

Duke Energy Lake Use Permitting Frequently Asked Questions

Duke Energy's lake neighbors often have questions about the lake use permitting process. Here are some of the more common questions and answers.* If you have a question that isn't answered below, please email the Lake Services team at LakeServices@duke-energy.com.

Top 10 Questions

Why does Duke Energy have a lake use permitting program? Why do I need a permit from Duke Energy?

Most Duke Energy lakes are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Duke Energy's FERC operating license specifies the types of lake activities Duke Energy can approve and, for most lakes, requires Duke Energy to implement a Shoreline Management Plan that defines what and where specific activities are allowed along the shoreline. Duke Energy owns or controls the lakebed in its reservoirs and, depending on the location, also owns an upland buffer strip.

Do I need a permit from Duke Energy to build or modify a structure on the lake where I live?

Most likely, yes, particularly if you want to build a new lake structure, perform maintenance on or modify an existing lake structure, stabilize the shoreline or withdraw water at a Duke Energy lake. Boating, fishing, swimming and wading do not require a Duke Energy lake use permit.

Can I modify/build a lake structure or stabilize my shoreline? How do I obtain Duke Energy approval to do so?

Lake Services addresses these questions by processing a lake permit application. You can start the permitting process by submitting a completed Lake Permit Application & User's Agreement, available on the Duke Energy [website](#), to Duke Energy Lake Services. As part of the permitting process, a Lake Services representative will inspect your

property and review the shoreline classifications and Shoreline Management Plan to determine if the request can be approved. If you are a potential buyer of lakefront property, please see the information sheet on our [website](#).

How do I transfer a permit into my name?

The permit transfer process is initiated by submitting a completed Lake Permit Application & User's Agreement, available on the Duke Energy [website](#), to Lake Services. A Lake Services representative will inspect the facility to confirm it was properly permitted and has not been modified without Duke Energy's approval. If the Lake Services representative identifies noncompliance issues such as unauthorized changes to a structure, the applicant/current owner will likely be responsible for correcting the issue.

I'm buying/selling a lake property. What should I know regarding shoreline structures?

Please see the information sheet on our [website](#).

How can I obtain a copy of any previous permits for a property?

Lake Services will provide the lake use permitting history to the current owner of the property adjoining a lake structure if the permit is in that owner's name. If the permit was never transferred to the current property owner, the permit will need to be transferred before Lake Services will provide any permitting history. Lake Services will not provide permitting history to real estate agents, neighbors, former owners or potential buyers.

* The information contained here is intended to provide general guidance, and it does not replace the detailed requirements in shoreline or lake management plans. If this guidance conflicts with the specific requirements for a lake, the requirements in that lake's respective plans apply.



Which dock and shoreline stabilization contractors do you recommend?

Check the [Knowledgeable Contractors](#) section of our website for a list of contractors who have demonstrated an understanding of Duke Energy's lake use requirements and have successfully completed projects at Duke Energy lakes.

Lake James downstream to Lake Wylie: Whom do I contact about Catawba-Wateree Riparian Buffer Rule issues?

The N.C. Catawba River buffer is regulated by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality. For questions or concerns about buffer requirements, please contact the applicable county representative:

- Alexander, Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln – Doug Perez (Doug.Perez@ncdenr.gov)
- Burke, McDowell – Mitchell Anderson (Mitchell.Anderson@ncdenr.gov)
- Caldwell – Amy Annino (Amy.Annino@ncdenr.gov)
- Mecklenburg – Ron Eubanks (Perry.Eubanks@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

Lake Keowee: Does Duke Energy have a 50-foot buffer at Lake Keowee?

The project boundary elevation varies on a tract-by-tract basis at Lake Keowee. Duke Energy's Shoreline Management Plan regulates activities that occur within the project boundary. Both Oconee and Pickens counties have buffer requirements. Contact the applicable county for more information.

What is the lake level? Why is the lake high/low/etc.?

You can find lake level and flow release information on the Duke Energy [website](#) or by calling Duke Energy's lake level phone line at 800.829.LAKE (800.829.5253) or downloading the free Lake View app from Apple's App Store or Google Play.

Duke Energy Lake Use Permitting Additional Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question that isn't answered below, please email the Lake Services team at LakeServices@duke-energy.com.

How much does it cost to get a Duke Energy lake use permit and how long will it take?

The fee varies based on the type of permit being requested, and it can change over time. The [current fee schedule](#) is posted on Duke Energy's website.

When will my pier be closed out/tagged/inspected?

Lake Services typically inspects lake structures after expiration of the permit. (Lake permits are valid for one year.) If there isn't already a tag on the structure, it will be tagged during the closeout inspection. If you need your facility inspected sooner, please email LakeServices@duke-energy.com and request an inspection.

My pier has a Duke Energy permit tag on it. What does that mean?

Duke Energy uses the tag on a pier to locate permitting history for the structure.

Can I authorize my real estate agent, dock contractor, etc. to act on my behalf with regard to Lake Services?

Lake Services will discuss lake permitting information only with the current property owner.

How do I keep people off my shoreline or from fishing around my dock?

Unless otherwise posted by Duke Energy, the water and shoreline of Duke Energy's hydro lakes are available for public recreation including boating, swimming, fishing and wading. While Duke Energy's lake use permits allow permittees to restrict access to piers and docks, those permits do not allow the lake neighbor to restrict public use of the lake or the shoreline.

I think someone is doing work within a Duke Energy lake without approval. What should I do?

Please email Lake Services at LakeServices@duke-energy.com if you believe unauthorized work is occurring in a Duke Energy reservoir. Lake Services will investigate the situation.

I have received a lake permit from Lake Services but can't find a contractor to do the work before the permit expires. Will you extend my permit?

Lake permits are valid for only one year. We encourage applicants who plan to hire a lake contractor to ensure they have a contractor ready to perform the work prior to submitting their permit application. If the permit expires prior to the work being complete, you will need to submit a new application. For a list of contractors with experience, please see our Knowledgeable Contractors lists ([Lower Catawba-Wateree](#), [Upper Catawba-Wateree](#), [Keowee-Toxaway](#), [Nantahala Area](#), [Tillery](#)).

Regional Lake Use Permitting Questions

Lake Keowee: What is the viewshed requirement?

Land within the project boundary must be maintained in a vegetated forested condition where forested conditions exist. However, Duke Energy may authorize limited clearing to create a view corridor after a home or building is constructed on the lot. Contact Lake Services at LakeServices@duke-energy.com to initiate consultation for a viewshed request.

Belews, Blewett Falls, Tillery and Robinson lakes: Does Duke Energy lease shoreline to lake neighbors? How do I get a shoreline lease?

Lake Services administers a shoreline leasing program at Blewett Falls Lake, Belews Lake, Lake Robinson and Lake Tillery. The lease process is initiated by completing a lease application available on the [website](#). For information about leasing shoreline at Hyco Lake, contact [Person Caswell Lake Authority](#).

Lake Glenville and Nantahala Lake: How do I get a variance from the original Nantahala Power and Light (NP&L) 50-foot setback requirement in my deed?

Duke Energy does not grant variances to deeded setbacks.

Other Lake-related Issues

How do I report trash or other problems I've observed at Duke Energy access areas or islands?

If the issue presents an immediate risk to recreation users, contact local law enforcement. Please send an email to LakeServices@duke-energy.com to report non-emergency issues with Duke Energy access area conditions. A member of Duke Energy's Public Recreation team will contact you.

Will Duke Energy support my request for a variance from my neighborhood's requirements regarding shoreline structures?

Duke Energy does not participate in neighborhood requirements for shoreline structures.

Whom do I call about unsafe boating, wake boats or people dumping in the lake?

Boating is regulated by local law enforcement and state agencies – the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission in North Carolina and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources in South Carolina. If you see someone dumping waste into a lake, contact local law enforcement.

How do I request a no-wake buoy?

The installation of no-wake buoys at Lake Norman and Lake Wylie is overseen by the marine commissions.

For North Carolina lakes without a marine commission, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) manages buoys. Visit the [NCWRC website](#) for more information.

For South Carolina lakes without a marine commission, the [S.C. Department of Natural Resources](#) is responsible for buoys.

What is this aquatic vegetation in the lake?

For more information about aquatic plants you may find in Duke Energy lakes, please visit our [website](#).

How do I request the release of a Duke Energy right of way across my lake lot or request approval for an encroachment on Duke Energy's property?

To request a release of a vacant electric right of way, please email retransactions@duke-energy.com explaining the request. Please provide specific location information with your request.

What are my flood or flowage easement rights? Where does my property line fall with respect to Duke Energy's property line?

Please contact a real estate attorney for assistance with these types of questions.

How do I get a variance from Crescent Resources restrictive covenants?

Duke Energy has no involvement in the enforcement of Crescent Resources requirements. Please contact Crescent Resources for more information.