

prepared for an application filed by the Georgia Power Company on January 29, 1998, requesting the Commission's authorization to permit the Clayton-Rabun County Water Authority (Authority) to increase its water withdrawal from Lake Rabun reservoir for municipal water supply from 806,000 gallons per day (gpd) currently to 2.0 million gpd.

The EA evaluates the environmental impacts that would result from permitting the Authority to increase its water withdrawal from Lake Rabun reservoir, as discussed above. Existing pumps and water treatment facilities at the site are able to accommodate this increased water withdrawal; consequently, the proposed action would not require any new construction activity.

The EA finds that approval of the application would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the EA can be viewed at the Commission's Reference and Information Center, Room 2A, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Copies also may be obtained by calling the EA coordinator, Jim Haimes, at (202) 219-2780.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 516-280]

#### South Carolina Electric & Gas Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

April 16, 1998.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47910), the Office of Hydropower Licensing (OHL) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for an application for approval of non-project use of project lands and change of land rights on Lake Murray. South Carolina Gas & Electric Company (licensee) proposes to sell to Larry Koon and James Cromer (developers) 20.5 acres of project lands for residential purposes. The licensee also proposes to allow use of the lake's

75-foot buffer strip to provide parking and vehicular access to an approved Willows End Marina. In the EA, staff concludes that approval of the licensee's proposal would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The Saluda Project is located on the Saluda River in Richland, Lexington, Saluda and Newberry Counties, near Columbia, South Carolina.

The EA was written by staff in the office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the EA are available for review at the Commission's Reference and Information Center, Room 2-A, 888 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6000-6]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Environmental Documentation and Associated Reporting for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Environmental Documentation and Associated Reporting for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica, EPA ICR No. 1808.02, OMB Control No. 2020-0007. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before June 22, 1998.

**CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST:** For a copy of the ICR or for further information on this project, contact Mr. Joseph Montgomery or Ms. Katherine Biggs, Office of Federal Activities (2252A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington,

DC 20460; telephone (202) 564-7157 or (202) 564-7144, respectively.

Information on this project, including the Supporting Statement for this ICR, is also available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are nongovernmental operators, including tour operators, conducting expeditions to Antarctica.

**Title:** Environmental Documentation and Associated Reporting for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica, EPA ICR No. 1808.02, OMB Control No. 2020-0007, expiring August 8, 1998.

**Abstract:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated an Interim Final Rule for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica, 40 CFR part 8, in accordance with the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (Act), 16 U.S.C. 2401 *et seq.*, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 2403a, which implements the Protocol on Environmental Protection (Protocol) to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 (Treaty). The Interim Final Rule provides for assessment of the environmental impacts of nongovernmental activities in Antarctica, including tourism, and for coordination of the review of information regarding environmental impact assessments received from other Parties under the Protocol. The requirements of the Interim Final Rule apply to operators of nongovernmental expeditions organized in or proceeding from the territory of the United States to Antarctica and include commercial and non-commercial expeditions. Expeditions may include ship-based tours; yacht, skiing or mountaineering expeditions; privately funded research expeditions; and other nongovernmental or nongovernmental-sponsored activities. The Interim Final Rule does not apply to individual U.S. citizens or groups of citizens planning to travel to Antarctica on an expedition for which they are not acting as an operator. (Operators, for example, typically acquire use of vessels or aircraft, hire expedition staff, plan itineraries, and undertake other organizational responsibilities.)

#### *Environmental Documentation.*

Persons subject to the Interim Final Rule at 40 CFR part 8 must prepare environmental documentation, as appropriate, to support the operator's determination regarding the level of environmental impact of the proposed expedition. Environmental