

**PROGRESS ENERGY
YADKIN-PEE DEE RIVER PROJECT
TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES WORKING GROUP
ISSUES EVALUATION TEMPLATE
January 2004**

Issue No. 10: Expansion of Gamelands and Current Wildlife Areas

1. Description of Issue

The inclusion of additional Progress Energy lands in the expansion of the NCWRC Gamelands Program. This and other opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement, primarily on lands outside Project boundaries, were suggested for potential mitigation opportunities.

2. Project Effects

Licensees are responsible for operating and maintaining projects in accordance with license requirements and project purposes. Progress Energy currently manages lands within the Project boundary in accordance with the standard land use license article. In addition, Progress Energy has prepared two guidance documents to manage shoreline development along Tillery and Blewett Falls Lakes. These documents guide shoreline management and shoreline development on each lake. Progress Energy has also prepared a Shoreline Management Plan for the Tillery Development (currently under review by FERC) and a SMP will be developed for the Blewett Development. The Project does not have control on land use or development upstream, downstream, or outside of the Project boundary.

A goal of the relicensing process is to identify and consider the needs of environmental, recreational, and cultural resources of the Project and to balance those with the need to generate electricity from the Project. If, through the relicensing process it is determined that there are Project effects on resources then there may be a need for Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement (PME) measures to compensate for these Project effects. Depending on the nature of the impacted resource, there are a number of measures that may be considered. One measure may include consideration of including selected company lands into the Gamelands Programs. Those PME measures, if required, will be identified through consultation between Progress Energy and stakeholders in the relicensing process.

3. Applicable Existing Information

Information pertaining to the location and characteristics of existing natural communities and resources within the project area, including the existing NCWRC Gamelands Program, can be gathered from the following documents:

- Initial Consultation Document (Progress Energy 2003), Section 4.5, Botanical Resources, Section 4.6, Wildlife Resources, Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species--these sections provide information on plant and wildlife species, RTE, and significant communities found or documented to be located within/directly adjacent to the project boundary.

- Botanical and Terrestrial Wildlife Resources Study for Blewett Hydroelectric Plant (EA Engineering, Science, and Technology 2000), Section 2.5, Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Species, and Section 3.4, Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Animal Species--these sections provide information on RTE botanical and animal species, respectively. Each of these sections provides information pertaining to listed (i.e., state/federal) plant and animal species found in the project area, or that were identified during surveys.
- Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory (Bates 2001)--this document describes the county's natural areas, rare plant and animal species, and natural communities.
- Richmond County Natural Heritage Inventory (Sorrie 2001)--this document describes the county's natural areas, rare plant and animal species, and natural communities.
- Terrestrial Resources Report Associated with the Survey of Smith Lake Oxbow Swamp and the Adjacent Bottomland Wetlands (Framatome ANP DE&S 2002)--this report provides information regarding bottomland wetlands associated with the Smith Lake Oxbow Swamp (Black Gum Swamp) community and detailed information regarding the Black Gum Swamp area.
- Survey of Wading Bird Use and Great Blue Heron Nesting Activity in the Tailwater Area of the Tillery Hydroelectric Plant (CP&L 2002)--this report provides information regarding wading bird use at the tailwaters of the Tillery Hydroelectric Plant. In addition, information pertaining to bald eagle use of this area is presented.
- Biological Resources Summary Report (CP&L 2001)--this report contains information pertaining to wildlife and wetland habitat from the Blewett Falls Dam upstream to near the tailwaters of the Tillery Lake Dam. Vegetation, hydrology, general wetland characteristics, and basic function/value of bottomland forest communities are discussed
- Shoreline Management Plan for the Tillery Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2206) (CP&L - A Progress Energy Company 2001).
- Interim Guidelines for the Use of Leased Properties at Lake Tillery (CP&L - A Progress Energy Company 2001)
- Guidelines for the Use of Leased Properties at Blewett Falls Lake (CP&L - A Progress Energy Company 2001)

4. Study Needs

Progress Energy is not proposing to perform any studies related to this issue at this time.

Management of land use and issues such as public access, natural resources, shoreline development, etc. will be based on assessments performed by Progress Energy and input from stakeholders, Project operations, and Progress Energy policy.

If this issue is discussed during relicensing agreements, the actual presentation of potential wildlife habitat enhancement opportunities can be included in the Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement measures (PME) associated with the project.

Resource Working Group Overlap (check if applicable)

Water Resources Issue # 15

Land Use and Recreation Issue # 5

Terrestrial Resources Issue # ____

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