

# Lookout Shoals Lake Perspective

## Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

### Background

Lookout Shoals Lake was formed in 1915 with the construction of the Lookout Shoals Hydroelectric Station. The lake has approximately 1,305 acres of surface area and 29 miles of shoreline and is one of the smallest reservoirs on the eleven-lake system. Full pond elevation for Lookout Shoals Lake is 838.1 feet above mean sea level.

The lake will also soon become the drinking water supply for the City of Statesville.

Duke Energy provides two boating access areas on the lake in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

### Interests addressed in the CRA

**1. Lake Level Ranges** – Lake level ranges (located in the adjacent chart) have been established to protect fish habitat, public water system, industrial and power generation water intakes, recreation access and aesthetics. Ranges are bounded by normal minimum and normal maximum elevations with a normal target elevation in between. For Lookout Shoals Lake the normal target lake level is 97 feet year-round.

Lookout Shoals Lake Elevations (in feet on the 1st of the month)				
Month(s)	Existing Guide Curve	Minimum	Target	Maximum
Jan - Dec 31	97	94	97	100

For Lookout Shoals Lake the normal target lake level is 97 feet year-round.

**2. Drought Management** – As part of the relicensing process, a Low Inflow Protocol has been established to "trigger" water use restrictions by large water intake owners. These water use restrictions apply to hydroelectric generation, public water system withdrawals and flows for recreation and aquatic life.

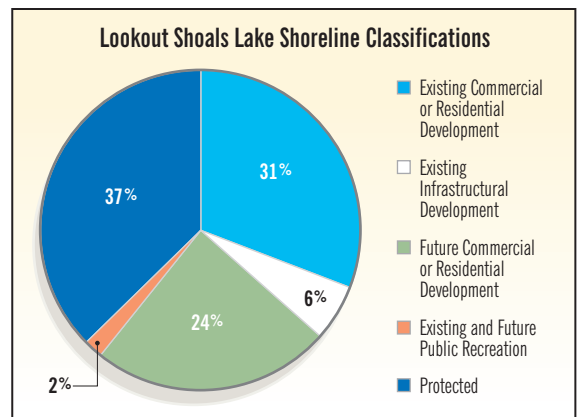
**3. Shoreline Management** – Duke Energy operates a comprehensive shoreline management program on all 11 lakes along the Catawba River. Duke Energy's program depends on the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and Shoreline Management Guidelines (SMG) to balance private and public access with protecting the environmental, public recreational, cultural and scenic values. As part of the relicensing process, both the SMP and SMG have been updated. The updated SMP and SMG were implemented in September

2006. The SMG provide rules on what facilities are allowed and how they can be built/constructed/maintained.

Overall, the update to the SMP has resulted in more refined shoreline mapping and additional restrictions on construction activity within the project boundary of the reservoir. The SMP is a series of maps with shoreline classifications denoting locations where piers,

marinas, excavations and shoreline stabilization within the project boundary either already exist or can take place. Each shoreline classification has a separate set of restrictions and allowed activities.

**4. Public Information Systems for Lake and River Information** – Information including reservoir level ranges, water release times, generation schedules and maps to public reservoir access will be provided as a result of relicensing. River



paddlers and anglers will have access to information on releases from dams to paddle and fish. Information posted on signs will be provided in English and/or international symbols with signage in Spanish also available immediately downstream of the dams.

**5. New and Expanded Public Recreation Facilities/Access** – Recreational enhancements planned for Lookout Shoals Lake include:

### Stakeholders signing the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)

In addition to state resource agencies, Duke Energy and national special interest groups – many representatives of local entities and public citizens around Lookout Shoals Lake signed the CRA. These include:

- Alexander County
- Carolina Canoe Club
- Catawba County
- Catawba Valley Heritage Alliance
- Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition
- Centralina Council of Governments
- Foothills Conservancy
- Iredell County
- North Carolina Wildlife Federation
- Western Piedmont Council of Governments

a. *Upper Lookout Shoals Access Area* – Acquire approximately 1-5 acres in Catawba County for a trailered boat access area with parking, rest-rooms and primitive camping downstream of the "bend" of the lake.

b. *Trail* – Provide cost-share funding up to \$220,000 to Catawba County to assist the county in its acquisition and development of a 50-foot wide easement for approximately 1.5 miles of walking/hiking trail between Riverbend Park and the new Upper Lookout Shoals Access Area.

c. *Lookout Shoals Access Area* – Install rest-rooms.

d. *Lookout Shoals Tailrace Fishing Area* – Provide a public fishing area.

e. *Lookout Shoals Dam Canoe Portage* – Provide a portage trail with canoe/kayak access

(take-out, put-in) and signage around Lookout Shoals Dam.

#### **6. *Habitat, Water Quality and Land***

***Conservation Enhancements*** – Duke Energy will modify the operations of the existing hydro units at Lookout Shoals Hydro Station to provide continuous flows to support fish habitat in the upper portion of Lake Norman. These water releases will also include improvements in dissolved oxygen to support water quality. Duke Energy will also contribute \$1 million to the Habitat Enhancement Fund in each state to support, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and contribute \$4 to \$5.5 million to North Carolina state agencies dependent on the license term for additional land conservation.

#### **7. *Public Drinking Water Supply and Water***

***Conservation Programs*** -- Water is vital to life

and drives our region's economy and way of life. However, Catawba-Wateree relicensing process studies indicate demands for water will more than double over the next 50 years. A group of approximately 20 water supply experts, including Duke Energy, have outlined water management objectives, identified tangible projects to protect our water supply and proposed a voluntary water conservation fund to finance these projects. The money will come from contributions paid by Duke Energy and other members of the Catawba-Wateree Basin Water Management Group. Contributors to the voluntary fund will determine the timing and priority of projects.



#### **CONTACT**

For more information and updates and other relicensing news, contact Duke Energy at [www.duke-energy.com](http://www.duke-energy.com).