

Addendum 2 – South Carolina State Water Planning Framework

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Summary

This document describes changes to the boundaries of four of the eight regional planning basins originally described in the South Carolina State Planning Framework (Planning Framework), published in October 2019. Revisions were approved by the South Carolina Planning Process Advisory Committee and are effective as of November 1st, 2022. To request additional information please contact Scott Harder (harders@dnr.sc.gov).

Planning regions as described in the Planning Framework were defined as the eight major river basins in the State – Broad, Catawba, Edisto, Pee Dee, Saluda, Salkehatchie, Santee, and Savannah (Figure A2-1). The basin boundaries were those used by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for its water quality assessments.

The modified basins are the Saluda, Santee, Savannah, and Salkehatchie basins. The new planning basins are now designated as the Broad, Catawba, Edisto, Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie, Pee Dee, Saluda, Santee, and Upper Savannah (Figure A2-2).

Revisions to the Savannah and Salkehatchie Planning Basin Boundaries

The Savannah basin was divided into the Lower Savannah and Upper Savannah with the divide located at the confluence of Stevens Creek with the mainstem Savannah River. The Lower Savannah was also combined with the Salkehatchie basin to form a new planning region, the Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie, which lies almost entirely within the Coastal Plain. The primary reason for dividing the Savannah basin and combining the lower portion with the Salkehatchie was to account for differences in basin characteristics between the Upper Savannah, which is dominated by large reservoirs and has minimal groundwater resources, and the Lower Savannah, which has no mainstem reservoirs and substantial groundwater resources. By combining the Lower Savannah with the Salkehatchie, which have similar hydrogeologic characteristics, groundwater availability assessments for both original basins will be reviewed by one River Basin Council (RBC) instead of two separate councils, leading to increased efficiency in the planning process and reduced costs in the long-term. In addition, the RBC for the Upper Savannah will be able to focus primarily on surface water in their planning process.

SCDNR and the PPAC will emphasize the importance of forming an Interbasin River Council (IRC) for the Upper Savannah and Lower Savannah-Salkehatchie basins. An IRC consists of members from both RBCs and has several important roles, which include communicating information, working together to address issues or challenges common to both planning basins, and resolving any conflicts which may arise during the planning process.

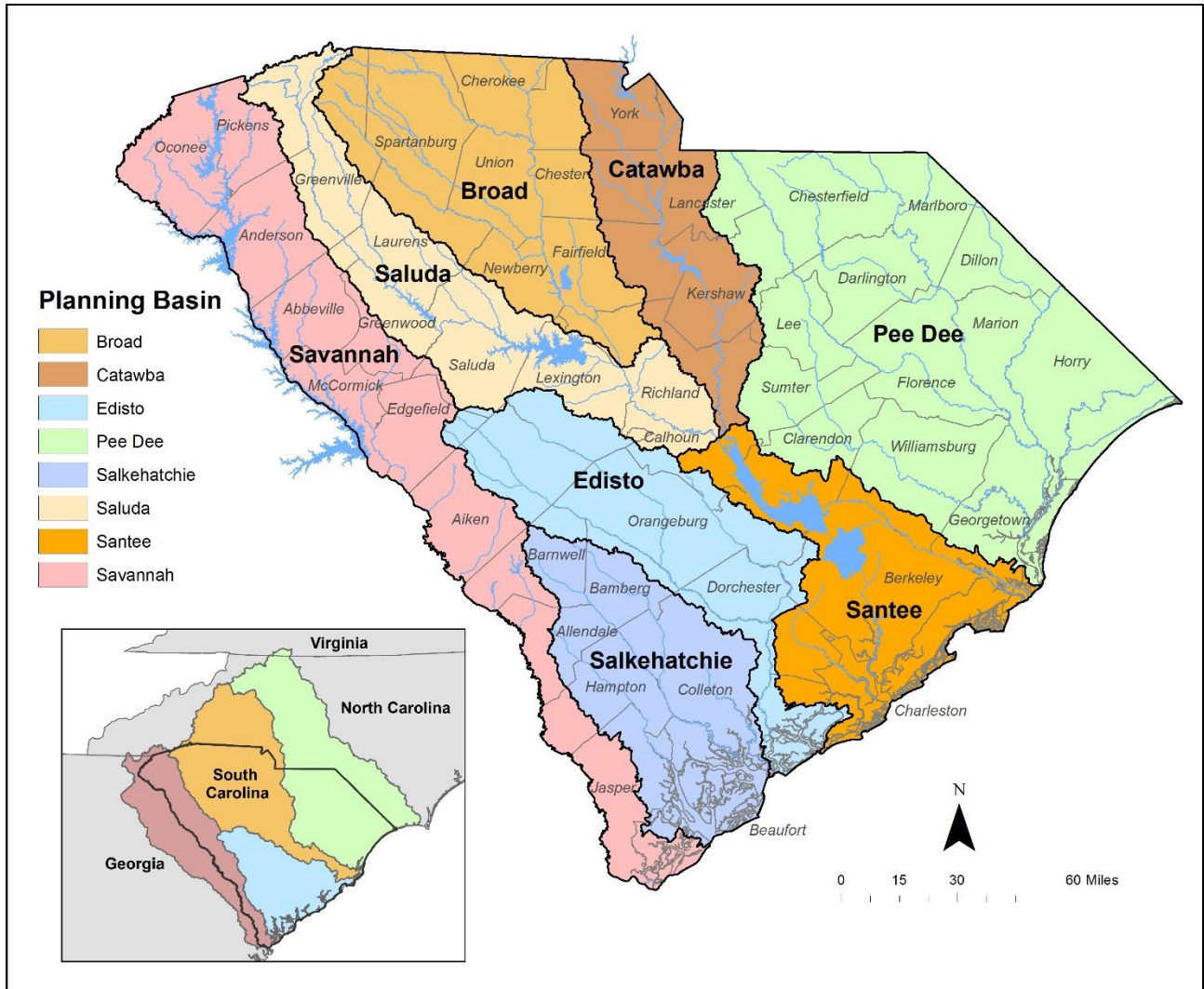


Figure A2-1. Original South Carolina Planning Basins as defined in the Planning Framework.

Revisions to the Saluda and Santee Planning Basin Boundaries

The lower boundary of the Saluda planning basin is now delineated at the confluence of the Saluda River and the Broad River instead of the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers. The Congaree River portion of the original Saluda planning basin has been incorporated into the Santee planning basin. Like the Savannah, the new boundary accounts for differences in basin characteristics between the Saluda mainstem above the confluence with the Broad, which is located almost entirely within the Piedmont region, and the Congaree portion of the original Saluda planning basin, which is entirely within the Coastal Plain. The RBC for the revised Saluda basin will be able to focus primarily on surface water planning, while the RBC for the Santee planning basin will still focus on both groundwater and surface water resources. As with the Savannah, the revised Saluda-Santee basin boundary will allow for increased efficiency in the

planning process as only the Santee RBC will need to assess groundwater availability, allowing the Saluda RBC to focus on primarily on surface water assessments.

SCDNR and the PPAC will emphasize the importance of forming an IRC for the Saluda, Broad, and Santee basins. The IRC will be tasked with communicating information, working together to address issues or challenges common to these planning basins, and resolving any conflicts which may arise during the planning process.

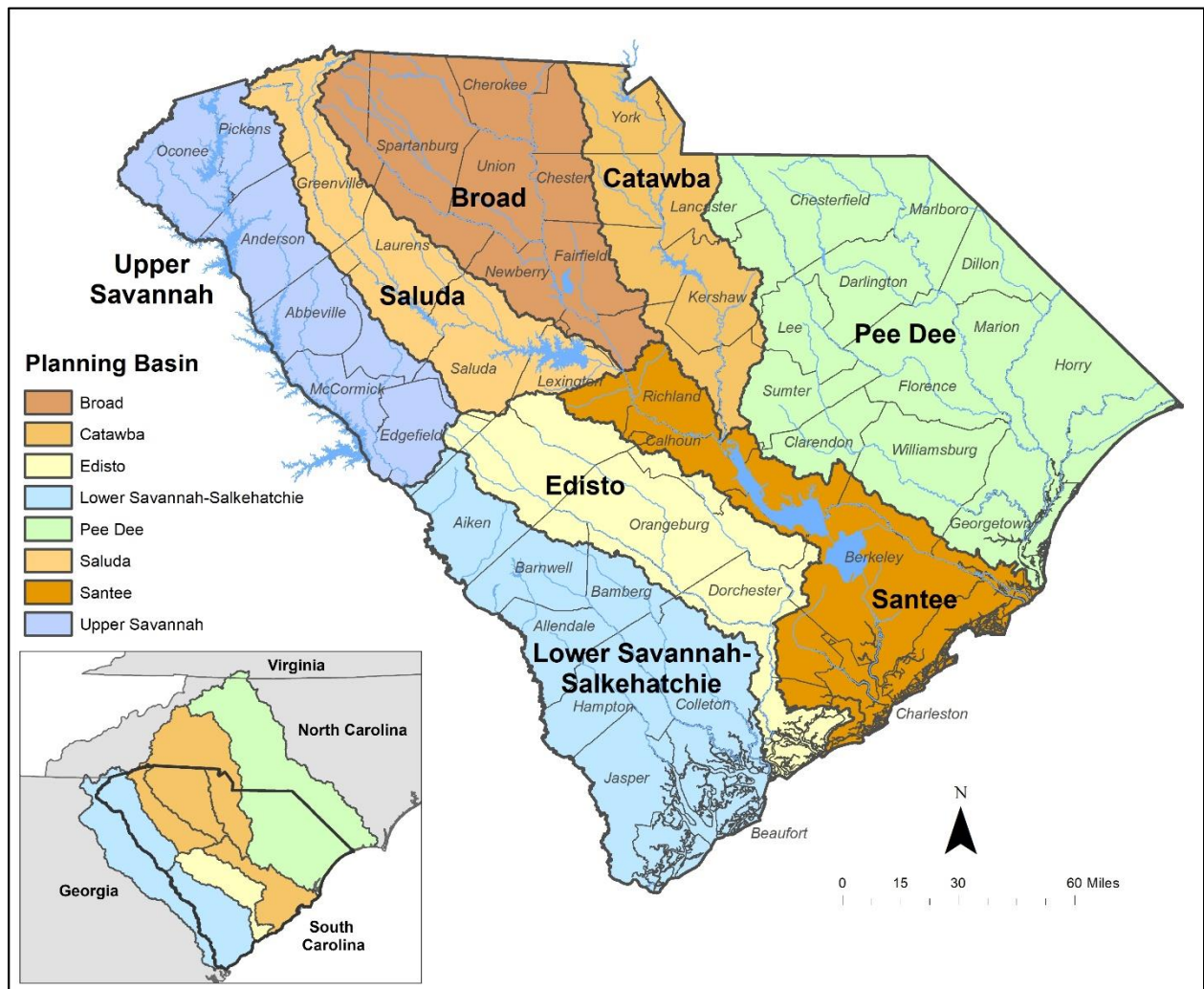


Figure A2-2. New South Carolina Planning Basins effective November 1st, 2022.