

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - Atlanta Regional Office
Gwinnett Commerce Center
3700 Crestwood Parkway, Suite 950
Duluth, Georgia 30096

September 4, 2024

In reply refer to:
P-516 Saluda

VIA Electronic Mail

Ms. Iris Griffin
Vice President-Power Generation
Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. (DESC)
Iris.Griffin@dominionenergy.com

Subject: 2024 Annual Dam Safety Inspection Follow-up

Dear Ms. Griffin:

On August 27 and 28, 2024, Shae Hoschek inspected the Saluda Project No. 516. We appreciate the courtesy extended by your staff to Mr. Hoschek during the inspection.

The project is currently under remediation to replace the headgates in the Intake Towers. Mr. Hoschek visited the ongoing construction for the headgates replacement and sat in on the weekly progress meeting.

Additionally, the project is under investigation to evaluate differential displacement/rotation between the anchor and the trunnion, to evaluate the appropriateness of the assumption the powerhouse discharges during the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF), and to evaluate potential dam any impacts from 2023 sheet pile wall on dam performance during the PMF.

Mr. Hoschek confirmed one problem that is an immediate concern for public safety:

1. As discussed during the inspection, a recreationist downstream contacted FERC about no sirens or light activating during discharges from the dam

in advance of Tropical Storm Debby that caused a rapid rise in the river water level downstream of the dam on August 4, 2024. During our inspection, your staff tested the sirens and strobe lights at the Saluda Shoals Park upstream and downstream boat ramps. The sirens and lights did not activate at either location.

The Saluda River downstream of the dam is a very popular recreation area and ensuring the successful operation of warning signals from dam impacts is critical for public safety. It is still tropical storm season where the likelihood of increased discharges is elevated.

Within 14 days of the date of this letter, provide the following:

- a. Existing and additional temporary measures DESC and its partners (e.g. Saluda Shoals Park staff, law enforcement) are implementing to ensure public safety downstream of Saluda Dam while multiple sirens are out of service.
- b. A plan and schedule to repair the non-functioning warning sirens and strobe lights. Include proposed measures for future monitoring and maintenance to ensure satisfactory operation of warning sirens and lights at Saluda Shoals Park.

The findings from the inspection also include the follow-up items below:

2. Address the following drainage items on the Original Embankment Dam:
 - a. Debris and dirt in the pedestrian walkway drain.
 - b. Debris clogging storm drainage grate inlets along the toe of the “90 Bench/Berm.”
 - c. Erosion at the culvert inlet on the north side of the “90 Bench/Berm” toe.
3. Clean and re-paint lower areas the Original Embankment Dam sheet pile wall that have peeling paint and exposed corrosion.

Within 60 days of the date of this letter, submit a plan and schedule to address Comments 2 and 3.

File your submittals using the Commission’s eFiling system at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>. When eFiling, select Hydro: Dam Safety and

Atlanta Regional Office from the eFiling menu. The cover page of the filing must indicate that the material was eFiled. For assistance with eFiling, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

We appreciate your continued cooperation in ensuring the safety of your project. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Shae Hoschek at (678) 245-3077 or by e-mail at shae.hoschek@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

William J. Brown, P.E.
Regional Engineer

Cc: VIA Electronic Mail

Mr. Ray Ammarell, P.E.
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