



September 18, 2026

Via Electronic Filing

Honorable Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2232)
Notification of Temporary Access Area Closure associated with Aquatic Invasive Species
Treatment

Dear Secretary Reese:

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy), licensee for the Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project No. 2232 (Project), is providing notice to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) of the temporary closure of the Taylors Creek Access Area at Lake Wateree due to the presence of and planned treatment for the invasive Giant Salvinia. Treatment is being executed and managed by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES). Work is expected to begin this month and may require a closure of 12 months, possibly more.

For public awareness, Duke Energy has updated its Water Access Alerts website (duke-energy.com/community/lakes) and the Duke Energy Lake View mobile app with the closure notice and will maintain those notices throughout the treatment process, including any schedule changes. Additionally, the SCDES is providing and posting fact sheets about the access area closure and the treatment plans. See Enclosure 1.

The temporary closure is necessary to ensure the health of this natural resource and to prevent further spread of the plant to other areas of the lake. Duke Energy will inform the Commission if the schedule changes and will provide notification upon the completion of the project.

Please contact Christy Churchill (Christy.Churchill@Duke-Energy.com), 980.373.4183 if you have any questions regarding the notification addressed in this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Hartis", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brett Hartis, PHD
Senior Project Manager
Regulated & Renewable Energy
Duke Energy
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828-442-7339

cc: Christy Churchill, Duke Energy



Fact Sheet

South Carolina Department of Environmental Services • des.sc.gov

Lake Wateree Invasive Giant Salvinia Treatment *Temporary Closure of Taylors Creek Access Area*

To prevent the spread of invasive plants, **Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy) is temporarily closing Taylors Creek Access Area on Lake Wateree. Duke Energy made this decision to support the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) while the agency conducts herbicide treatments for giant salvinia in impacted areas of the Taylors Creek cove, including the boat ramp area.** SCDES has completed 9 small treatments on Lake Wateree ranging from 0.25 to 9 acres in size in the last year and is working to eradicate giant salvinia in the lake.

Giant salvinia was first detected in Lake Wateree in October 2025 and currently presents a serious threat to the native ecological community. Giant salvinia is an invasive, rapidly-growing floating fern capable of doubling its coverage in less than a week. It forms dense mats which outgrow and replace the native plants that provide food and habitat for waterfowl and other animals. Mats can create navigation issues and disrupt fishing and recreation. The plant can also clog drinking water intakes and reduce water quality.

Giant salvinia spreads by hitchhiking on boats, trailers and other equipment. The giant salvinia growing along the Taylors Creek Access Area boat ramp is likely to spread to other areas of the lake and to other water bodies due to people entering and exiting from the ramp, which is why Duke Energy has agreed to close the ramp until the giant salvinia has been eradicated.



Left: Giant salvinia (the small floating plants) pictured mixed with cutgrass (larger, blade-shaped leaves). Photo courtesy of Duke Energy. Middle: A mature giant salvinia plant with a salvinia weevil is pictured. Photo courtesy of Santee Cooper. Right: A cove on the Santee Cooper system filled with giant salvinia. Photo courtesy of Santee Cooper.

For more information, contact SCDES's Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program

Email: invasiveweeds@des.sc.gov | Phone: 803-898-0033 | Submit an online sighting report at des.sc.gov/anp

Lake Wateree Invasive/Nuisance Vegetation Treatment *Temporary Irrigation and Drinking Water Restrictions for Lake Water*

To help control invasive plant species, the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) will conduct herbicide treatments in impacted areas of the Taylors Creek cove from **S Waters Edge Dr** to **State Park Rd** (see map on reverse side of document) on **Tuesday, Sept. 22** or **Wednesday, Sept. 23**, weather permitting.

Why is herbicide treatment necessary?

Giant salvinia was first detected in Lake Wateree in October 2025 and currently presents a serious threat to the native ecological community. Giant salvinia is an invasive, rapidly-growing floating fern capable of doubling its coverage in less than a week. It forms dense mats which outgrow and replace the native plants that provide food and habitat for waterfowl and other animals. Mats can create navigation issues and disrupt fishing and recreation. The plant can also clog drinking water intakes and reduce water quality.

The SCDES Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program has been working to control this invasive species, completing 8 small treatments on Lake Wateree ranging from 0.25 to 5 acres in size in the last year. We recently observed more giant salvinia growing around and under other vegetation, mainly alligatorweed and water primrose. Alligatorweed and water primrose are also invasive species which will need to be controlled to treat the giant salvinia.



*Left: Giant salvinia (the small floating plants) pictured mixed with cutgrass (larger, blade-shaped leaves). Photo courtesy of Duke Energy.
Right: A mature giant salvinia plant with a salvinia weevil is pictured. Photo courtesy of Santee Cooper.*

Typically, the most effective method for the management of specific high-weed areas of a lake is the use of aquatic herbicides that are regulated by the U.S. EPA. These herbicides are applied in a targeted manner, following the label guidelines, and in the smallest amounts needed. Herbicide treatments are commonly used along with non-chemical methods — such as biological controls (like sterile grass carp) and lake drawdowns to manage problematic vegetation and improve navigation in lakes. The mechanical removal of invasive vegetation is rarely used because it's expensive and often causes additional problems, such as spreading the vegetation via fragmentation and removing invertebrates and small fish that support the local food chain.

What should I know about these herbicides?

Licensed applicators will apply these EPA- and state-approved herbicides to impacted areas: ***AquaNeat, PondKlear, and methylated seed oil*** (an adjuvant that helps the herbicide stay on the plants). These herbicides will be applied directly to the target plants by spray gun.

We ask that you complete the survey at des.sc.gov/LakeWatereePrivateWaterIntakes to report any intakes drawing water from the cove and/or to request to be notified of herbicide applications and associated water-use restrictions. **Do not irrigate yards, gardens or ornamental plants using lake water from the treated area and turn off any intakes used for drinking water from Sept. 22 through Sept. 25.**

Do not enter the area while treatment is in progress. The water is safe to enter once application is completed but avoid ingesting lake water. There are **no other swimming, fishing or recreational water use restrictions** for these products at the rates they will be applied.

AquaNeat, PondKlear, and methylated seed oil are registered by the U.S. EPA and Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation for safe use in the aquatic environment. The approval process for these herbicides requires stringent testing over many years and strict regulation for proper use.

Anyone with questions should contact SCDES's Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program

Email: invasiveweeds@des.sc.gov | Phone: 803-898-0033 | Submit a sighting report at des.sc.gov/anp

