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Removal of third dam on Twelve Mile River gets second look

Judge gives supporters of river's restoration chance to make case

BY ANNA SIMON • CLEMSON BUREAU • JULY 11, 2009

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CLEMSON — A hearing scheduled by a federal judge opens a second window for those who want a third dam removed from the Twelve Mile River and could modify a 2006 PCB remediation settlement.

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U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr. scheduled an Oct. 13 hearing on the third dam at the request of Upstate Forever, the Lake Hartwell Association and the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District.

"Unless that dam is removed, the whole river would not be restored," Greenville attorney Frank Holleman III, representing the three groups, said this week at a hearing Anderson held to find out why the two dams ordered removed in the settlement remain standing more than three years later.

The three groups asked Anderson to have Schlumberger remove the third dam as compensation for the delay in complying with the court's order.

Anderson told *The Greenville News* that he wants "a lot more information" first.

"I know it was in the negotiation last time. Whether it's got any PCBs behind it or what effect taking that dam down will have on the other two, I don't know," Anderson said.

Attorney John Hanson, who represented Schlumberger, made no comment during the hearing regarding removal of the third dam. "Schlumberger will present its position on the third dam at the Oct. 13 hearing," Hanson told *The Greenville News*.

The 2006 settlement orders Schlumberger Technology Corp. to remove two century-old dams that once provided electricity to a Cateechee

textile mill that ceased operation years ago. It instructs trustees to consider using other settlement money paid by Schlumberger to remove the third dam, which is owned and used by the Easley Central Water District.

Removal of the dams was ordered to complement a Superfund decision to allow clean sediment flowing downstream to cover PCB contamination on the floor of Lake Hartwell. The contamination has resulted in health warnings, posted at the lake for three decades, that advise against eating certain types of fish that contain PCBs, which have been linked to cancer and other health problems.



Supporters of removing the Easley Central dam on the Twelve Mile River say it's the only way to fully restore the river.

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