



Happy Halloween from Congaree Riverkeeper

Congaree Riverkeeper works to protect and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation on the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Broad Rivers through advocacy, education and enforcement of environmental laws.

River Watch

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We would like to thank certified public accountants [Derrick Stubbs & Stith](#) for their tremendous assistance to our organization.

We would also like to thank [Access Analytical Inc.](#) for assisting us with our water quality monitoring program and for becoming a small business member.

October marked the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. To read our Letter to the Editor published in the State Newspaper about the importance of this environmental legislation click [here](#).

Discharge Permit Approved for New Nuclear Reactors on the Broad River

On October 11th the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control approved an [NPDES permit](#) for SCE&G's VC Summer Nuclear Station Units 2 and 3 located in Jenkinsville, SC. Through our participation in the public comment process we were able to effect positive changes in that permit to better protect the Broad River.



Upon initial review of the permit application, we noticed that the low flow estimate (the [7Q10](#)) for the Broad River was too high and the data used to calculate it did not include several recent years of drought conditions. Working with our partners on this issue, we were able to get DHEC to use a significantly longer record of data and lower the 7Q10. The lowered 7Q10 resulted in stricter permit limits. We were also successful in getting stricter guidelines for temperature monitoring added to the permit as well as a requirement to notify downstream water suppliers in the case of any system failure that has the potential to affect the quality of water withdrawn for drinking water purposes.

Along with our partners on this issue, we also met with representatives of the City of Columbia to discuss some of our concerns over the expansion of the nuclear facility. As a result of those meetings, the City has committed to conduct annual radiological monitoring at the water treatment plant on the Broad River and City staff will now play a larger role in emergency management planning and coordination.

Our position has long been that, as a state and a region, we need to find a balance between our environment and our growing energy demands, and that we should always use the strongest science and best data to make these important decisions. We will continue to work on this issue and plan on commenting on the [Surface Water Withdrawal Permit](#) when SCE&G applies for it.

Congaree Riverkeeper Supports the Penny Tax

Earlier this month the Congaree Riverkeeper Board of Directors voted to endorse the Richland County Special Use and Sales Tax,

Last week SCE&G tested the spillway gates at the Lake Murray Dam. To view our video of that test click [here](#)

If you see a pollution concern call us at (803) 760-3357 or [email us](#). We will investigate.



commonly known as the penny tax. Richland County voters will decide whether to add another penny to our sales tax on November 6th in order to fund public transit, road improvements, and greenways, including the River Alliance's Lower Saluda River Greenway plan.

Earlier this year we started a petition to our local elected officials asking them to find a way to fund the Lower Saluda River Greenway. With the help of over 600 signatures on our petition, we were able to get the Lower Saluda Greenway added to the penny tax project list. We thank Richland County Council and Columbia City Council for recognizing the value that this project can bring to the Midlands. The penny tax represents the best shot at building this greenway, restoring public access to the Lower Saluda River and truly embracing one of our region's greatest natural treasures. In addition to the Lower Saluda River Greenway, the penny tax project list includes greenways on Crane Creek, Gills Creek, Smith Branch, Rocky Branch and a long awaited section along the Congaree River that would connect Granby Park to Riverfront Park. These projects are equally important in improving public access to our rivers and urban streams, which will contribute to our region's quality of life. To learn more about the proposed penny tax [click here](#).

Please visit our website at <http://www.congareeriverkeeper.org>.
Donate to our cause at <http://congareeriverkeeper.org/become-member-help-clean-our-waterways>.