



Yadkin Relicensing News

Agreement in Principle receives widespread praise

Alcoa-Yadkin announced last month that it has reached an Agreement in Principle with a majority of stakeholders interested in the future management of the Yadkin Project. In the weeks that followed, several of the region's newspapers weighed in with articles and editorials that praised the potential benefits for North Carolina.

The Salisbury Post

Alcoa proposal holds promise

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The Lexington Dispatch

Alcoa's land release will strengthen image of the Piedmont as a natural playground

"There are lots of opinions about what the new 50-year license for Alcoa's power plants, dams and lakes on the Yadkin River should contain. But everyone should be excited about the company's proposal, in a newly released Agreement in Principle, to sell or donate more than 6,600 acres that it owns along the river for recreation, game lands, conservation and park expansion. The idea could dramatically increase public access to natural lands in central North Carolina, raise the region's profile as a tourism destination and improve area quality of life."

[Click here to read full article](#)

The Stanly News & Press

Riches from relicensing

"In the end, the big winners in Alcoa's bid for relicensing its dams along the Yadkin-Pee Dee River will be the town of Badin, the forest service, boaters and all those who love the great outdoors."

[Click here for more information about the Agreement in Principle](#)

Upcoming Events

Big Sweep

Saturday, October 7

www.ncbigssweep.org

Volunteers from across North Carolina will help clean up the state's waterways on Saturday, October 7 as part of North Carolina Big Sweep. Local efforts will involve clean-up of the Yadkin Lakes.

In Davidson County, volunteers will collect trash at more than 30 sites around High Rock Lake. A trophy will be awarded to the school that collects the most trash. If you'd like to participate, volunteers will meet at the Hwy. #8 Wildlife Access area at 9:00 am.

In Stanly County, volunteers will meet at the Morrow Mountain State Park Boathouse at 9:00 am.

"We hope everyone will participate on this special day to make a real difference for our environment," said Ken Crutchfield, NC Big Sweep chairman. "These cleanups are important because litter hurts local economies, especially tourism and new business recruitment. Litter also contaminates our water supply and endangers people and wildlife."

North Carolina Big Sweep is a one-day event to remove litter along North Carolina's watersheds. The North Carolina cleanup was initiated in 1987 as a coastal cleanup called Beach Sweep. The event expanded inland and was renamed in 1989 to become North Carolina Big Sweep, the nation's first statewide waterway cleanup. In its 19-year history, Big Sweep volunteers have retrieved more than 7.5 million pounds of debris from North Carolina's watersheds.

NC Big Sweep is a nonprofit

Stakeholders begin development of formal agreement

Representatives from the 27 organizations who signed the Agreement in Principle are now working to develop a Relicensing Settlement Agreement. This is a more formal, more detailed binding agreement that will be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in early 2007. The group has been split into several small workgroups that will continue meeting through the end of the year.

In the Community

Alcoa Employees Make A Difference

Stanly Life Path youth tour Narrows Dam

Reprinted with permission from Centralina Workforce Development Board newsletter.

Employees of Alcoa Badin Works took time out of their busy schedules to help youth enrolled in the Life Path Program stay on the "right path." Several employees spent the entire afternoon on August 16, 2006 talking with the young adults about their careers at Alcoa. It was truly a special event, as employees talked one-on-one with the youth about their personal experiences, fears, and struggles when they were younger. One employee gave a very inspiring and touching account about the barriers he overcame when moving to the United States from Vietnam. Two other employees talked about the importance of continuing your education and how women are capable of doing the same work as men. Overall many of the students' perspective of themselves and what they can accomplish changed thanks to the time spent at Alcoa. The encouragement that the employees provided proved to be invaluable as many youth commented that they learned more in one afternoon than they had learned all year.



Life Path participants visit Alcoa Badin Works to see how school and jobs connect.

"The youth connected on a very personal level," said Claudia Covington, executive director of the Resource Development Center.

More than ten young men and women watched a video about the dams and safety at Alcoa Conference Center, then traveled to the Narrows Hydro-Electric Dam and Power Generating Plant to tour the facility and get a first hand look at all the operations. The youth geared up in hard hats and boots and traveled to the top of the dam and crossed the bridge to the power house to get a closer look.

Alcoa Badin Works produces Primary Aluminum by an electrolytic process. Electricity is supplied by Yadkin, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alcoa which operates generating facilities at four dams along a 38-mile stretch of the Yadkin River. The Resource Development Center, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Albemarle, which houses the Life Path Youth program, was recently awarded \$3,000 from the Alcoa Foundation on behalf of Alcoa's "Life Committee." The Resource Development Center will use this gift to fund a "Life Path Community Service Project" enabling Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth program participants the opportunity to research, develop and manage a local community service project. The Life Path Young Adults will decide as a group, based on their ideas, what project to tackle. They have tentatively scheduled the project for January 2007.

The Centralina Workforce Development Board is proud to see local young adults learning from the business community and taking the opportunity to see industry and

organization that works year-round to educate citizens for litter-free watersheds. Alcoa is proud to support Big Sweep efforts on a local and statewide level. For more information, visit www.ncbigssweep.org.

NC Big Sweep Safety Tips

- Wear sunscreen and bug spray
- Watch out for poison ivy, snakes and yellow jackets
- Wear gloves and sturdy, closed-toed shoes
- Always work with a friend
- Be careful on steep or slippery creeks and riverbanks
- Don't wade into creeks and rivers where the current is fast moving
- Wear a life jacket if you're cleaning by boat
- Don't touch animals or chemicals

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

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relate that to education. The Board and its Youth Council are proud to provide the WIA funding for innovative youth services such as the Stanly County Life Path program. For more information about the Stanly Life Path Program and to see additional photos from the "Alcoa Experience" visit www.thelifepath.com/alcoa.htm or contact Claudia Covington or Bill Baldwin at (704) 982-0120.

Catawba College launches Sustainable Communities Leadership Institute

The Catawba College Center for the Environment is launching its Sustainable Communities Leadership Institute in October. The program, funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation, is designed to create strong and effective advocates for sustainability.

The institute will focus on educating North Carolina's emerging leaders about conservation and sustainability issues — and providing the skills and techniques required to implement meaningful change. Participants will work together to explore and address the environmental challenges fueled by North Carolina's rapid growth. Sustainability is defined as "living so that the current generation meets its needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs."

High Rock neighborhood gets new entrance

Homeowners in the Anchor Downs community on High Rock Lake wanted to install new signage at the entrance to their neighborhood, but discovered they didn't own the land. Alcoa sold the Anchor Downs Property Owners Association a small parcel of land for \$1 this summer so the group could erect a new entrance sign.



Angie Smith, of Anchor Downs Property Owners Association, and Tommy Gibson, Community Relations Manager at Alcoa-Yadkin.



Balancing Energy Generation, Recreation *and* Environmental Resources

The Lexington Dispatch

Alcoa's land release will strengthen image of the Piedmont as a natural playground

There are lots of opinions about what the new 50-year license for Alcoa's power plants, dams and lakes on the Yadkin River should contain. But everyone should be excited about the company's proposal, in a newly released Agreement in Principle, to sell or donate more than 6,600 acres that it owns along the river for recreation, gamelands, conservation and park expansion. The idea could dramatically increase public access to natural lands in central North Carolina, raise the region's profile as a tourism destination and improve area quality of life.

Alcoa proposes to sell about 2,500 acres upstream of the Interstate 85 bridges in Davidson, Rowan and Davie counties and about 2,400 acres along the eastern shore of Tuckertown Lake in Davidson and Montgomery counties to land trusts or local or state government. The company offers to sell the state about 1,400 acres in Stanly County for expansion of Morrow Mountain State Park. It proposes donating 275 acres in Montgomery County to expand the Uwharrie National Forest and another 80 acres that Rowan County leases as part of the Eagle Point Nature Preserve.

This may be the largest release of land in the region since the 1930s, when thousands of acres were acquired to create Morrow Mountain park and, later, the national forest. Jason Walsler, executive director of the LandTrust for Central North Carolina, is right when he calls it "a once-in-a-generation opportunity" for conservation and recreation. The LandTrust is gearing up for a five-to-seven-year push to make sure as much of the land is conserved as possible. While Alcoa has not announced any asking prices, ballpark estimates suggest at least \$20 million to \$40 million will have to be raised. The majority of that money will probably come from state trust funds for parks and recreation, clean water management and natural heritage, but \$5 million to \$10 million in private funds will likely also be needed.

The land release fits perfectly with the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project's concept of central North Carolina - from Davidson, Rowan and Randolph counties south to Richmond and Anson - as the state's version of New York City's Central Park. There are predictions that over the next 25 years, North Carolina's population will increase from 8 million now to more than 12 million people, making this state, currently ranked 10th, the seventh most populous in the nation, passing New Jersey, Michigan and Ohio. Much of the growth is expected in the Piedmont. As Charlotte, the Triad and the Research Triangle get more crowded, residents will be increasingly eager for escape to this region's lakes and forests. Alcoa's land proposal increases what the region can offer them.

The land release also fits perfectly with the dreams of Davidson County tourism leaders to create trails for hikers, cyclists and horse riders along the Yadkin from Boone's Cave down to the Trading Ford, where they could cross the Wil-Cox Bridge to reach the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer. The LandTrust has already acquired ownership or conservation easements on more than 1,000 acres along the Yadkin and South Yadkin rivers in Rowan and Davie counties and is talking with landowners on the Davidson side.

The land release also fits perfectly with the dreams of history lovers to preserve the Trading Ford as a rich site of native American villages, pioneer crossings and Revolutionary War and Civil War battles - a heritage that also could be shared with tourists. In the coming week, the Spencer Zoning Board of Adjustment will decide whether to give final local approval for development of a sports car and motorcycle race course in the Trading Ford. Spencer officials need to ask themselves, seriously, if the clutter, noise and congestion of a racetrack is compatible with the natural vision for the region that Alcoa's generous land offer makes more achievable.

The Salisbury Post

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The agreement in principle proposed by Alcoa Power Generating Inc. as part of its relicensing negotiations has several positives for Rowan and nearby counties, including the opportunity to expand parks and recreation areas, provide steadier lake levels and secure long-term protection for properties that impact water quality.

The relicensing proposal for Alcoa's Yadkin River operations potentially involves more than 6,000 acres of land, including 2,500 acres in the vicinity of High Rock Lake. It would provide Rowan residents with a new swimming beach and a fishing pier, while expanding Eagle Point Nature Preserve. From a regional perspective, it would help consolidate long-term plans for enhancing the Yadkin-Pee Dee corridor's attractiveness as a destination for hikers, boaters, campers and fishermen, as well as a haven for retirees. All of that is contingent, of course, on federal regulators giving their blessing and on stakeholders -- primarily state and federal agencies, as well as private groups -- having the money to fund these significant land purchases.

For High Rock lake residents, the proposal might not smooth all the troubled waters of the past, but it addresses their main concern -- undulating lake levels -- by providing for a maximum fluctuation of four feet during the prime April-October recreational season, while limiting drawdowns to 10 feet the rest of the year.

For all the positives, however, the ongoing negotiations have yet to resolve one major issue: the long-term disagreement between the city of Salisbury and Alcoa over who bears responsibility for sedimentation problems at the city's water intake station upstream from High Rock Lake. The city argues that High Rock dam and the water behind it are largely responsible for heavy sediment and periodic flooding that create a costly maintenance problem and could impair the water system. Salisbury officials cite a city-funded study that attributes sediment buildup to the downstream lake. But these waters are muddier than the Yadkin itself. While Alcoa officials acknowledge having some impact on what happens upstream, they contend other factors -- including increased development and runoff along the river -- are also involved, and they cite another study to back up their position.

Salisbury officials went to Washington earlier this year to make their case with federal officials, and they've asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to require more sedimentation studies. Perhaps more study would help clarify who's muddying the waters, and FERC officials may take that into consideration as they weigh Alcoa's application. It's unlikely, however, that Alcoa and Salisbury will ever see eye to eye on this murky issue. The solution won't lie in tracing clouds of sediment but in tacking toward a compromise that spreads remediation costs as fairly as possible while providing longterm protection for the Salisbury-Rowan water supply.

Given that 35 different stakeholders are involved in the relicensing talks, no proposal will please everyone. But the agreement holds the promise of improving life for High Rock property owners and lake users, while offering unique conservation possibilities for Rowan County and the Piedmont.