

Claytor Lake  
Aids to Navigation Study Plan  
Stakeholder Meeting  
November 13, 2008

**I. INTRODUCTION:**

On November 13, 2008, Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian) hosted a meeting at the Water's Edge Meeting Room in the Claytor Lake State Park to discuss existing and proposed aids to navigation on Claytor Lake. Invited to attend were local marina operators, the sailing association, fishing groups, the Friends of Claytor Lake, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, boat rental businesses, Pulaski County, the Boy Scouts, and the Isaac Walton League. The meeting began at 3 PM and adjourned at approximately 4:25 PM.

Meeting participants included the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Wes Billings	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)
Larry Moore	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA)
Johnny Garrett	Claytor Lake Water Sport
Ron Powers	Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL)
Laura Bullard	FOCL
Robert Strenz	FOCL
Cheri Strenz	FOCL
Tom McCarthy	Pulaski County, Virginia
Ruth Ratcliff	Conrad Brothers
Hillary Roope	Conrad Brothers
Teresa Rogers	Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian)
Mark McGlothlin	Appalachian

Larry Slusher

American Electric Power

Liz Parcell

Appalachian

Liz Parcell welcomed all present and introduced Appalachian representatives. She noted that Appalachian is the licensee for the Claytor Project and that the current license expires on June 30, 2011. Appalachian is currently conducting twelve studies, one of which is the Aids to Navigation Study, in an effort to relicense the project. The Aids to Navigation Study includes 5 objectives:

1. Inventory the existing shoal/rock markers on Claytor reservoir and develop GIS mapping.
2. Develop a set of guidelines for determining the conditions under which additional navigational markers on Claytor reservoir should be approved.
3. Using information obtained from the bathymetry survey, knowledge of the reservoir, and the guidelines that have been developed, determine the need and location for additional navigational markers on Claytor reservoir.
4. Identify processes to address safety related issues on Claytor Lake, including the process for the approval, installation, inspection and maintenance of navigational markers.
5. Verify and update information related to the heights of lines crossing Claytor Lake and evaluate need for modifications.

In order to accomplish the objectives, field studies were conducted to obtain global positioning points for existing aid and mapping was developed including aerial photography, bathymetry and the existing aids. In addition, consultation is required of various agencies and stakeholders on the existing and proposed system. To date, the VDGIF and the USCG have been consulted. At Claytor Lake, the USCG has delegated its authority to the VDGIF.

Mrs. Parcell indicated that aids are intended to assist the mariner through adequate water depths; there is no documentation on anyone ever getting lost on Claytor Lake.

Beginning at the upper end of the reservoir, Mark McGlothlin of Appalachian reviewed each proposed lateral aid, noting that the proposed system was developed primarily at the 1840 foot contour elevation in an effort to keep the boater in 6 feet of water. Some aids are in the 1836-1838 foot contour elevations in order to minimize the number of aids utilized. The majority of the proposed aids are between Lowman's Ferry Bridge and the Allisonia Public Boat Ramp.

Discussion topics included no wake buoy criteria, processes for approval, lighting, methods for marking Lowman's Ferry Bridge, and implementation.

Ms. Bullard asked when no-wake buoys should be approved. Mrs. Parcell responded that no-wake buoys are not used for erosion control but in high traffic areas such as marinas that pump gas and public boat ramps. The current process for requesting a no-wake buoy is to make application to the county and they send it to VDGIF for approval. It goes through the boating section in the Richmond, VA office. Mr. Billings offered to provide Mrs. Bullard the commonwealth's information on no-wake buoys.

It was questioned how quickly the shoals change. Appalachian responded that shoals will be monitored in the future although an exact schedule hasn't been determined. There was a request to provide the bathymetry to the mariners. Ms. Parcell noted that it would be beneficial to have educational information at the boat ramps and on FOCL's mapping.

Discussion ensued regarding the bridge and clearance.

It was questioned if the proposed aids are mile markers and they are not. However, mile markers on land are an alternative but it is Appalachian's intent to mark the navigable waterway. These aids won't be installed until the license is approved. The aids will have lights. VDGIF indicated that the aids and the lights will be very helpful at night.

With regards to lighting of Lowman's bridge, the USCG specifications are now on the website and other options are listed in the study. Appalachian will discuss with VDOT to see what improvements can be made. It was noted that some sections are higher than others. Appalachian has requested drawings. Another option is paint piers with retro-reflective paint. An Aids to Navigation Management Plan will outline a process for implementation.

It was noted that many boaters have problems in front of the Bullard Farm. It was suggested that another aid be added at the Bullard Farm at the location of an existing shoal buoy.

Participants questioned the location of the downstream project boundary.

There was discussion regarding the no wake buoy locations in Hidden Valley cove.

Lighting will be 360 degrees. A program is used to determine light intensity. Lights are based on photocells.

Mrs. Parcell indicated that they would review the suggested modifications (relocating a red aid 125 feet downstream from its current location near Cardinal Drive and adding a

red lateral aid at the Bullard farm where there is currently a shoal buoy). She requested that anyone wishing to submit written comments to please do so by November 26<sup>th</sup> to [ebparcel@AEP.com](mailto:ebparcel@AEP.com). Maps are online at [www.claytorhydro.com](http://www.claytorhydro.com) There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:25.