

MEETING NOTES
Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2353)

Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.
Fish Passage Technical Committee Meeting

June 23, 2020

Final KMK 7-13-20

ATTENDEES:

Amy Bresnahan (DESC)	Elizabeth Miller (SCDNR)
Ray Ammarell (DESC)	Bill Post (SCDNR)
Caleb Gaston (DESC)	Ellen Waldrop (SCDNR)
Pete Sturke (Dominion Energy)	Paula Marcinek (GADNR)
Alison Jakupca (Kleinschmidt)	Jay Payne (GADNR)
Kelly Kirven (Kleinschmidt)	Melanie Olds (USFWS)
Henry Mealing (Kleinschmidt)	Fritz Rohde (NMFS)
Jason Moak (Kleinschmidt)	

These notes are a summary of the major points presented during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the presence of American Eels at the Project, determine to what extent eels need to be studied during relicensing, and begin discussion of possible passage opportunities.

The group discussed the presence of American Eels above and below the Stevens Creek Dam. Henry said he knows they are above the dam, although he doesn't know where they are passing. Melanie said the USFWS is interested in where the eels are passing and if existing passage opportunities are sufficient. Henry asked if agencies have a target passage number in mind to determine how much passage is sufficient. The agencies indicated there is no target number at this time.

The group discussed existing data on eels at the Project. Alison said there is some information from a previous netting and entrainment study conducted at Stevens Creek. Paula said that the Georgia DNR stream team has data on eels in the area, including Kiokee Creek. Elizabeth said the South Carolina DNR stream team should have information as well, and she will provide that to the group.

The group discussed the need to conduct eel studies at the project to determine abundance, size, and passage location. Elizabeth said that the issue with conducting studies now for fish passage that won't be installed in the very near future is that flow dispersal could change between now and then. In addition, the system could change after passage is installed at Augusta. Bill said typically a siting study is conducted prior to passage installation to determine where eels are congregating downstream of the dam and where they may potentially pass. Bill also mentioned that downstream passage should also be considered. Henry said that the question is whether these studies need to be conducted during relicensing or after a passage prescription is implemented. The group looked at

pictures of the dam with the new flashboards. Ray noted that leakage over the dam is more evenly distributed versus leakage prior to installation of the new flashboards. The dam also appears to have a rough texture that could aid in eel passage.

The group agreed to form a fish passage technical committee for relicensing, consisting of representatives from the following agencies: NMFS, USFWS, SCDNR, and GADNR. Prior to the next meeting of this group, DESC and Kleinschmidt will compile all existing data available on American Eels in the Project vicinity. This information will be distributed to the technical committee and a meeting will be scheduled for the fall to discuss and determine path forward.

Action items from this meeting are listed below.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Agencies will send their existing American Eel data from within the Stevens Creek Project area to Kelly.
- DESC and Kleinschmidt will compile existing American Eel data and distribute to the technical committee for review.
- DESC and Kleinschmidt will schedule a meeting in the fall to discuss eel data and determine a path forward.