PROGRESS ENERGY
YADKIN-PEE DEE RIVER PROJECT
LAND USE AND RECREATION WORKING GROUP
ISSUES EVALUATION TEMPLATE
January 2004

Issue No. 8: Blewett Falls Lake Sedimentation

1. Description of Issue

Sedimentation at Blewett Falls Lake, and the effects of sedimentation on navigation.

2. Project Effects

Sediment loading was listed as a basinwide problem but most notably in the upper end of the basin including High Rock Lake (NCDENR 2002). The main contributor of sediment at Blewett Falls Lake is primarily the Rocky River, and to a lesser degree, inflow from the mainstem and other tributaries. Sedimentation was not mentioned as an issue of concern for Blewett Falls Lake in the NCDENR Water Quality Management Plan (1998, 2003).

Operation of the Project has little or no measurable effect on the sediment load in Blewett Falls Lake that affect navigation. Storm events are generally responsible for the movement of sediment into the river system and reservoirs serve as a sediment trap. Sediment may be moved out of the reservoirs during high flood events but normal Project operations do not have a significant effect on sedimentation in the river.

3. Applicable Existing Information

- A bathymetric survey was performed by Progress Energy in 2001.
- Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basinwide Water Quality Plans, North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality. May 1998 and March 2003.

4. Study Needs

There are no current studies proposed to address this issue. However, Progress Energy proposes to conduct periodic bathymetric surveys of Blewett Falls Lake on a 10-year basis, which will evaluate sedimentation effects on boating, navigation, and shoreline use. Information from these future surveys would be evaluated and the results filed with updates to the Blewett SMP. Additionally, GIS mapping activities were performed in the summer of 2003 while the lake had been lowered for maintenance purposes that allowed for a better determination of the location of stump fields at Blewett Falls Lake.

Resource Working Group Overlap (check if applicable)

X Water Resources Issue # 10
___ Land Use and Recreation Issue # ___
___ Terrestrial Resources Issue # ___