## **Operations, Maintenance, and Safety**

- Operations and maintenance of each recreation area will be reviewed and any potentially unsafe conditions and signs of overuse will be noted.
- Yadkin's ongoing inspection and maintenance program for its public recreation areas will be evaluated.
- During field investigations, any safety or health issues at the recreation areas (e.g. vehicular and pedestrian access and interactions, lighting, sanitation etc.) will be noted.
- Local law enforcement officials will be consulted to understand any enforcement or safety concerns at the recreation areas.
- Other concerns, as noted in the Resident and Visitor Use Surveys (collected during the Recreation Use Assessment), will also be noted and discussed.