

**Roanoke Rapids and Gaston  
FERC Project Number 2009  
Article 424 *Whitewater Boating Plan*  
CMT Performance Indicator Meeting  
March 18, 2005  
Meeting Notes**

1. Attendees

Greg Lawson	City of Roanoke Rapids
Mike Watson	City of Roanoke Rapids
Jim Mead	NC DENR
Chirs Wicker	Halifax County
Paul Ferguson	Carolina Canoe Club
Jim Thornton	Dominion

2. License Update

Jim T. reviewed the licensing process for those who were not familiar with the reason for meeting. He noted that though the license was issued 3/31/2004, the rehearing was not completed and a revised license order issued until 3/04/2005. Though the Settlement Agreement stated this meeting was required within one year of Dominion "accepting" the license, the license language required the evaluation meeting within one year of license issuance.

3. Review of Settlement Article RC2 and License Article 424

The articles were briefly discussed for background. Jim T. noted that these along with the plan are available for review on the Lake Information web page.

4. Review of Whitewater Boating Plan (Submitted to FERC 12/09/2008)

The primary portion of the plan reviewed (everyone had had the opportunity to comment on the plan prior submittal to FERC) was section 7 that requires the establishment of indicators to determine if objectives of the License and plan are being met.

Mike and Greg were concerned that the 3300 cfs upper limit would be too high for the Weldon rapid or wave. Jim M. pointed out that the recreation study performed during relicensing looked at the whole reach from the Route 48 bridge to Weldon and the 2000 - 3300 cfs seemed to be generally good flows for the entire reach. Mike thought the entire reach was equally acceptable within the range but the Weldon rapid was best closer to 2000 cfs. Jim T. suggested that since the plan or first period of evaluation is for 5 years, that this would be a "decision" discussion at the 5-year enhancement meeting. It was also discussed that Dominion's preferred method of operation for most of the time was to be as close to 2000 cfs when not peaking.

5. Review of webpage layout

Though not yet “on line”, Jim T. showed the draft web page. Two specific changes are needed. (1) On the *Flow Season and Recreation Overview* page, the language needs to be changed to indicate washout “begins to occur” at 20’ Halifax gage. (2) On the *River Reach Description* page, change “0” for rapids class to “flatwater”. He also informed the group that the webpage would go live within 30 days of receiving FERC approval of the plan. It was suggested (Jim T. agreed) to add the Roanoke River Partners web site to the Dominion web page.

6. Review of Cooperative Management Teams consensus decisions

The method for consensus decision making per the license was discussed. It was pointed out that consensus decisions are decisions everyone can “live with”, or support, but not necessarily agree with. Also, each of the five groups represented on the CMTs can bring as many persons to meetings as are required to accomplish objectives, but at a time a vote or decision needs to be made, each of the five parties has one vote or voice each.

7. Brainstorm indicators

- a. Settlement required data enough?
- b. How to evaluate data

These two questions were posed to the group. Consensus was the data stated in the plan as required for Dominion to collect is initially sufficient to evaluate the effectiveness of the whitewater recreation required in the license. However, additional information that would be welcome if anyone in the group of attendees would be willing to take pictures at times they used the rapids or reach of river, they would submit the pictures to Dominion along with river conditions and time and date of the photos. Also suggested was Dominion should take the 31 day snapshots of the flow data to not lose USGS gage data hourly values. Jim T. said this would be done along with likely collecting data every weekend to ensure the 9 weekends of data collection were met.

Section 7 of the *Whitewater Boating Plan* does not mention compiling data from the Roanoke Rapids gage to evaluate success of the plan. The group agreed this is an important data point and should be included.

The group also decided that since it had not had a chance to evaluate one year’s data and indicators, that it would meet again next year about this time to evaluate the first year’s data (report to be completed by February 2006 for the 2005 paddle year).

Another suggestion made was to consider a “spike” of flow on the Sunday afternoons to coincide with Dominion’s load spike, or perhaps a once a year scheduled spike event. Jim T. said he considered this to be an “enhancement” and should be considered at the 5-year cycle.

It was also suggested that Dominion collect data on “emergencies”. Jim T. noted that emergencies are documented in the station operation log.

Jim T will let the group know when the *Whitewater Boating Plan* is approved by FERC and when the web page goes “live” on the Dominion web page.

8. Review of Meeting Notes

Jim T. said once the draft notes were complete he would send each member an electronic copy for review. Once comments were in, he will submit to FERC and post on the Dominion web page.

9. Post Meeting Notes

Conservation with station operations and review of other license requirements, the following should be noted:

a. Dominion’s FERC license requires compliance with state standards for dissolved oxygen. There are times when discharges must be increased in order to meet the standards.

b. Per the settlement agreement, Dominion is required to release 78,000 lbs of dissolved oxygen per day. This if the oxygen is low (at or near state standards) the only way to meet the requirement is to increase discharges. Dominion will make effort to do this later in the day.

c. During the last half of June (June 16 - 30), minimum flow required by the license is 2,800 cfs.