May 24, 2010

Mr. Ron Linville
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Habitat Conservation Program
3855 Idlewild Road
Kernersville, NC 27284

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN A SUPPLEMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS REGARDING THE ADDITION OF A THIRD COOLING WATER RESERVOIR FOR THE WILLIAM STATES LEE III NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Linville:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing a supplement to the environmental report (ER) submitted by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke) for a combined licenses (COLs) application for construction and operation of two new nuclear power plants, William States Lee III Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 (Lee), at the Lee site in Gaffney, South Carolina. As part of the review of this COLs application, the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC's regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District, is a cooperating agency with the NRC for the purpose of complying with NEPA. The Memorandum of Understanding between USACE and NRC on environmental reviews related to the issuance of COLs can be found at Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML082540354. The request for cooperation on the Lee environmental review, dated March 30, 2009, can be found at ML090700384. ADAMS is accessible at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209/301-415-4737, or via e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

The NRC first initiated consultation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) by letter dated April 11, 2008 (ML080880253). NCWRC provided comments on the scope of the Lee environmental review by letter dated May 20, 2008 (ML081430390). The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the NRC and USACE are providing the public with an additional opportunity to submit scoping comments on supplemental information submitted by Duke, regarding the construction and operation of a third, additional cooling water reservoir for the proposed Lee project.

Duke submitted a supplement to Revision 1 of its ER by letter dated September 24, 2009, pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The supplement to the Lee ER is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from ADAMS. The supplement to the ER is listed under accession number ML092810257. The supplement to the Lee ER is also available on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/lee.html.

In addition, the Cherokee County Public Library, 300 E. Rutledge Avenue, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340, has agreed to make the supplement to the ER available for public inspection.

The Lee site is located on approximately 1,900 acres in the eastern portion of Cherokee County in north-central South Carolina, approximately 7.5 miles southeast of Gaffney, on the west side of the Broad River just upstream from the Ninety-Nine Islands Hydroelectric Plant. The supplement to the ER describes the environmental impacts of Duke's plans to construct and operate an additional off-site make-up pond (Pond C) as a source of supplemental water to mitigate the potential loss of generating capacity that could result from an extended drought. Pond C would encompass approximately 620 acres northwest of the Lee site, and would be formed by impounding London Creek, a tributary of the Broad River. A figure of the Lee site showing the proposed Pond C reservoir is enclosed.

The EIS will document the NRC and USACE staff's evaluation of the impacts of construction and operation of two new nuclear units at the Lee site, as well as the impacts of the construction and operation of Pond C. To support preparation of the EIS, the NRC requests any additional information regarding the addition of Pond C to the Lee project you consider appropriate under the provisions of the FWCA. Please provide any information, comments, or concerns you feel are appropriate during this scoping period, which ends on July 2, 2010. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or via e-mail to Lee.COLAEIS@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will send a copy to you.

The NRC and USACE plan to hold a supplemental public scoping meeting regarding Pond C on Thursday, June 17, 2010, at Restoration Church International, 1905 N. Limestone Street, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. The meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m., and will continue until approximately 10:00 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by an open house from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC and USACE staff members on an informal basis. You and your staff are invited to attend.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Sarah Lopas, Environmental Project Manager for the environmental review for the Lee COL project at (301) 415-1147, or via e-mail at Sarah.Lopas@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Robert G. Schaaf, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 3
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-018 and 52-019

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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Robert G. Schaaf, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 3
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML101190491 NRO-002

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| NAME | SLopas | | | RSchaaf |
| DATE | 04/ 30 /10 | 05/ 03 /10 | 05/ 18 /10 | 05/24 /10 |

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Letter to Ron Linville from Robert Schaaf dated May 24, 2010

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN A SUPPLEMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS REGARDING THE ADDITION OF A THIRD COOLING WATER RESERVOIR FOR THE WILLIAM STATES LEE III NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. Cruz, NRO | RidsNroDserRENV | Jay.Maclellan@pnl.gov |
| S. Lopas, NRO | NRORidsOgcMailCenter | Michele.Chamness@pnl.gov |
| S. Burnell, OPA | RidsNroDserRap3 | |
| B. Hughes, NRO | | |
| S. Price, OGC | | |
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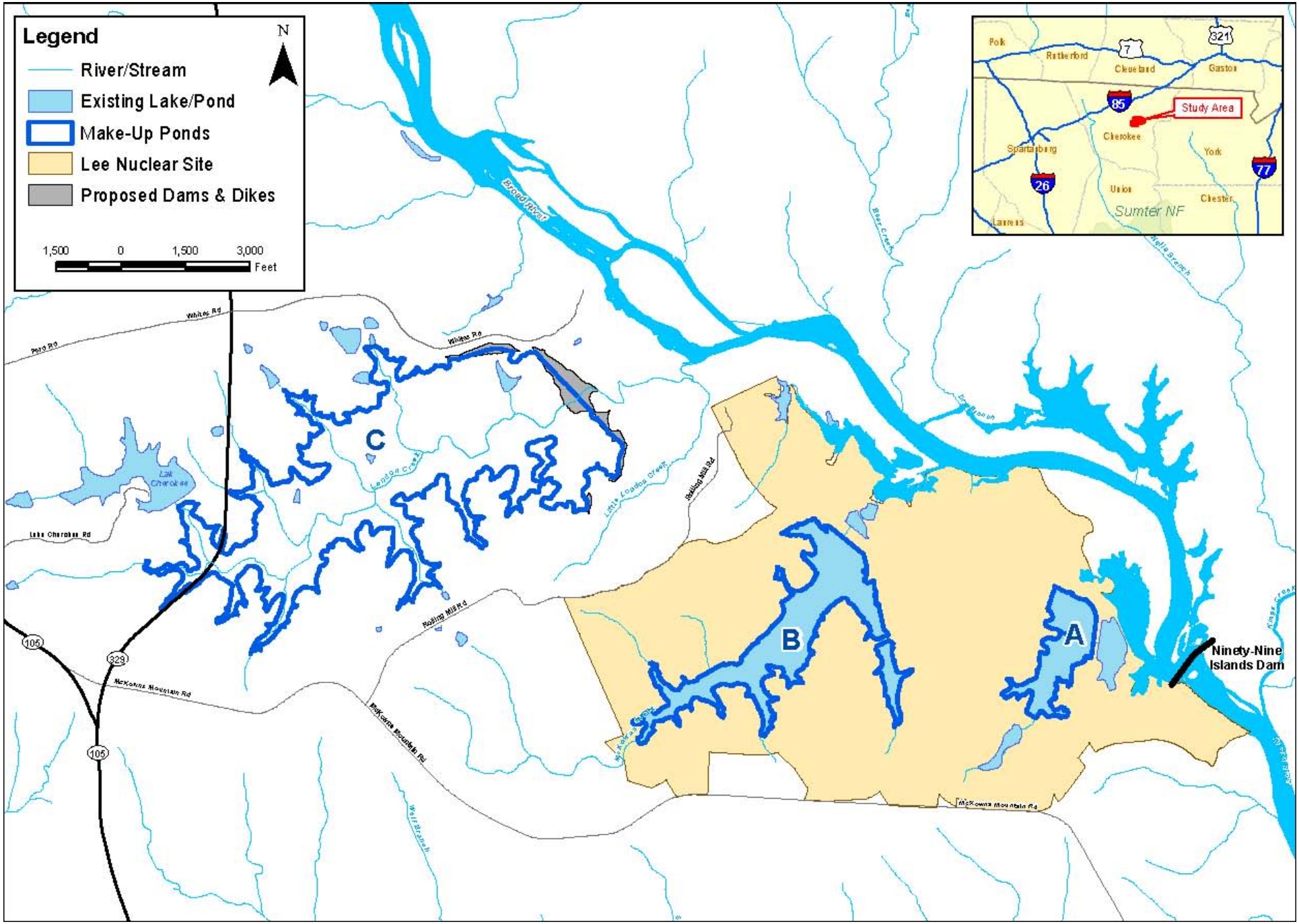
Legend
N
River/Stream
Existing Lake/Pond
Make-Up Ponds
Lee Nuclear Site
Proposed Dams & Dikes
1,500 0 1,500 3,000
Feet
Polk
Rutherford
Cleveland
Gaston
Study Area
Cherokee
Spartanburg
York
Union
Chester
Laurens
Sumter NF
321
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85
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77
Broad River
Bear Creek
Little Branch
Whites Rd
Polo Rd
Lake Cherokee
Lake Cherokee Rd
Landon Creek
Little Landon Creek
Rolling Mill Rd
McKowns Mountain Rd
Wolf Branch
105
329
C
B
A
Ninety-Nine Islands Dam

Enclosure

Lee Mailing List
cc:

Ms. Deb Amason
360 Webb Road
Wadesboro NC 28170

Mr. Phillip M. Anderson
P.O. Box 710
Mtn. Horn NC 28758-0710

Mr. David Bernhart, Assist.
Reg. Admin. for Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Ave. South
St. Petersburg FL 33701

Mr. Ray Blanton
118 Stacy Drive
Gaffney SC 29341

Ms. Lily L. Blue
124 Riverpoint Drive
Clemson SC 29631

Mr. Paul Boger
P.O. Box 97
York SC 29745

Mr. Will Bowers
145 Mildred Avenue
Gaffney SC 29341

Mr. Mark A. Caldwell
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Svc.
Ecological Services
178 Croghan Spur Rd., Ste. 200
Charleston SC 29407

Mr. Michael Cook
Executive Director
United South and Eastern Federation
of Tribes
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Ste. 100
Nashville TN 37214

Mr. David Cordeau
105 N. Pine Street
P.O. Box 1636
Spartanburg SC 29304

Ms. Mary Crockett
Broad Scenic River Advisory
Council South Carolina Dept.
of Natural Resources
Land Water and Conservation Div.
P.O. Box 167
Ste. 354
Columbia SC 29202

Ms. Rebekah Dobrasko
Review and Compliance Coordinator
South Carolina Dept.
of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia SC 29223

Mr. Phillip Ervin
412 Colonial Avenue
Gaffney SC 29340

Mr. R. Michael Gandy
South Carolina Dept. of Health
& Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia SC 29201

Mr. Lewis F. Gossett
1340 Bull Street
Columbia SC 29201

Dr. Wenonah Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Catawba Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 750
Rock Hill SC 29731

Mr. Timothy Hall
Fish and Wildlife Service
176 Croghan Spur Rd., Ste. 200
Charleston SC 29407

Mr. Andy Halligan
350 East Main St., Ste. 500
Spartansburg SC 29302

Lee Mailing List
cc:

Mr. Sam Hamilton
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Svc.
Southeast Region
1875 Century Blvd., Ste. 400
Atlanta GA 30345

Mr. Mike Hamrick
138 Alpine Drive
Gaffney SC 29341

Chris Hardy
York Regional Chamber of Commerce
P.O, Box 590
Rock Hill SC 29731

Ms. Julie Holling
South Carolina Dept.
of Natural Resources
Heritage Trust Program
1000 Assembly Street
Columbia SC 29202

Mr. David G. Johnson
Morgan Corporation
P.O. Box 3555
Spartansburg SC 29304

Ms. Leah Karpen
400 Charlotte Street, #803
Asheville NC 28801-1452

Mr. Don Kilma, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council
on Historic Preservation
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 809
Washington DC 20004

Mr. Ron Linville
North Carolina Wildlife
Resources Commission
Habitat Conservation Program
3855 Idlewild Road
Kemersville NC 27284

Mr. Lanny Littlejohn
210 Deerwood
Pacalet SC 29372

Rep. Dennis Moss
South Carolina House District 29
306 Silver Circle
Gaffney SC 29340

Mr. Charles Moss
P.O. Box 217
Sharon SC 29742

Chief Gene Norris
Piedmont American Indian Assn.
Lower Eastern
Cherokee Nation South Carolina
3688 Warrior Creek Church Rd.
Gray Court SC 29645

Mr. Les Parker
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Columbia Regulatory Field Offce
1835 Assembly St., Rm. 865, B-1
Columbia SC 29201

Dr. Lewis Patrie
99 Eastmoore Drive
Asheville NC 28805

Mr. Billy Pennington
Cherokee Historical Society
301 College Dr.
Gaffney SC 29340

Mr. Robert D. Perry
Certified Wildlife Biologist Director
Office of Environmental Programs
1000 Assembly Street, Rm. 310A
P.O. Box 167
Columbia SC 29202

Ms. Michelle Pounds
Chief Executive Officer
Carolina Indian Heritage Assn. Rep.
Pine Hill Indian Community
4055 Coburg Lane
Orangeburg SC 29115

Lee Mailing List
cc:

Ms. Sandra Reinhardt
Catawba Indian Nation
THPO Archaeology Dpt.
1536 Tom Steven Rd.
Rock Hill SC 29730

Ms. Alicia M. Rowe, Project Manager
Water Qual. Certification and Wetlands Sec.
Water Quality Div. Bureau of Water
SC Dept. of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull St.
Columbia SC 29201

Mr. Garrett Scott
300 East Main St., Ste. 500
Spartanburg SC 29302

Mr. Michael Seaman-Huynh
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1441 Main St., Ste. 300
Columbia SC 29201

Frank & Donna Sossaman
190 Sossamon Loop
Gaffney SC 29340

Mr. Willard Steele
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida
HC 61 Box 21A
Clewiston FL 33440

Mr. Alan Summerville
ICF International
9300 Lee Hwy.
Fairfax VA 22031-1207

Mr. Russell Townsend
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee NC 28719

Chief Glenna J. Wallace
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 350
Seneca MO 64804

Mr. Rusty Wenerick
South Carolina Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia SC 2920-1708

Mr. Clint Wolfe
Citizens for Nuclear
Technology Awareness
1204 Whiskey Road, Ste. B
Aiken SC 29803

Ms. Vicki S. Wooten
Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
South Carolina Department of Commerce
1201 Main Street, Ste. 1600
Columbia SC 29201

Lee Mailing List
cc:

Email:
bredl@skybest.com
sara@cleanenergy.org (Sara Barczak)
dbean@enercon.com (David Bean)
bennettS2@bv.com (Steve A. Bennett)
rblanton118@bellsouth.net (Ray Blanton)
stevenblanton@gmail.com (Steven Blanton, Jr.)
theodore.bowling@duke-energy.com (Theodore Bowling)
pam.cazel@twtelecom.com (Pam Cazel)
sarah.chisholm@gmail.com (Sarah Chisholm)
cclaunch@duke-energy.com (Chuck Claunch)
tomclements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
icooper@wpceng.com (Ivan Cooper)
tcraig@buncombe.main.nc.us (Tom and Anne Craig)
Dobrasko@SCDAH.STATE.SC.US (Rebekah Dobrasko)
DEbert@contecinc.com (Dick Ebert)
nsedwar@regstaff.sc.gov (Nanette Edwards)
mike.forrester@charter.net (Mike Forrester)
jpfraedr@duke-energy.com (Lyn Fraedrich)
pfredrickson@duke-energy.com (Paul Fredrickson)
gandyrm@dhec.sc.gov (R. Michael Gandy)
chris.goudreau@ncwildlife.org (Chris Goudreau)
jwgmaps@gmail.com (Chip Green)
bguild@mindspring.com (Bob Guild)
jeanhedges2004@hotmail.com (Jean Hedges)
majames@regstaff.sc.gov (Anthony James)
skeller@cityofgaffney-sc.gov (Scott Keller)
Kinney@charter.net (Bryant Kinney)
kohler1122@yahoo.com (Elizabeth Kohler)
mcconney.ramona@epamail.epa.gov (Ramona K. McConney)
brian.mcintyre@areva.com (Brian McIntyre)
comcher@bellsouth.net (Gene Moorhead)
nirs@main.nc.us (Mary Olson)
mispoole@gmail.com (Mary Jane Poole)
frankq@hursttech.com (Frank Quinn)
sandrar@ccppcrafts.com (Sandra Reinhardt)
gaia@citcom.net (Don Richardson)
nrichardson.me99@gtalumni.org (Nicole Richardson)
Gerald.rudolph@gmail.com (Gerald Rudolph)
jwsaye@gmail.com (Jack Saye)
mshuynk@regstaff.sc.gov (Michael Seaman-Huynh)
wesmith2@bellsouth.net (William E. Smith)
kshoesmith@charter.net (Karen Smith)
smithnj@wofford.edu (Nathan Smith)
lsorensen@bellsouth.net (Laura Sorensen)
distroupe@dukeenergy.com (Dennis Stroupe)
dsulock@unca.edu (Dot Sulock)
Amber.Thomas@SunTrust.com (Amber Thomas)
rathroneburg@duke-energy.com ( Bob Throneburg)

Lee Mailing List
cc:

pthroneburg@cityofgaffney-sc.gov (Pat Throneburg)
butch@wildrockies.org (Butch Turk)
VejdaniV@dnr.sc.gov (Vivianne Vejdani)
waraksre@westinghouse.com (Rosemarie E. Waraks)
JASON.WATERS@gw.cherokee1.k12.sc.us (Jason Waters)
weneriwr@dhec.sc.gov (Rusty Wenerick)
gayleshop@bellsouth.net (Gayle White)