

May, 2018 LLA Debris Committee Presentation to Runaway Bay HOA
Notes by Randy Weiss, LLA Debris Committee Co-Chair

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Leesville Lake Association (LLA)

My husband, Jim and I have been members of the LLA for over 10 years which basically meant we paid the annual \$25 dues. When we formed our Debris Committee in June, 2017, Jim became a LLA Board Member. Only then did we realize the extent of the work that the LLA does on behalf of LL users and residents. Beside the Debris Committee, the LLA supports committees such as Water Quality, Navigation, Beautification Day-all of which greatly contribute to the safety and quality of life on Leesville Lake.

Beyond the compliance issues discussed below, the LLA makes essential decisions on the residents' behalf. We urge all residents to become a member of the LLA and keep tabs on what is being voted on, as the issues are all about you and your investment. Visit the LLA website (see "Pertinent Resources" below) and read the monthly minutes. There are scheduled "open meetings" but ALL LLA meetings are open to all members.

The Leesville Lake Association Debris Committee:

Our committee is composed of 9 members from varying professional backgrounds and LLA communities. The APCo website (see "Pertinent Resources" below) describes its obligation to both Leesville and Smith Mountain lakes as "*... an economic engine for the localities adjacent to the two lakes, home to thousands of people and a source of recreation to fishermen, water skiers, wakeboarders, boaters and tourists ... and that Appalachian, first and foremost, maintain safe and clear waterways*" Our committee's goal is to confirm that APCo is compliant and true to the above stated mission, especially as it pertains to safety issues.

ISSUES CONCERNING LLA DEBRIS

- **Who is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and safety of LLA?** AEP (American Energy Power)

LOCAL: APCo/ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA

PARENT CORPORATION: AEP/OHIO

“The Smith Mountain Lake Project” is the title for the License Agreement with FERC. It includes Leesville Lake and Smith Mountain Lake.

- **In what capacity are they responsible?**

FERC LICENSING AGREEMENT

(Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)

FERC is the federal agency that licenses hydropower projects such as the power-generating dam operation at Leesville Lake and Smith Mountain Lake. The License provides the rules, regulations, limitations that AEP must abide by. You will find the link to the AEP/FERC License on “Pertinent Resources” below. I urge you to read the terms of the FERC License.

NOTE: AEP’s contractual obligation is not to LL or Smith Mountain Lake. AEP is solely accountable to FERC.

- **What is one’s recourse if a company like AEP appears to be non-compliant with the License Agreement?**

A formal complaint with FERC is not something to file lightly.

This would be our Committee’s last step in our cause. Prior to filing with FERC, we would want to prove that we have done everything possible to solve the problem with the local agencies/entities, and have been taking steps to operate in this format since the inception of our committee.

TLAC (The Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission)

TLAC is another agency that is essential to this process. TLAC **is** misnamed because it actually involves FOUR counties that border Leesville Lake: BEDFORD, CAMPBELL, FRANKLIN AND PITTSYLVANIA. TLAC’s office is located in Moneta, VA. TLAC is funded by the four counties and helps to coordinate late-related issues and actions with representatives of each county, currently county supervisors.

A LLA board member represents the interests of Leesville Lake at TLAC meetings. Representative issues include water quality, aquatic vegetation, navigation markers, debris clean-up, etc.

NOTE: TLAC's mandate is to represent all people who live, own property, homes, and/or businesses on LL. It does not officially represent Associations per se. TLAC plays an essential role regarding Leeville Lake Debris as it is responsible for making sure that the terms of the Licensing Agreement between AEP and FERC are being carried out. This is why it is **so essential** that residents file debris reports via TLAC as TLAC monitors and logs these reports in a process designed to hold AEP accountable for cleaning the lake. **At the end of each year, AEP has to file their Technical Review Committee Report on Debris to FERC. Their report is reviewed, corrected, etc. by TLAC and by the LLA representatives (Jim and I on behalf of our committee).**

Here is TLAC's own description of their agency and services:

What is TLAC? Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission

- A governmental agency created to serve SML and LVL area residents and local governments.

What Do We Do?

Our Functions Include:

- Assist residents in reporting debris in the lake.
- Assist residents in reporting malfunctioning navigation aids.
- Responsible for some shoal and rock markers.
- Manage volunteer Adopter programs for navigation aids.
- Responsible for management/control of invasive aquatic vegetation.
- Liaison interacting with American Electric Power related to aspects of their License.
- Resource for local and regional information.
- Coordination of volunteer committees who make recommendations related to lake issues. Current volunteer committees are:
 - Navigation
 - Environmental
 - Vessel Pump Out

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

- Over the last year, our committee has become very up close and personal with the AEP/FERC LICENSE. We have regularly and consistently relayed our concerns to APCo. This is a work-in-progress, and an on-going process.
- Debris Committee Member Representatives have been invited to go on AEP Monthly inspections of Leesville Lake. In this capacity, we have been able to suggest areas that we think need to be subsequently addressed.
- APCo has urged our committee to educate lake residents about what they do and do not do. We believe the best way for you to be educated on this topic is to read the FERC License yourself and draw your own conclusions. (Please see “Pertinent Resources” for the link to the FERC License).

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

- As a resident of LL, your investment in your property, and your safety and joy of living on this lake are tremendously affected by how APCo regards its obligation and compliance to the FERC License.
- Please join the LLA and stay attuned to the actions of the Board by reading the Monthly Minutes as posted on the LLA Website (see “Pertinent Resources”). Please offer your opinion to the issues at hand by Email, phone or in person at the meetings.
- Report debris to TLAC/Leesville Lake each and every day that you see debris on the lake. This is the strongest way that you can support the Debris Committee’s efforts to work on your behalf. **Do not become frustrated if your efforts seem in vain due to lack of communication from APCo.** Your complaints are being recorded and registered by our committee.

PERTINENT RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS OF LEESVILLE LAKE

THE LEESVILLE LAKE ASSOCIATION

www.leesvillelake.org

AEP (AMERICAN ENERGY POWER)

APCO (APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY)

APCo generates and transmits power via Smith Mountain Lake and Leesville Lake. Via a FERC Licensing Agreement, they are responsible for the safety, cleanliness and aesthetics on Leesville Lake. This is referred to as the *Smith Mountain Lake Project* (but includes Leesville Lake)

www.aep.com

TLAC (Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission)

TLAC actually serves FOUR Counties that border Leesville/Smith Mountain Lakes. TLAC is funded by these four counties. Among other important responsibilities, TLAC ascertains that AEP is acting in compliance with the terms of the FERC License. TLAC represents all people who live, own property, homes, businesses on Leesville Lake.

www.sml.us.com

FERC (The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)

FERC is a federal agency that regulates interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas and oil. FERC is the agency that licenses hydropower projects, such as the power-generating dam operation at Leesville Lake and Smith Mountain Lake. AEP's responsibility for the safety, cleanliness and aesthetics of Leesville Lake is dictated by their Licensing Agreement with FERC.

www.ferc.com

ACCESS TO THE AEP/FERC LICENSE AGREEMENT:

<http://www.smithmtn.com/DebrisMgmtPlan/docs/DebrisVersion-FinalbasedonFERCOrder.pdf>

LEESVILLE LAKE ASSOCIATION DEBRIS COMMITTEE:

Jim and Randy Weiss (Co-Chairs); Dave Rives; Pam and Gary McMillan; Jim and Wanda Riccione, and Frank and Barbara Podrebarac.

Contact: Jim and Randy Weiss at www.greathall@greathall.com

HOW TO REPORT DEBRIS ON LEESVILLE LAKE

In 2017, the Leesville Lake Debris Committee was formed on behalf of the Leesville Lake Association. Our committee consists of Jim and Randy Weiss (Co-Chairs); Frank and Barb Podrebarac; Jim and Wanda Riccione, Gary and Pam Mcmillan, and Dave Rives.

We are a very dedicated, hard-working committee. Our purpose is to address debris on Leesville Lake, including AEP's ongoing participation in keeping the lake clear of debris that potentially poses a safety hazard for public use, and the overall aesthetics and enjoyment of our beautiful lake.

We are encouraging all residents of Leesville Lake to
**Email complaints and STILL-photos regarding lake debris to
BOTH of THESE TWO ON-LINE ADDRESSES:**

debris@lvl.us.com

TLAC (Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission)

AND

lvlakedebris@leesvillelake.org

The Leesville Lake Debris Committee

TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION CREDIBLE and VERIFIABLE
the following data must be included:

- **Your address, phone number and/or Email (if Email, include a statement as follows: "I give TLAC/AEP permission to contact me by Email").** This information is critical because AEP historically has, and should respond to you regarding your complaint, so we wish to assure that they have your correct contact information.
- **Mile Marker Number of debris locale or a landmark or address that would describe the area.**
- **Still-photos ONLY are accepted** (Do NOT send Videos or other formats)
- Please send only one complaint per specific incident, per family

Your participation is greatly needed and we urge you to alert our committee and TLAC EVERY time you recognize unsightly debris in your locale.

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions, **(other than debris photos/complaints, which should be sent to the g-mail address above),** please contact us at greathall@greathall.com.

Jim and Randy Weiss

Leesville Lake Debris Committee Co-Chairs