



Feature Story

Alcoa receives national stewardship award for "Outstanding Stewardship of America's Rivers"

Alcoa was recognized by the National Hydropower Association for its outstanding stewardship of America's rivers at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on April 3, 2006. This prestigious award recognizes Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. for its outstanding ability to balance river protection and power production at its Tapoco operations in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee.

"Alcoa is committed to protecting and enhancing the natural resources at all of Alcoa's hydropower projects. We're proud of our record of positive stewardship and delighted to be recognized as a leader in the hydropower industry," said Robert Smet, environmental and natural resources manager at Alcoa.

Alcoa was specifically recognized for the release of flows into two previously bypassed reaches of the Little Tennessee and Cheoah Rivers and for the protection of nearly 10,000 acres of land within the watershed. The flow releases are expected to significantly enhance habitat for fish and aquatic life, while the protected lands are largely undeveloped forest lands that serve as home to 21 rare, threatened or endangered species.



"The Alcoa Tapoco project is an excellent example of responsible corporate stewardship. The cooperative approach adopted by a broad range of Tennessee and Cheoah Rivers stakeholders will benefit the environment now and far into the future through significant water management strategies and conservation easements," said George Martin, 2005 president of the NHA.

Alcoa's environmental accomplishments will be featured in The Outstanding Stewardships of America's Rivers report, which presents exemplary examples of hydropower's ability to generate clean, renewable, reliable and affordable electricity while protecting the riverine ecosystem. Projects are chosen for inclusion in the report by a committee of judges, representing the water quality community, the NGO community and the hydropower industry.

In the Community

Yadkin Relicensing News

Alcoa prepares to file license application

For the past several years, Alcoa-Yadkin has been preparing for the federal relicensing of its hydropower operations along the Yadkin River. This month, it will file an application for a new license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the federal agency responsible for regulating hydropower projects across the nation.

The current license expires in April 2008.

Alcoa-Yadkin has been working closely with state and federal agencies, recreational users and other stakeholders in an effort to reach an agreement regarding the future operations of the reservoirs. The goal is to strike an appropriate balance between the need for hydropower generation, environmental protection and recreation.

"We feel good about the progress being made in the settlement negotiations process and hope to reach an agreement in principle in the next couple of months," said Gene Ellis, Alcoa-Yadkin.

Last year, Alcoa reached a settlement agreement regarding the operations of its Tapoco hydropower operation in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. The agreement was widely applauded by state agencies, environmental groups and elected officials for its ability to balance the need for river protection and power production.

If a settlement agreement is reached at Yadkin, it would be filed with FERC as an offer of settlement for review and approval by FERC.

Institute established to sustain environment as growth takes place

By Scott Jenkins, Salisbury Post

In the next two decades, environmental advocates expect 1.8 million people to move into the region and spur the development of an additional 342,000 acres of land.

It will take leaders — political, corporate, civic and academic — with a focus on sustaining the environment to ensure that, along with growth, development leaves something for future generations.

Educating them and fostering solutions will be the mission of the Catawba College Center for the Environment's newest initiative, the Sustainable Communities Leadership Institute.

Announced Thursday, March 30, the institute got its start with a \$50,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation.

Tommy Gibson, Alcoa's environmental and community relations director, said the company is proud of its record of balancing environmental and business concerns and the recognition that has brought.

Helping fund and promote the institute continues that commitment, Gibson said.

"I look forward to seeing the results and seeing the Sustainable Communities Leadership Institute blossom in years to come," Gibson said.

Sustainable development meets present needs while protecting the environment and resources for future generations, said Dr. John Wear, director of the Center for the Environment.

It hasn't historically been an important goal in the region, resulting in disappearing open space, shrinking tree canopy, increasing vehicle emissions and deteriorating air quality. But it should be, Wear said.

"We can develop in ways and patterns that don't really diminish that heritage," he said.

The institute will "help participants gain a deeper understanding of specific issues related to sustainability, including the barriers to sustainable progress," a college press release said.

Among the issues Wear mentioned, which the institute and its participants will also stress to developers, are the value of preserving tree canopy and open space and building walkable communities.



Tommy Gibson, left, presents a \$50,000 grant to Dr. John Wear, director of the Center for the Environment, and Dr. Robert Knott, president of Catawba College. The Alcoa grant will fund scholarships for 10 of the institute's first participants.

FERC has the final responsibility to evaluate the relicensing record and address the various interests involved in relicensing. While FERC typically respects the terms of any settlement agreement, it has the authority to prescribe whatever license conditions it deems most appropriate.

Upcoming Events

Crappie-Mania World Crappie-Fishing Championship

High Rock Lake
April 15, 2006

This fun-filled family event is open to any emergency service personnel, including but not limited to law enforcement, fire, EMS, and military personnel. The event will be held at the Rowan County Peace Officers Club on Long Ferry Road in Salisbury, NC. A fish fry will be held following the event. Entry fee is \$15 per boat and includes the meal. Camping space is available on-site. For more information, email Mark Shue at mshue@salisburync.gov

10th Annual Multicultural Festival

Finch Park, Lexington, NC
May 6, 2006

This unique festival, sponsored by the City of Lexington Recreation and Parks Department, includes five international villages with educational displays and demonstrations. Visitors will be entertained by music, food and dancing from around the world. The festival will be held at Finch Park on Paul Beck Road in Lexington, NC. Admission is free. For more information call 336-248-3960.

Did You Know?

North Carolina is home to 75% of Alcoa's U.S. hydropower operations and 40% of its worldwide hydropower operations. In addition to the four hydropower operations along the Yadkin River, Alcoa has two hydropower operations in western North Carolina located on the Little Tennessee and Cheoah Rivers.

Institute participants will hear from experts in sustainable development and work together to find solutions to the challenges of protecting the environment while serving community needs.

At completion, participants will receive "Leader in Sustainable Communities" certification, and graduates will remain engaged through a fellows program and participation in annual conferences.

The Alcoa Foundation will provide scholarships for 10 of the first institute participants.

Catawba College President Dr. Robert Knott noted that the Center for the Environment has tried to be a catalyst locally and regionally for better environmental stewardship.

The new leadership institute, he said, will continue that effort by trying to anticipate some of the future consequences of decisions made now so that leaders can avoid making bad choices. Supporters hope institute graduates will help transform their communities and the region.

The institute, and the grant from Alcoa to get it started, Knott said, "goes right to the heart of what we're trying to accomplish here."

Reprinted with permission from the Salisbury Post

Around the Lakes

Loaner Rods and Reels Available

Whether you want to tangle with the legendary monster catfish in Badin Lake or fill up a stringer on Rocky River, first-time and novice anglers are encouraged to borrow rods and reels free of charge to experience Stanly County's fishing action this spring and summer.

The loaner rods and reels are located at Rock Creek Park and provided by the Albemarle Parks & Recreation and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC), through the WRC's Fishing Tackle Loaner Program.

For more fishing information and a complete list of the NCWRC's Community Fishing and Tackle Loaner Program sites, contact Albemarle Parks and Recreation Department at (704) 984-9561 or the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission at (919) 707-0220.

Tip of the Month

Recycling Aluminum Makes a Difference

As a consumer, you make choices every day that can help reduce global warming. Choosing products with higher aluminum content is one of the ways you can make a difference. Strong, light aluminum that replaces heavier materials in automobiles helps reduce fuel consumption and tailpipe emissions. Even products that don't consume fuel directly — such as food and beverage containers, appliances, furniture and building materials — aluminum makes a difference. By reducing weight, aluminum reduces the amount of fuel and greenhouse gas emissions needed to transport these products from the factory to your home.

These benefits are compounded when you recycle aluminum. Recycled aluminum takes only 1/20 of the energy to make — and it can be recycled over and over again.

In addition to beverage cans, you can recycle aluminum bottles, pie plates, cookware, building materials (gutters, siding, etc.), lawn furniture and more. If it has aluminum in

This electronic newsletter is designed to keep the community informed about important issues related to the relicensing of the Yadkin Project.

- [Sign up for newsletter mailing list](#)
- [Share your feedback](#)
- [Download newsletter \[PDF\]](#)

it, chances are it can be recycled.

Recycling Resources

- Curbside recycling: The easiest and most efficient way to recycle.
- Office recycling: If your company doesn't have a recycling program, start one!
- Charity recycling: In communities without curbside recycling, there are often groups who collect aluminum cans and sell them to scrap dealers, donating the profits to charity. Even if you have curbside recycling, donating your cans to charity is a great way to get extra mileage from recycling.
- Neighborhood scrap dealer: If you don't have access to curbside recycling, or if you want to get money for your aluminum, contact a local scrap dealer for information on how to turn your castoffs into cash.

Balancing Energy Generation, Recreation *and* Environmental Resources