

# RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

**STEVENS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
(FERC No. 2535)**

*Prepared for:*

**Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.**

*Prepared by:*

**Kleinschmidt**

Lexington, South Carolina  
[www.KleinschmidtGroup.com](http://www.KleinschmidtGroup.com)

September 2023

# RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

## STEVENS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC No. 2535)

*Prepared for:*

Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.

*Prepared by:*

**Kleinschmidt**

Lexington, South Carolina  
[www.KleinschmidtGroup.com](http://www.KleinschmidtGroup.com)

September 2023

**RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**STEVENS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**  
**(FERC No. 2535)**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
1.1	PROJECT LANDS AND WATERS .....	1-1
1.2	BACKGROUND AND CONSULTATION .....	1-1
1.3	RECREATION USE AND NEEDS STUDY.....	1-2
1.4	STRUCTURE OF THE RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	1-3
2.0	PROJECT RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT POLICIES.....	2-1
2.1	PROJECT RECREATION SITE HOURS OF OPERATIONS.....	2-1
	2.1.1 PROJECT RECREATION SITE CLOSINGS .....	2-1
2.2	USER FEES .....	2-1
2.3	BANK FISHING AT PROJECT RECREATION SITES .....	2-1
2.4	BARRIER FREE REQUIREMENTS.....	2-1
2.5	PROHIBITED USES, ACTIVITIES, AND STRUCTURES .....	2-2
2.6	COMPLIANCE WITH STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS.....	2-3
2.7	PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT .....	2-3
	2.7.1 HISTORIC PROPERTIES.....	2-3
2.8	PROJECT RECREATION SITE PLANNING.....	2-3
	2.8.1 CONTINUED RECREATION MONITORING AND CONSULTATION .....	2-4
2.9	MAINTENANCE OF PROJECT RECREATION SITES.....	2-4
3.0	STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR PUBLIC RECREATION SITES .....	3-1
3.1	OVERVIEW .....	3-1
3.2	EXISTING PROJECT RECREATION SITES .....	3-2
	3.2.1 STEVENS CREEK RECREATION SITE.....	3-2
	3.2.1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION AND EXISTING AMENITIES .....	3-2
	3.2.1.2 SITE OVERSIGHT .....	3-3
	3.2.1.3 PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION.....	3-3
	3.2.2 BETTY’S BRANCH RECREATION SITE AND RIVERSIDE PARK .....	3-3
	3.2.2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION AND EXISTING AMENITIES .....	3-3
	3.2.2.2 SITE OVERSIGHT .....	3-4
	3.2.2.3 PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION.....	3-4
	3.2.3 FURY’S FERRY RECREATION SITE .....	3-5
	3.2.3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION AND EXISTING AMENITIES .....	3-5
	3.2.3.2 SITE OVERSIGHT .....	3-6
	3.2.3.3 PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION.....	3-6
4.0	DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION .....	4-1
5.0	SUMMARY.....	5-1
6.0	REFERENCES.....	6-1

**LIST OF TABLES**

TABLE 2-1 PROJECT RECREATION SITES..... 2-1  
TABLE 5-1 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS FOR PROJECT RECREATION SITES ..... 5-1

**LIST OF FIGURES**

FIGURE 3-1 PUBLIC RECREATION SITES ASSOCIATED WITH THE STEVENS CREEK PROJECT..... 3-1

**LIST OF PHOTOS**

PHOTO 3-1 STEVENS CREEK RECREATION SITE ..... 3-2  
PHOTO 3-2 BETTY'S BRANCH RECREATION SITE..... 3-4  
PHOTO 3-3 FURY'S FERRY RECREATION SITE..... 3-6

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

APPENDIX A CONSULTATION RECORD  
APPENDIX B PROJECT RECREATION SITE FIGURES  
APPENDIX C RECREATION FACILITY AND AMENITIES TABLE

**RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**STEVENS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**  
**(FERC No. 2535)**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (DESC or Licensee) is the Licensee of the Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] No. 2535; Stevens Creek Project or Project). The Stevens Creek Project has an installed capacity of 17.28 megawatts and is located in Edgefield and McCormick counties, South Carolina, and Columbia County, Georgia, at the confluence of Stevens Creek and the Savannah River. The Project's dam is located approximately 1 mile upstream of the Augusta Diversion Dam and approximately 13 miles downstream of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) J. Storm Thurmond Dam (Thurmond Dam).

### **1.1 PROJECT LANDS AND WATERS**

The Stevens Creek Reservoir extends upstream approximately 12 miles from the Stevens Creek Dam to approximately 1 mile downstream of Thurmond Dam. The surface area of the reservoir is approximately 2,400 acres at full pool (elevation [EL] 187.5 feet 1929 NGVD<sup>1</sup>). Gross storage capacity of the reservoir is approximately 23,600 acre-feet, but usable storage in the top 4.5 feet of full pond is approximately 7,800 acre-feet. The reservoir normally fluctuates between EL 183.0 feet and 187.5 feet using available storage capacity to re-regulate flow releases from Thurmond Dam. DESC operates the Stevens Creek Project to generate hydropower and re-regulate flows from USACE dams to downstream water users. The waters and shoreline of the Project provide the public with many recreation opportunities, including hunting, boating, fishing, hiking, and picnicking.

### **1.2 BACKGROUND AND CONSULTATION**

On November 22, 1995, FERC issued a 30-year license for the Stevens Creek Project, which required the Licensee to develop and file a recreation plan per Article 413. Following several revisions throughout the term of the license<sup>2</sup>, DESC has continued to manage recreation at the

---

<sup>1</sup> National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929

<sup>2</sup> DESC filed with FERC a recreation plan on June 30, 1997 (accession # 19970903-0941); a revised recreation plan on February 5, 2014 (accession #20140205-5119), supplemented on September 11, 2014 (accession # 20140911-5146); and an amendment to the approved recreation plan on December 12, 2019 (accession # 20191212-5025).

Stevens Creek Project per the recreation plan, with revisions most recently approved by FERC on July 24, 2020.

DESC is seeking a new license for the Stevens Creek Project and filed a Final License Application with FERC in October 2023. Throughout the relicensing process, DESC consulted with a variety of stakeholders, including state and federal resource agencies, state and local government, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Tribes, and interested individuals on all resource issues associated with the Project. DESC established a Recreation and Land Management Resource Conservation Group (RCG) with interested stakeholders and Tribes to address recreation and land management issues at the Stevens Creek Project. DESC and the RCG agreed that a recreation study was necessary for relicensing, as further discussed below.

In addition to consultation with the RCG, DESC consulted with the United States Forest Service (USFS) regarding Project recreation sites located on USFS lands of the Sumter National Forest throughout the license term. During consultation, the USFS stated that proposed Recreation Site #4, also known as Chota Drive, is not supported by the current Forest Service Recreation Plan or consistent with the Forest Service Sustainable Recreation Strategy. Additionally, Recreation Site #4 is very close to archaeological sites and has therefore been maintained as primitive, consistent with USFS recommendations. Following additional consultation with the USFS, DESC proposes to remove Recreation Site #4 from the Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the term of the new license, as discussed in the Application for New License. This site is, therefore, not included within this RMP.

### **1.3 RECREATION USE AND NEEDS STUDY**

DESC conducted a Recreation Use and Needs (RUN) Study in 2021 and 2022 to assess existing and future recreational use, opportunities, and needs for the Stevens Creek Project. The study was designed to provide information pertinent to the current and future availability and adequacy of DESC-owned and managed recreation sites, USFS-owned and managed recreation sites, and Columbia County-owned and managed recreation sites at the Stevens Creek Project. Results from the study were used to develop this RMP for the Stevens Creek Project.

Results of the study showed that the Stevens Creek Project supported 100,213 recreation days between April 2021 and March 2022. The most visited recreation site was Betty's Branch. The Stevens Creek Recreation Site had the highest average capacity during the study season. At times, the Stevens Creek Recreation Site approached or exceeded its capacity during the study.

During exit interviews, boat fishing, canoeing, and kayaking were most often reported as the primary reason for visiting the Stevens Creek Project. As such, most visitors indicated they spent time on the water, with a small portion of visitors recreating on or near the islands in Stevens Creek Reservoir. Nearly half of all visitors indicated they would be very likely to portage around Stevens Creek Dam if access was provided.

ZIP code data collected during the study indicated that most visitors to the Stevens Creek Project are local to the area. Population in the Project's surrounding counties is projected to increase between 2021 and 2035, indicating that the use of Stevens Creek Project recreation resources will likely increase over the next ten years. Currently, site use density estimates and user perceptions of crowdedness indicate that the existing recreation sites can support an increase in recreation use.

In addition to the Stevens Creek Project recreation sites, the public can access the Stevens Creek Reservoir via two USACE-owned access areas in the Thurmond Dam tailrace. According to the USACE, these sites received a combined 62,752 visitors between October 2020 and September 2021. Many of these visitors likely recreated in the Stevens Creek Reservoir.

During relicensing, consulting agencies requested enhancements to the existing recreation facilities at the Stevens Creek Project. To address these requests, DESC is proposing enhancements to the Stevens Creek Recreation Site, Fury's Ferry Recreation Site, and Betty's Branch Recreation Site. Fury's Ferry Recreation Site enhancements would be administered by the USFS through this RMP with support from DESC. Betty's Branch Recreation Site enhancements would be administered by Columbia County under an off-license Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DESC and the County. The proposed schedule for enhancement implementation is included in Section 3.2.

#### **1.4 STRUCTURE OF THE RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Pursuant to FERC guidelines, this RMP includes the following information:

- Stevens Creek Project Recreation Site Management Policies: Information on the management policies for all Stevens Creek Project recreation sites owned by DESC.
- Ongoing Public Recreation Planning and Monitoring: DESC is proposing to implement enhancements and monitor future recreation use during the term of the new license as outlined in Section 2.9 of this RMP.

## Section 1

- Existing Stevens Creek Project Recreation Sites: A comprehensive inventory of the existing recreation sites at the Stevens Creek Project; facility amenities including type, number, and barrier free provisions; photographs depicting existing Project recreation sites; location; owner; manager; user fees; and hours of operation, if applicable.
- Enhancements to Stevens Creek Project Recreation Sites: Proposed facility enhancements, including type, number, and barrier free provisions; conceptual site plans; and schedule for enhancement completion.
- Consultation Record: Documentation of consultation during preparation of the RMP, including comments and recommendations provided by consulting agencies and organizations, and a description of how comments and recommendations have been addressed, including any justifications for not accommodating specific comments and recommendations.

DRAFT



## 2.0 PROJECT RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Stevens Creek Project recreation sites, as listed in Table 2-1, will be operated and managed according to the following policies.

**TABLE 2-1 PROJECT RECREATION SITES**

<b>STEVENS CREEK PROJECT RECREATION SITES</b>
Stevens Creek Recreation Site
Betty's Branch Recreation Site
Fury's Ferry Recreation Site

### 2.1 PROJECT RECREATION SITE HOURS OF OPERATIONS

All Stevens Creek Project recreation sites and associated amenities such as boat ramps, picnic shelters, etc., are available and open to the public year-round.

#### 2.1.1 Project Recreation Site Closings

If temporary closures of the Stevens Creek Recreation Site are necessary due to maintenance or safety issues, the Licensee will implement notification procedures to the public, including the installation of appropriate signage and physical barriers at the entrance of the recreation site or boat ramp. If temporary closures of Betty's Branch Recreation Site or Fury's Ferry Recreation Site are necessary, the public will be notified per Columbia County or USFS established protocols.

### 2.2 USER FEES

Stevens Creek Project recreation sites are owned by the Licensee, the USFS, or Columbia County, Georgia, and are currently available to the public at no charge.

### 2.3 BANK FISHING AT PROJECT RECREATION SITES

Bank fishing is allowed at Stevens Creek Recreation Site, Betty's Branch Recreation Site, and Fury's Ferry Recreation Site.

### 2.4 BARRIER FREE REQUIREMENTS

FERC's regulations at 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 2.7(b) require that the Licensee "develop suitable public recreational facilities upon project lands and waters ... and to include therein consideration of the needs of persons with disabilities in the design and construction of such project facilities and access." These facilities and access points are often referred to as "barrier free." Barrier free is defined as a design for those with physical or other disabilities

involving the provision of alternative means of access to steps. Currently, two recreation sites at the Stevens Creek Project have barrier free amenities. The Stevens Creek Recreation Site has a barrier free picnic table, and the Betty's Branch Recreation Site has a barrier free fishing pier. The Betty's Branch Recreation Site also has an EZ LAUNCH® canoe/kayak launch with an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant Transfer Bench system.

## **2.5 PROHIBITED USES, ACTIVITIES, AND STRUCTURES**

Use of Stevens Creek Project recreation sites must not endanger public health or safety, create a public nuisance, or otherwise be incompatible with the overall public recreation use of the Stevens Creek Project. A list of prohibited uses, activities, and structures is included below. The Licensee will consult with local enforcement agencies if the Licensee becomes aware that the following uses, activities, or structures occur at Stevens Creek Project recreation sites.

- Littering
- Consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal controlled substances
- Destroying or defacing property
- Harassing wildlife
- Discharging firearms
- Operation of motorized trail bikes or off-road vehicles
- Open fires
- Installation or establishment of private boat docks or boat ramps
- Installation or establishment of boathouses
- Installation or establishment of permanent structures
- Installation or establishment of land-based structures, storage buildings, shelters, patios, gazebos, fences, swimming pools, satellite dishes, signs, storage of boats, canoes, or other watercraft or automobiles
- Jet skiing
- Excavations/dredging by private entities not otherwise authorized through the USACE
- Effluent discharges
- Storage or stockpiling of construction material
- Livestock access to reservoir

- Vegetation removal, limbing, or trimming of any type at the recreation site, unless initiated by the recreation site manager
- Use of herbicides, unless initiated by the recreation site manager

## **2.6 COMPLIANCE WITH STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

Use of Stevens Creek Project recreation sites must be consistent with all FERC orders and regulations regarding recreation opportunities and development at licensed projects and all applicable regulations or directives issued by FERC or its predecessor, the Federal Power Commission. Use of Stevens Creek Project recreation sites must also comply with applicable state, federal, and local laws as well as all ordinances, rules, regulations, and sanctions of any regulatory body or governmental agency (state, federal, or local) having jurisdiction within the recreation site. Stevens Creek Project recreation site facility construction activities shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local rules, regulations, building and zoning codes, and public safety design standards.

## **2.7 PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Construction, operation, and maintenance activities at Stevens Creek Project recreation site facilities will include precautions to protect the scenic, environmental, recreational, and cultural quality of lands and waters of the Stevens Creek Project. Construction of recreation site facilities shall be completed using Low Impact Development practices for storm water management, when possible, and soil and erosion control measures will be implemented and maintained. When practicable, facilities will be designed and constructed to retain vegetation, maintain natural habitat, provide a natural view from the water, and use shielded lighting where lighting is provided.

### **2.7.1 Historic Properties**

The Project's Historic Properties Management Plan addresses the management of historic properties at Stevens Creek Project recreation sites.

## **2.8 PROJECT RECREATION SITE PLANNING**

Continued public recreation planning and consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local resource agencies, parks and recreation agencies, tribes, local governments, and resource or recreation-based non-governmental organizations is important to the Licensee. Over the term of the new license, unanticipated Project-related recreation needs may be identified, and/or it may be determined that existing or planned recreation facilities are no longer needed. To aid in

planning for future recreation needs at the Stevens Creek Project, the Licensee plans to conduct monitoring activities, as described in Section 2.8.1 below.

### **2.8.1 Continued Recreation Monitoring and Consultation**

The Licensee will file a RUN Report every ten years over the license term. The Licensee will first develop a study plan that details the methodology for recreation monitoring in consultation with stakeholders. The Licensee will monitor recreation during the peak season to assess current recreation use at the Project. Monitoring data will be used to develop a RUN Report that addresses the following: (1) assessment of recreation use patterns at the Project over the previous ten years; (2) projection of anticipated use over the upcoming ten years; (3) documentation of the condition of existing recreation facilities; (4) estimate of recreation needs at the Project for the upcoming ten years; (5) description of the methods used to estimate recreation use and need; (6) any recommendations or changes for recreation at the Project to meet future recreation use and needs; and (7) if needed, an updated RMP, for FERC approval.

Each RUN Report must include documentation of consultation, copies of consulting entity comments and recommendations on the reports, and specific descriptions of how the entities' comments are accommodated by the reports. Based on the information provided in the reports, FERC may require changes to the RMP.

### **2.9 MAINTENANCE OF PROJECT RECREATION SITES**

DESC currently maintains Stevens Creek Project recreation sites according to a pre-determined schedule developed by DESC's Lake Management Department. DESC will continue to monitor and maintain existing recreation sites in the same manner during the new license term. The USFS and Columbia County-owned recreation sites are maintained per their specifications.

### 3.0 STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR PUBLIC RECREATION SITES

#### 3.1 OVERVIEW

The Stevens Creek Project currently includes three<sup>3</sup> Project recreation sites. Existing Project public recreation sites are shown in Figure 3-1. A recreation facilities and amenities table is included in Appendix C.



**FIGURE 3-1 PUBLIC RECREATION SITES ASSOCIATED WITH THE STEVENS CREEK PROJECT**

<sup>3</sup> Recreation Site #4, also known as Chota Drive, has been proposed to be removed from the RMP through the term of the new Project license.

### 3.2 EXISTING PROJECT RECREATION SITES

#### 3.2.1 Stevens Creek Recreation Site

##### 3.2.1.1 Site Description and Existing Amenities

The Stevens Creek Recreation Site (Photo 3-1) is in North Augusta, South Carolina, on the Stevens Creek arm of the Stevens Creek Reservoir. The site includes the following existing facilities:

- A single-lane concrete boat ramp;
- A paved turn-around area;
- A parking area for approximately six vehicles with trailers;
- Three picnic tables (one barrier free);
- One vault restroom;
- A paved access road; and
- A safety sign.



**PHOTO 3-1 STEVENS CREEK RECREATION SITE**

### **3.2.1.2 Site Oversight**

DESC maintains the Stevens Creek Recreation Site as follows:

- Collection of litter and trash at the site;
- Inspection of signs, handicapped facilities, and parking areas quarterly, with maintenance and repair as needed; and
- Mowing and edging five times per year during the growing season.

### **3.2.1.3 Proposed Enhancements and Implementation**

During relicensing, DESC agreed to implement enhancements at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site, as detailed below. Proposed enhancements will be completed within two years of license issuance.

- Install barrier free signage at picnic table;
- Re-line and maximize spaces in the parking lot;
- Improve the boat ramp; and
- Investigate bank fishing enhancements.

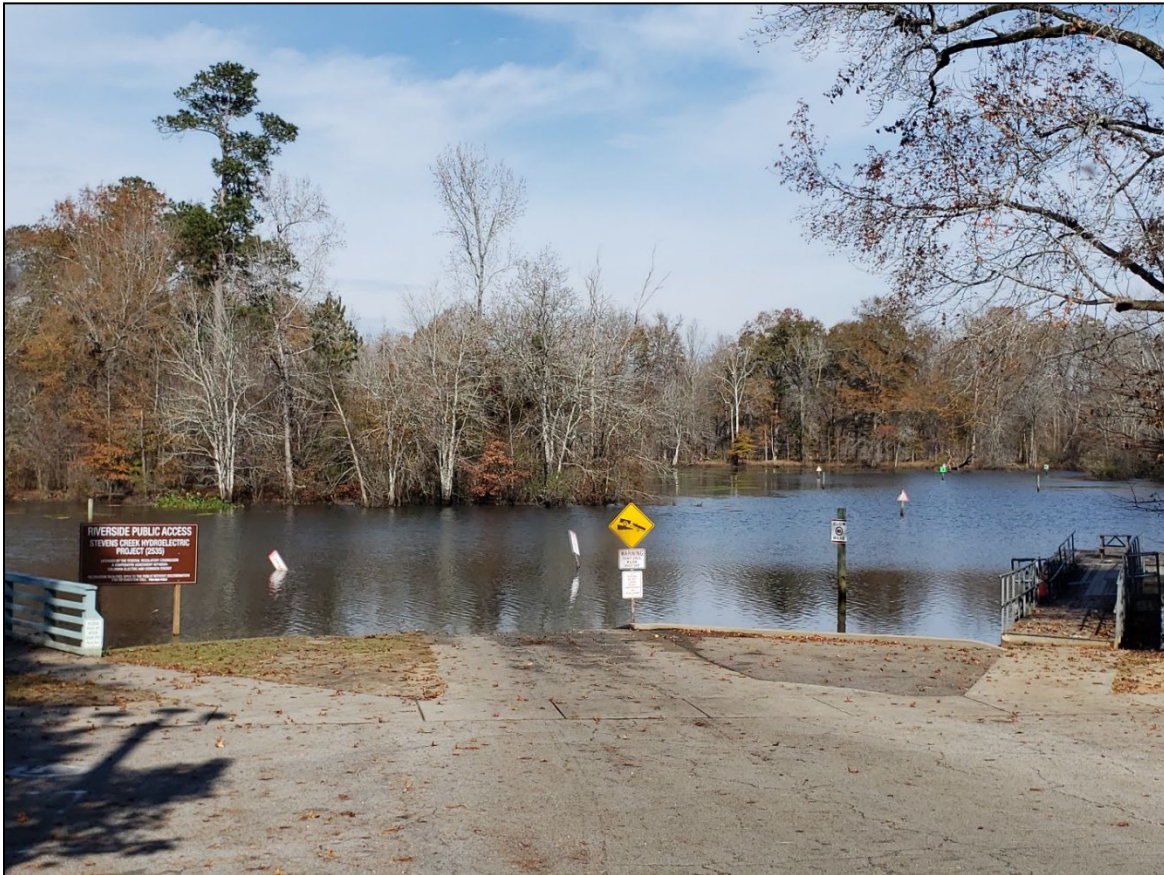
## **3.2.2 Betty's Branch Recreation Site and Riverside Park**

### **3.2.2.1 Site Description and Existing Amenities**

The Betty's Branch Recreation Site (Photo 3-2) is in Evans, Georgia, on Betty's Branch of the Little River, adjacent to the Georgia side of Stevens Creek Reservoir. This site is located at the north end of Riverside Park, a multi-use recreational facility owned and managed by Columbia County. Betty's Branch includes the following existing facilities:

- A small parking lot with four ADA-compliant parking spaces;
- One concrete boat ramp;
- One barrier free fishing pier;
- An ADA-compliant canoe/kayak launch; and
- Two picnic tables.

Adjacent to the Betty's Branch Recreation Site is a large parking area associated with Riverside Park. Betty's Branch recreators that do not require ADA parking use the Riverside Park parking lot.



**PHOTO 3-2 BETTY'S BRANCH RECREATION SITE**

### **3.2.2.2 Site Oversight**

Betty's Branch Recreation Site is owned and operated by Columbia County, Georgia. The County maintains the site in accordance with its normal maintenance processes.

### **3.2.2.3 Proposed Enhancements and Implementation**

DESC has consulted with Columbia County regarding facility improvements to the Betty's Branch Recreation Site. These improvements at the site would occur within the Stevens Creek Project boundary; therefore, DESC and Columbia County have developed an MOA to address and support improvements. DESC will support Columbia County with proposed amenities within the Project boundary, which may include improvements to the Betty's Branch boat ramp, the addition of a courtesy dock, and/or the replacement or refurbishment of the existing fishing pier. The



County and DESC will work together to prioritize listed enhancements for the extent of the MOA. The schedule for improvements depends on the County's overall site improvement plan.

### **3.2.3 Fury's Ferry Recreation Site**

#### **3.2.3.1 Site Description and Existing Amenities**

Fury's Ferry Recreation Site (Photo 3-3) is in Clarks Hill, South Carolina, on the Savannah River arm of the Stevens Creek Reservoir. The site has the following existing facilities:

- A single-lane concrete boat ramp;
- Two picnic tables;
- An unpaved turn-around area;
- A gravel access road;
- An unpaved parking area for approximately eight vehicles, including a mix of vehicles with and without trailers<sup>4</sup>; and
- A safety sign.

---

<sup>4</sup> During the 2022 RUN Study, it was estimated that the parking area at Fury's Ferry could accommodate approximately 5 vehicles with trailers or 11 vehicles without trailers.



**PHOTO 3-3 FURY'S FERRY RECREATION SITE**

### **3.2.3.2 Site Oversight**

The Fury's Ferry Recreation Site is owned by USFS and is maintained according to their normal maintenance processes.

### **3.2.3.3 Proposed Enhancements and Implementation**

During relicensing, the USFS indicated their interest in improving the Fury's Ferry Recreation Site. DESC will financially support the USFS with these enhancements. Proposed improvements at the Fury's Ferry site include:

- Installation of lighting near the boat ramp to improve visibility in the area (DESC will consult with the USFS to determine the type and positioning of lighting);
- Two ADA parking spaces, including one for a vehicle with a trailer;
- Hardened barrier free path to amenities, as appropriate;
- Three picnic tables; and

Section 3

- An information kiosk.

Proposed enhancements will be completed within four years after the new license is implemented.<sup>5</sup>

DRAFT

---

<sup>5</sup> Completion of these recreation site enhancements is dependent upon approval from the United States Forest Service.

#### 4.0 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

When implementing all proposed enhancements, DESC will:

- Conduct all construction activities in accordance with the Stormwater Best Management Practices (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control [SCDHEC] Handbook), which includes requirements to help prevent excessive runoff and erosion resulting from land-disturbing activities. The Handbook requires that persons engaging in land-disturbing activity follow a planning process to control erosion. The process is divided into preliminary site investigation, preliminary design, and final design stages. General guidelines include:
  - Fitting the activity to the topography and soils;
  - Minimizing erosion of the disturbed areas;
  - Stabilizing disturbed areas immediately;
  - Retaining or accommodating runoff;
  - Retaining sediment; and
  - Not encroaching upon watercourses.
- Identify situations where native species are alternatively planted, paying particular attention to the added benefit of providing food sources and other wildlife habitat.
- Provide signs in accordance with Part 8, Subsection 2 of Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations. These signs include the name of the project, FERC License Number, information that the area is open to the public, and how to obtain additional information.
- Ensure that materials will, to the extent possible, blend in with the natural environment and maintain Project aesthetics.
- Design renovated facilities, where feasible, to be accessible to disabled persons in accordance with the guidelines of the ADA.
- Minimize destruction of the natural vegetation directly adjacent to the reservoir and, where possible, on the land inside the Project boundary. DESC performs annual shoreline inspections of the Stevens Creek Reservoir. If specific areas of shoreline erosion are identified, DESC will coordinate with the USFS, Georgia Department of Natural

#### Section 4

Resources, and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to address adverse effects such as unstable slopes of suspended sediments. Deficiencies will be noted and repaired as necessary.

- Minimize unauthorized use and vandalism of the Project recreation sites through use of certain construction materials and cooperation with local law enforcement.
- Blend the recreation development into the existing landscape character by selective vegetation removal and landscaping.
- Revegetate, stabilize, and landscape new construction areas and slopes damaged by erosion.

DRAFT

## 5.0 SUMMARY

The Stevens Creek Project supports a wide range of public recreation activities through its recreation sites, including boat and bank fishing, kayaking, and picnicking. In the 2022 RUN Study, most people surveyed reported being satisfied with the condition, number, and type of recreation facilities located at the Stevens Creek Project.

As part of the Stevens Creek Project relicensing and following the issuance of the new license, DESC will continue to work to maintain and enhance the Stevens Creek Project recreation sites. DESC plans to meet with stakeholders in 10 years to reevaluate recreation needs at the Stevens Creek Project. Table 4-1 summarizes proposed enhancements for each recreation site.

**TABLE 5-1 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS FOR PROJECT RECREATION SITES**

PROJECT RECREATION SITE	PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS	IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
Stevens Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install barrier free signage at picnic table</li> <li>• Re-line parking lot to maximize available spaces</li> <li>• Improve the concrete boat ramp</li> <li>• Investigate bank fishing opportunities</li> </ul>	Within 2 years after the new license is issued
Betty's Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation Improvement Grant provided through a MOA to Columbia County for use towards the following enhancements<sup>6</sup> within the Project boundary:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improvements to the boat ramp</li> <li>○ Addition of a courtesy dock</li> <li>○ Replacement or refurbishment of existing fishing pier</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Dependent Upon County Implementation
Fury's Ferry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Two ADA parking spaces, one for a vehicle with a trailer</li> <li>• Hardened barrier free path</li> <li>• Three picnic tables</li> <li>• Information kiosk</li> </ul>	Within 4 years after the new license is issued <sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> DESC will work together with Columbia County to prioritize listed enhancements for the extent of the Memorandum of Agreement.

<sup>7</sup> Completion of these recreation site enhancements is dependent upon approval from the United States Forest Service.

## 6.0 REFERENCES

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). 1995. Final Environmental Assessment for Hydropower License. Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project. FERC Project No. 2535-South Carolina, Georgia. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Division of Project Review. November 7, 1995.

Kleinschmidt Associates (Kleinschmidt). 2022. Recreation Use and Needs Study Report, Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2535. Prepared for Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. June 2022.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). 2005. Storm Water Management BMP Field Manual.  
[http://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/docs/Environment/docs/OCRM\\_DHEC\\_FIELD\\_MANUAL.pdf](http://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/docs/Environment/docs/OCRM_DHEC_FIELD_MANUAL.pdf). July 2005.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G). 2014. Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2535. Revised Recreation Plan. January 2014.

DRAFT

**APPENDIX A**

**CONSULTATION RECORD**

DRAFT



Document	Commentor	Comment Code	Comment Location	Comment	Applicant Response
Draft Recreation Management Plan	SCDNR	RMP SCDNR GC01		The SCDNR recommends the installation of courtesy docks at Fury's Ferry and Stevens Creek Recreation Sites should be further evaluated. The Licensee has indicated that the main drawback to constructing and maintaining courtesy docks at either location is the high debris load traveling down the river. However, landowners upstream and downstream of both recreation sites maintain docks on the waterways. The SCDNR strongly encourages the Licensee to provide a means of safe access for recreational boaters to utilize recreational opportunities on the Project reservoir.	While there are private docks located upstream of the Stevens Creek Recreation site, some are located within cove areas, which may offer a level of protection from debris traveling down the main stem of the creek. DESC contacted homeowners with docks on Stevens Creek, who noted they deal with significant damage and associated maintenance issues with their docks due to debris in the creek and water level fluctuations. The Stevens Creek Recreation Site is located at a natural bend in the river, such that a courtesy dock would be constantly exposed to debris traveling down the creek. However, DESC will continue to evaluate the feasibility of installing a courtesy dock at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site throughout the license term. At the Fury's Ferry Recreation Site, DESC will continue to consult with the USFS to determine appropriate enhancements at the site.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	SCDNR	RMP SCDNR GC02		The SCDNR notes that Section 4.5.2 of the Recreation Use and Needs Study Report indicates that the most popular primary and secondary activities listed by recreational users at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site were intending to fish from a boat, totaling 91% of the recreational users. The SCDNR recommends that additional amenities to enhance fishing opportunities at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site should be further evaluated based on the data collected during the survey. The report also indicates that the public is interested in addition of a fishing pier at the site. While bank fishing is offered at the site, a fishing pier would provide an opportunity for easier access for more public to enjoy this natural resource at the site. During the October 2, 2023, meeting, the Licensee referenced the high debris load of Stevens Creek as the main reason for not exploring the additional recreational enhancements at the site. However, the SCDNR continues to recommend the option to provide additional fishing opportunities to the public be further evaluated due to the public's interest and presence of similar structures in the waterway.	DESC will evaluate the feasibility of providing additional fishing opportunities at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	SCDNR	RMP SCDNR GC03		During the October 2, 2023, meeting, DESC staff noted that the Stevens Creek Recreation Site provides one barrier-free picnic table. However, the picnic table is not listed in the draft RMP as a recreational amenity at the site. Further, it is unclear if the picnic table is marked with a sign identifying it as barrier-free. The SCDNR recommends the addition of a sign to notify the public that this particular amenity is available.	The barrier free picnic table at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site is noted in Section 2.4 and Section 3.2.1.1. DESC will install a sign at the picnic table informing the public of the barrier free amenity, and will revise the RMP accordingly.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	SCDNR	RMP SCDNR GC04		The SCDNR recommends the Licensee continue to explore the potential for adding non-trailer spaces at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site to alleviate parking congestion. The addition of ADA parking spaces, trailer and non-trailer, should also be considered.	DESC will consider non-trailer spaces, trailer spaces, and ADA spaces in consultation with SCDNR when reconfiguring the existing parking area at Stevens Creek Recreation Site.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	City of Augusta	RMP Aug GC01		The Draft RMP does not include recreational facilities which the Stevens Creek Project substantially affects including Augusta, the Augusta Canal, Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Augusta Riverwalk, and other amenities. These recreational facilities are identified in detail Augusta's May 28, 2021 Request for studies to address recreational effects of the Stevens Creek project on recreational resources in the project area. Dominion chose to proceed with its studies and produced a Recreation Use and Needs (RUN) Study which does not assess any of the resources identified by Augusta and affected by the Stevens Creek project.	The recreation sites noted by city of Augusta are all located downstream of the Project and do not provide access to the Project. These sites were noted in the RUN Study Report as regional recreation resources. These sites are also part of the Augusta Project. DESC does not plan to evaluate recreation use at another Licensee's Project.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	City of Augusta	RMP Aug GC02		While Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. ("Dominion") does not consider recreational features downstream of Stevens Creek dam in the Draft RMP, the Draft RMP does assess upstream resources to the J. Strom Thurmond Dam. RMP, at 1.3, pages 1-2 to 1-3. It is arbitrary to exclude downstream recreational resources, while including upstream recreational resources in the draft RMP, as well as in FPA and NEPA required analysis.	DESC summarized data included in the RUN Study Report in the RMP to inform recreation needs at the Project. Information regarding the two recreation areas downstream of the JST Dam was provided since these areas provide access to the Stevens Creek Reservoir. It should be noted this information was collected by USACE, and not collected by DESC. DESC does not plan to include downstream recreational resources in the RMP as they are outside of the Stevens Creek Project boundary and outside of DESC purview.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	City of Augusta	RMP Aug GC03		On May 28, 2021 Augusta requested that Dominion included effects on recreational resources in its studies, which would have included the RUN study. Accession # 202110614 Augusta Utilities Comments Stevens Creek Relicensing, P-2535, Request for Opportunity to Participate and Support of Comments Regarding Studies. Dominion did not reply to Augusta's comments, or conduct any of the studies or assessments requested by Augusta. Augusta also raised the issue of project effects on recreational resources in Augusta in its June 22, 2023 comments on the Draft License Application. Accession # 20230623-5015 Comments of Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia re: Draft License Application for the Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project under P-2535. These resources include some of the most important historic recreational resources in the nation, and resources fundamental to the quality of life of Augusta and its citizens, residents, visitors, and its economic base.	Again, DESC does not plan to evaluate recreation associated with another Licensee's Project. DESC is also not proposing any changes to operations, as they provide the important function of re-regulating flows from the upstream USACE JST Project.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	City of Augusta	RMP Aug GC04		Omission of Augusta recreation resource effects, which are significantly affected by the Stevens Creek Project, while including the JST dam tailrace recreation aspect (the Draft RMP notes 62,752 visitors to the USACE owned JST Dam Tailrace) is arbitrary and fails to satisfy FPA and NEPA requirements for assessment of effects. Augusta encourages Dominion Power to reconsider the scope of its studies and licensing assessment of effects, and plans such as the RMP addressing FPA requirements and NEPA effects.	DESC included USACE-collected recreation use data in the Stevens Creek RUN Study Report since the two recreation sites downstream of JST Dam provide access to the Stevens Creek Reservoir. DESC does not plan to collect recreation data for recreation sites outside of the Stevens Creek Project boundary.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	City of Augusta	RMP Aug GC05		Augusta also requests some understanding of how Dominion intends to respond and engage in meaningful input to the relicensing process. The several years without response to Augusta's May 28, 2021 study comment and request creates gaps in FPA and NEPA assessment and public participation requirements.	Comments and study requests from the city of Augusta were received well after the 60-day deadline for requests for additional studies had closed (November 2, 2020). Corrections to city contacts were received within the May 28, 2021, filing, and were thereby amended for distributions moving forward in the process; however, it should be noted that the city of Augusta, as an entity, was included with the original NOI and PAD filing, as evidenced by the distribution list included therein. Additionally, publications noticing the relicensing and filing of the NOI, PAD, and JAM were made in four separate newspapers, including the Augusta Chronicle. Pre-filing public meetings were held in Augusta, at Columbia County facilities located at the Augusta Diversion Dam, which diverts water for the Augusta Canal Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 11810). DESC exercised significant due diligence in distributing documents, informing entities of the relicensing, and providing a forum for public comments well in advance of the filing deadlines. The city of Augusta's study requests were filed after study mobilization and field efforts had already begun for both the Recreation Use and Needs and 2021 Water Quality studies, thus emphasizing the importance of regulatory deadlines. City of Augusta personnel were in attendance to resource group meetings held after May 28, 2021, wherein their comments were heard. Additionally, DESC provided formal written responses to the City's May 28, 2021 letter in the DLA. The TLP provides an open forum for discussion of the City's concerns, which they have been engaged in.
Draft Recreation Management Plan	City of Augusta	RMP Aug GC06		Augusta respectfully requests that Dominion, and the Stevens Creek relicensing team, consider effects on downstream resources as part of the draft RMP, and reiterates its request that Dominion apply a proper scope of FPA and NEPA analysis including Stevens Creek operational effects on Augusta.	The purpose of the Stevens Creek Recreation Management Plan is to address recreation planning within the Project boundary.

**From:** [Elizabeth Miller](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Gut](#); [Buckles, Samuel -FS](#); [John Luton - Columbia Co.](#); [Clint Peacock - GADNR](#); [Horton, Wes](#); [Jason Bettinger](#); [Olivia.Kendrick@dca.ga.gov](#); [Bryant Bowen - GADNR](#); [Hodges, Dennis](#); [Stan Simpson - USACE](#); [Wes Byne - City of Augusta](#); [Twyla Cheatwood - NMFS](#); [Oscar Flite - City of Augusta](#); [Tonya Bonitatibus](#); [Jessica Crawford - Stallings Island](#); [Olds, Melanie J](#); [Kevin Mack - NMFS](#); [Elizabeth Toombs - Cherokee](#); [Wenonah Haire - Catawba THPO](#); [Shelly Blackburn - Columbia Co. GA](#); [Eric Bauer - USFWS \(GA\)](#); [Derrick Miller - USFS](#); [Jaime Loichinger](#); [John Eddins - ACHP](#); [David Hedeem - GAEPD](#); [Robert Phillips - GWE](#); [Andy Colbert - Outdoor Augusta](#); [John Craun](#); [David Moore - City of Augusta](#); [Chad Hendrix](#); [Craig.M.Clarke@usace.army.mil](#)  
**Cc:** [Amy Bresnahan \(DESC Generation - 8\)](#); [Raymond Ammarell \(DESC Generation - 8\)](#); [Caleb Gaston \(Services - 6\)](#); [WILLIAM CHASTAIN](#); [Alison Jakupca](#); [Kelly Kirven](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Stevens Creek Recreation Management Plan Meeting Follow-Up  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 4:09:55 PM

---

Hi Jenn,

Staff with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) have reviewed the draft Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project (Project). The Project is licensed by Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (referred to as DESC or Licensee). The SCDNR offers the following comments on the Stevens Creek draft RMP.

The SCDNR recommends the installation of courtesy docks at Fury's Ferry and Stevens Creek Recreation Sites should be further evaluated. The Licensee has indicated that the main drawback to constructing and maintaining courtesy docks at either location is the high debris load traveling down the river. However, landowners upstream and downstream of both recreation sites maintain docks on the waterways. The SCDNR strongly encourages the Licensee to provide a means of safe access for recreational boaters to utilize recreational opportunities on the Project reservoir.

The SCDNR notes that Section 4.5.2 of the Recreation Use and Needs Study Report indicates that the most popular primary and secondary activities listed by recreational users at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site were intending to fish from a boat, totaling 91% of the recreational users. The SCDNR recommends that additional amenities to enhance fishing opportunities at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site should be further evaluated based on the data collected during the survey. The report also indicates that the public is interested in the addition of a fishing pier at the site. While bank fishing is offered at the site, a fishing pier would provide an opportunity for easier access for more of the public to enjoy this natural resource at the site. During the October 2, 2023, meeting, the Licensee referenced the high debris load of Stevens Creek as the main reason for not exploring the additional recreational enhancements at the site. However, the SCDNR continues to recommend the option to provide additional fishing opportunities to the public be further evaluated due to the public's interest and presence of similar structures in the waterway.

During the October 2, 2023, meeting, DESC staff noted that the Stevens Creek Recreation Site provides one barrier-free picnic table. However, the picnic table is not listed in the draft RMP as a recreational amenity at the site. Further, it is unclear if the picnic table is marked with a sign identifying it as barrier-free. The SCDNR recommends the addition of a sign to notify the public that this particular amenity is available.

The SCDNR recommends the Licensee continue to explore the potential for adding non-trailer parking spaces at the Stevens Creek Recreation Site to alleviate parking congestion. The addition of ADA parking spaces, trailer parking and non-trailer parking, should also be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft RMP. We look forward to continuing discussions on the recreational amenities at the Project.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth C. Miller  
SCDNR  
Office: 843-953-3881  
Cell: 843-729-4636

---

**From:** Jennifer Gut <Jennifer.Gut@KleinschmidtGroup.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023 8:25 AM

**To:** Buckles, Samuel -FS <samuel.buckles@usda.gov>; Elizabeth Miller <MillerE@dnr.sc.gov>; John Luton - Columbia Co. <jluton@columbiacountyga.gov>; Clint Peacock - GADNR <Clint.Peacock@dnr.ga.gov>; Horton, Wes <dhorton@columbiacountyga.gov>; Jason Bettinger <BettingerJ@dnr.sc.gov>; Olivia.Kendrick@dca.ga.gov; Bryant Bowen - GADNR <bryant.bowen@dnr.ga.gov>; Hodges, Dennis <dhodges@columbiacountyga.gov>; Stan Simpson - USACE <Stanley.L.Simpson@usace.army.mil>; Wes Byne - City of Augusta <WByne@augustaga.gov>; Twyla Cheatwood - NMFS <twyla.cheatwood@noaa.gov>; Oscar Flite - City of Augusta <OFlite@augustaga.gov>; Tonya Bonitatibus <riverkeeper@savannahriverkeeper.org>; Jessica Crawford - Stallings Island <tacsoutheast@gmail.com>; Olds, Melanie J <melanie\_old@fws.gov>; Kevin Mack - NMFS <kevin.mack@noaa.gov>; Elizabeth Toombs - Cherokee <elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org>; Wenonah Haire - Catawba THPO <wenonah.haire@catawba.com>; Shelly Blackburn - Columbia Co. GA <sblackburn@choosercolumbiacounty.com>; Eric Bauer - USFWS (GA) <eric\_bauer@fws.gov>; Derrick Miller - USFS <derrick.miller@usda.gov>; Jaime Loichinger <jloichinger@achp.gov>; John Eddins - ACHP <jeddins@achp.gov>; David Hedeem - GAEPD <david.hedeem@dnr.ga.gov>; Robert Phillips - GWF <rphillips@gwf.org>; Andy Colbert - Outdoor Augusta <outdooraugusta@gmail.com>; John Craun <johncraun@att.net>; David Moore - City of Augusta <david.moore@earthandwatergroup.com>; Chad Hendrix <CHendrix@augustaga.gov>; Craig.M.Clarke@usace.army.mil

**Cc:** Amy Bresnahan (DESC Generation - 8) <amy.bresnahan@dominionenergy.com>; Raymond Ammarell (DESC Generation - 8) <raymond.ammarell@dominionenergy.com>; Caleb Gaston (Services - 6) <caleb.gaston@dominionenergy.com>; WILLIAM CHASTAIN <billy.chastain@dominionenergy.com>; Alison Jakupca <Alison.Jakupca@KleinschmidtGroup.com>; Kelly Kirven <Kelly.Kirven@KleinschmidtGroup.com>

**Subject:** Stevens Creek Recreation Management Plan Meeting Follow-Up

Good morning all,

Thank you to those that were able to attend Monday afternoon's meeting to discuss the draft Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project. We discussed several documents during the meeting that would be helpful for this recreation group to have to assess recreation at the Project. I have attached the following to this email: the Recreation Use and Needs Study Report filed with the Draft License Application and the presentation from Monday's meeting. The presentation includes several updated figures depicting DESC properties and proposed enhancements. We will distribute meeting notes soon.

We respectfully request that if you have comments to the draft RMP that you wish to be considered in the Final License Application to please provide them to me by October 18, 2023. However, there will be several other opportunities to provide comments on the RMP and other licensing proceedings post-FLA filing.

Best,

Jenn

**Jennifer A. Güt**  
Staff Regulatory Consultant  
***Kleinschmidt***

**Office:** 803.904.8680

**Cell:** 706.294.3225

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

*We provide practical **solutions** for renewable energy, water, and environmental projects!*

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.



1230 Peachtree Street, NE  
Suite 1900  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
(404)245-5421 (direct)  
david.moore@earthandwatergroup.com

October 18, 2023

***VIA Electronic Filing, FERC ELibrary Project P-2535***

Kimberly Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

Amy Bresnahan  
Relicensing Project Manager  
Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.  
220 Operations Way  
Mail Code B223  
Cayce, SC 29033  
Amy.Breshahan@dominionenergy.com

Kleinschmidt Associates  
On behalf of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.  
VIA Electronic Mail [Amy.Bresnahan@dominionenergy.com](mailto:Amy.Bresnahan@dominionenergy.com);  
[Jennifer.Gut@kleinschmidtgroup.com](mailto:Jennifer.Gut@kleinschmidtgroup.com)

RE: Comments on Recreation Management Plan, Project P-2535, Stevens Creek Project

Dear Secretary Bose:

Enclosed please find the comments of Augusta-Richmond County (“Augusta”) on Dominion Energy’s DRAFT Recreation Management Plan (“RMP”).

The Draft RMP does not include recreational facilities which the Stevens Creek Project substantially affects including Augusta, the Augusta Canal, Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Augusta Riverwalk, and other amenities. These recreational facilities are identified in detail Augusta’s May 28, 2021 Request for studies to address recreational effects of the Stevens Creek project on recreational resources in the project area. Dominion chose to proceed with its studies and produced a Recreation Use and Needs (RUN) Study which does not assess any of the resources identified by Augusta and affected by the Stevens Creek project. While Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (“Dominion”) does not consider recreational features downstream of Stevens Creek dam in the Draft RMP, the Draft RMP does assess upstream resources to the J. Strom Thurmond Dam. RMP, at 1.3, pages 1-2 to 1-3. It is arbitrary to exclude downstream

recreational resources, while including upstream recreational resources in the draft RMP, as well as in FPA and NEPA required analysis.

On May 28, 2021 Augusta requested that Dominion included effects on recreational resources in its studies, which would have included the RUN study. Accession # 20210614 Augusta Utilities Comments Stevens Creek Relicensing, P-2535, Request for Opportunity to Participate and Support of Comments Regarding Studies. Dominion did not reply to Augusta's comments,<sup>1</sup> or conduct any of the studies or assessments requested by Augusta. Augusta also raised the issue of project effects on recreational resources in Augusta in its June 22, 2023 comments on the Draft License Application. Accession # 20230623-5015 Comments of Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia re: Draft License Application for the Stevens Creek Hydroelectric Project under P-2535. These resources include some of the most important historic recreational resources in the nation, and resources fundamental to the quality of life of Augusta and its citizens, residents, visitors, and its economic base.

Omission of Augusta recreation resource effects, which are significantly affected by the Stevens Creek Project, while including the JST dam tailrace recreation aspect (the Draft RMP notes 62,752 visitors to the USACE owned JST Dam Tailrace) is arbitrary and fails to satisfy FPA and NEPA requirements for assessment of effects. Augusta encourages Dominion Power to reconsider the scope of its studies and licensing assessment of effects, and plans such as the RMP addressing FPA requirements and NEPA effects. Augusta also requests some understanding of how Dominion intends to respond and engage in meaningful input to the relicensing process. The several years without response to Augusta's May 28, 2021 study comment and request creates gaps in FPA and NEPA assessment and public participation requirements.

Augusta respectfully requests that Dominion, and the Stevens Creek relicensing team, consider effects on downstream resources as part of the draft RMP, and reiterates its request that Dominion apply a proper scope of FPA and NEPA analysis including Stevens Creek operational effects on Augusta.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments. Please contact me at (404)245-5421 if you require additional information or have questions regarding this matter.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dominion's Draft License Application, Accession # 20230324-5343, references Augusta's comments but states that Augusta's request for studies of effects of Stevens Creek on Augusta lacks a nexus, or connection, to the relicensing. Augusta disagrees, as Dominion elsewhere states that Stevens Creek reregulates river flows for, inter alia, recreation, water supply, and other purposes. See, e.g. Draft License Application, Exhibit E, and associated documents, for its Stevens Creek Project, P-2535, filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("FERC" or "Commission") Elibrary at Accession # 20230324-5343, Exhibit E, at 4.1.4 ("DESC operates the Stevens Creek Project to generate hydropower and **re-regulate flows from USACE dams to downstream water users**. The USACE manages the Hartwell, Richard B. Russel, and J. Strom Thurmond Hydroelectric projects for **water supply, water quality**, hydropower production, flood risk management, downstream navigation, recreation, and **fish and wildlife management**.")) Stevens Creek reregulation of J. Strom Thurmond flows, and control of flows in the manner Dominions describes in its Draft License Application, constitutes a clear nexus to resources in Augusta.

Sincerely,

EARTH & WATER LAW LLC

By: 

David M. Moore

[David.moore@earthandwatergroup.com](mailto:David.moore@earthandwatergroup.com)

Direct: (404)245-5421

Cc: Augusta Utilities Department  
Wes Byne, Director, Augusta Utilities  
Chad Hendrix, Augusta Utilities  
Alan Saxon, Augusta Utilities  
Dr. Hameed Malik, Augusta Engineering Department  
Dr. Oscar Flite, Augusta Engineering Department  
Dayton Sherrouse, Augusta Canal Authority

**APPENDIX B**

**PROJECT RECREATION SITE FIGURES**

DRAFT



# Recreation Resources- Stevens Creek



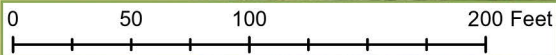
Stevens Creek

Turnaround Area  
With Re-lined Parking



Restrooms

Improved  
Boat Ramp

Picnic Tables



Legend (Proposed Features)

-  Turnaround Area
-  Extended Boat Ramp

**Pink Text -Proposed  
Features**

**Dominion Energy**  
Augusta, GA

Drawn By: NXG	Date Drawn: 09-20-2023	Checked By: KPN	Date Checked: 09-21-2023
------------------	---------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------

**Kleinschmidt**  
141 Main St., PO Box 650  
Pittsfield, Maine 04967  
Telephone: (207) 487-3328  
Fax: (207) 487-3124  
[www.KleinschmidtGroup.com](http://www.KleinschmidtGroup.com)

This map/data was created for informational, planning, reference and guidance purposes only. Kleinschmidt makes no warranty, expressed or implied related to the accuracy or content of these materials.

# Recreation Resources- Betty's Branch



Betty's Branch

Improved Boat Ramp

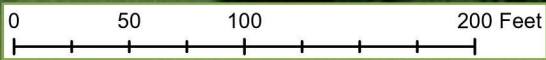
Courtesy Dock

Improved Fishing Pier

ADA Compliant Canoe/Kayak Launch

Parking Lot With Four ADA Compliant Spaces

Picnic Tables



Legend

-  Boat Ramp
-  Courtesy Dock
-  Fishing Pier

**Pink Text -Proposed Features**

**Dominion Energy**  
Augusta, GA

Drawn By: NXG	Date Drawn: 09-20-2023	Checked By: KPN	Date Checked: 09-21-2023
------------------	---------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------

**Kleinschmidt**  
141 Main St., PO Box 650  
Pittsfield, Maine 04967  
Telephone: (207) 487-3328  
Fax: (207) 487-3124  
www.KleinschmidtGroup.com

This map/data was created for informational, planning, reference and guidance purposes only. Kleinschmidt makes no warranty, expressed or implied related to the accuracy or content of these materials.

Path: Q:\Client\_Data\TERRC\_P\Projects\226535\Recreation\Betty's Branch\Betty's Branch.aprx

Date Printed: 10/2/2023

# Recreation Resources- Fury's Ferry



Legend (Proposed Features)

- Proposed Picnic Tables
- Lighting
- Info Kiosk
- Hardened Path
- Parking Spaces

**Pink Text -Proposed Features**

**Dominion Energy**  
Augusta, GA

Drawn By: NXG	Date Drawn: 06-01-2023	Checked By: KPN	Date Checked: 06-05-2023
------------------	---------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------

**Kleinschmidt**  
141 Main St., PO Box 650  
Pittsfield, Maine 04967  
Telephone: (207) 487-3328  
Fax: (207) 487-3124  
www.KleinschmidtGroup.com

This map/data was created for informational, planning, reference and guidance purposes only. Kleinschmidt makes no warranty, expressed or implied related to the accuracy or content of these materials.

**APPENDIX C**

**RECREATION AMENITIES AND FACILITIES TABLE**

DRAFT

**TABLE 1 RECREATION AMENITIES FOR THE STEVENS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

Site Name	\$ Fee	ADA Amenities <sup>1</sup>	Picnicking	# Shelters	# of Tables	# of Grills	Trails	Campgrounds	Swimming	Bank Fishing	Dock Fishing	# Ramps	# Docks	Parking Spaces	Restrooms	Playground and Sport Facilities	Owner
Stevens Creek Recreation Site	\$0	√	√	0	3	0	0	0	0	-	-	1	0	6	1	-	DESC
Fury's Ferry Recreation Site	\$0	-	√	0	2	0	0	0	0	√	-	1	0	8	0	-	USFS
Betty's Branch	\$0	√	√	0	4	0	0	0	0	-	√	1	1	4	0	-	Columbia County
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$0</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>		