SCANA Insights

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Cover: Construction workers clean debris from steps on the downstream side of the new Lake Murray backup dam. The $275 million dam was officially dedicated June 23.

PHOTO BY ROBERT CLARK

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Lake Murray engineering

For almost three years, the building of the backup dam at Lake Murray has been the largest active dam construction project in the United States. Now, the unprecedented undertaking is almost finished.

"A project like this only comes along once in a lifetime," said Neville Lorick, president of SCE&G. "The completion of the backup dam guarantees that Lake Murray will continue to be a wonderful asset for the Midlands far into the future."

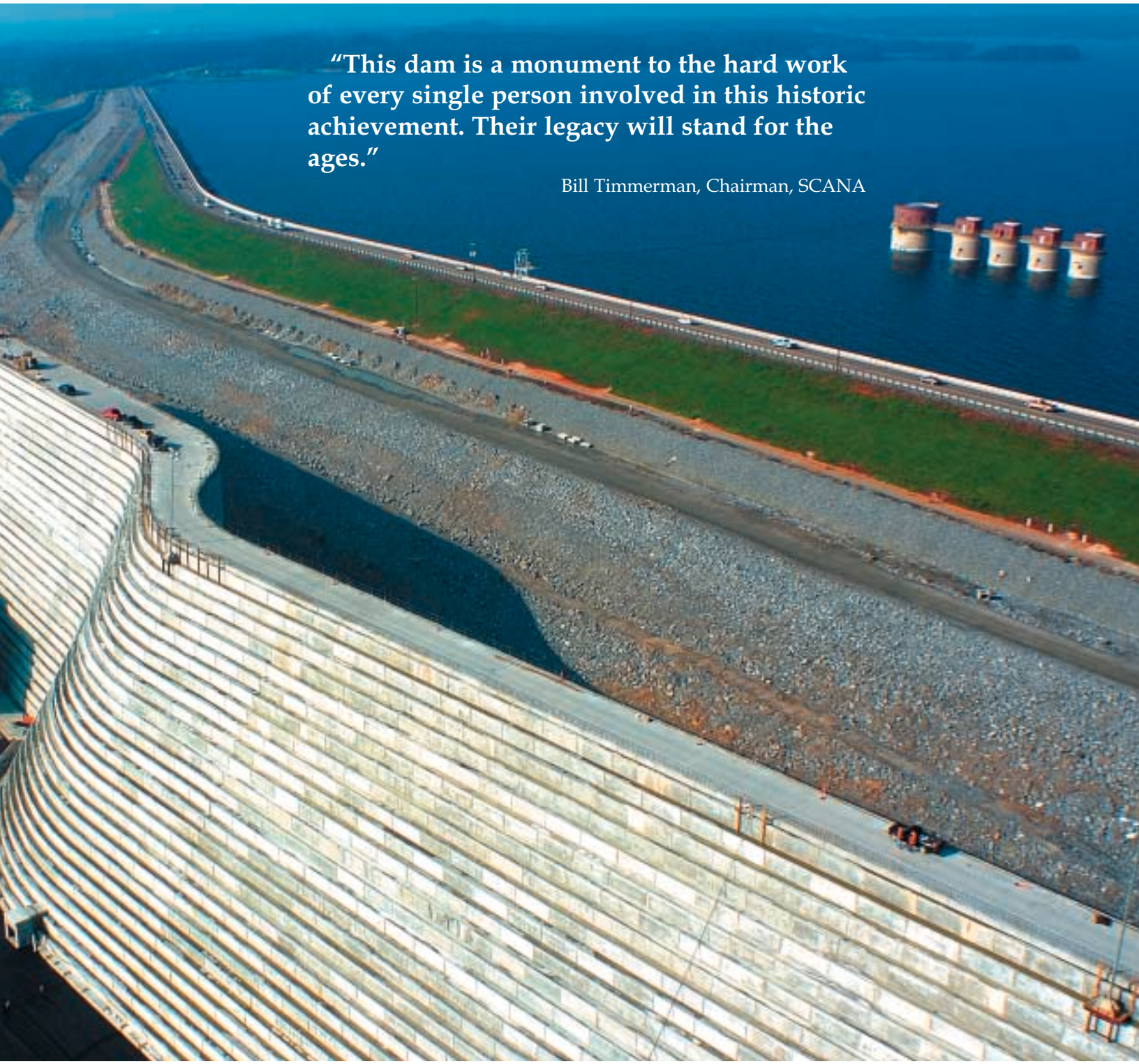
At a special ceremony June 23, representatives of SCE&G, the engineering firm Paul C. Rizzo Associates, Barnard Construction Co. and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission officially dedicated the $275 million structure.

The completion of the backup dam represents the culmination of 20 years of collaborative work between SCE&G, Rizzo and the FERC.

Photo by Christian Bright

ARTICLES BY JIM POINDEXTER

feat now complete



"This dam is a monument to the hard work of every single person involved in this historic achievement. Their legacy will stand for the ages."

Bill Timmerman, Chairman, SCANA

Helping SCANA Chairman Bill Timmerman cut the celebratory ribbon at the Lake Murray Backup Dam are SCE&G President Neville Lorick at left and FERC Chairman Pat Wood at right.

SCE&G was required by FERC to build the backup dam in order to meet current earthquake safety standards. The backup dam will provide flood protection to more than 135,000 people living downstream in the event a major earthquake damages the original Lake Murray dam.

Spanning 1.5 miles and rising to 200 feet at its highest point, the backup dam is a marvel of modern engineering. At each end are massive berms built with more than 4.75 million cubic yards of rock fill. These berms are connected to a 2,300-foot, roller-compacted concrete center section. The lake side of the center section is a sheer, vertical wall, while the downstream side resembles a giant staircase. At its base, the dam is 160 feet wide, and at the crest, only 20 feet wide. The 1.3 million cubic yards of concrete that comprise the center section is more concrete than exists in all of SCE&G's other power plants, including the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station.

Photo by Robert Clark

History
in the making

1980s

SCE&G and Paul C. Rizzo Associates evaluate the resistance of the Lake Murray Dam to earthquakes.

1990s

In the mid-1990s, an analysis of the Charleston earthquake conducted by Rizzo and others increased the magnitude of the quake from a 6.5 to a 7.3 on the Richter scale. As a result, it was determined that the Lake Murray dam would be vulnerable to wide-scale embankment liquefaction in the event of a major earthquake.

Although other means of stabilizing the Lake Murray dam were considered, the backup dam was determined to provide the highest degree of flood protection should an earthquake cause a collapse of the earthen dam.

2001

SCE&G begins the process of moving equipment and buildings located in the footprint of the new dam. In addition, a natural gas pipeline is removed from the back of the Lake Murray dam.

Exploration of the site reveals a large pocket of suitable rock at the south end of the dam. A 60-acre quarry opens in August. More than 4.75 million cubic yards of rock will be removed from the quarry for the construction of the backup dam.

Rizzo completes the final design of the backup dam.

2002

Barnard Construction Co. develops a plan that shortens the construction schedule by 10 months.

In March, an extensive dewatering system using 1,000 wells is installed on the downstream side of the Lake Murray dam. This system is used to lower the water table within the dam to ensure slope stability and to control water intrusion into the foundation excavations. Over the course of two years, 600 million gallons of water were pumped from the site.

Barnard begins work on site in August with closing the ash ponds and other site preparation work.

SCE&G lowers the level of Lake Murray to 345 feet in the fall of 2002 as recommended by an independent panel of experts to further increase the margin of safety during construction.

2003

Excavation for the foundation of the center section of the dam begins in the spring.

Excavation of the foundation for the rock-fill berms begins. As work progresses, crews discover deep crevices – some up to 60 feet deep – at south end of the dam, along the original bed of the Saluda River.

Barnard Construction uses 30,000 cubic yards of conventional concrete mix to fill in the crevices and trenches. Crews also construct retaining walls to stabilize the excavations, which reach 70 feet deep in some places, 50 feet below the bed of the Saluda River.

Construction of the backup dam is well underway in August. Barnard focuses on building up the two rock-fill sections before beginning the more difficult center section. The rock fill sections have a solid soil core sandwiched by sand and gravel filters. On each side of the filters, crews eventually place 3 million cubic yards of rock.

2004

The roller-compacted concrete center section of the backup dam starts to rise from its foundation in early 2004. Crews place an average of almost 3,800 cubic yards of RCC per working day.

Refilling of Lake Murray to normal levels begins in the spring of 2004.

Barnard Construction, Rizzo and SCE&G set a new North American industry RCC placement record Nov. 3. In one 24-hour period, crews place 18,590 cubic yards of concrete, enough to lay an 11-foot thick block over the playing area of a football field.

2005

Primary construction of the backup dam is completed in June 2005. Later this year, the state Department of Transportation will begin work on a new two-lane road that will be built in the valley between the two dams. The road will provide one-way access from Lexington to Irmo, as part of the widening of 10.5 miles of S.C. 6.

Bulldozers and drum rollers spread and smooth the roller-compacted concrete that comprises the 2,300-foot center section of the backup dam. During a 17-month stretch, workers placed an average of 78,000 cubic yards of RCC a month.

Big Wall. Big Numbers.

1,300,000

Cubic yards of concrete that comprise the 2,300-foot center section of the backup dam, more concrete than exists in all of SCE&G's power plants, including the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station.

4,700,000

Cubic yards of rock removed from the onsite 60-acre quarry to build the dam's roller-compacted concrete center section and two flanking berms. Enough to build a road 20 feet wide, three feet deep and 400 miles long.

8,000,000

Pounds of explosive used to blast rock from the quarry.

99,000

Tons of recycled coal ash from the McMeekin generating plant used as an ingredient of the roller-compacted concrete mix.

5,100,000,000

Pounds the concrete center section of the backup dam weighs. Equivalent to 320 million 16-pound bowling balls, enough to encircle the earth almost twice if laid out in a line.

18,590

Cubic yards of roller-compacted concrete placed by crews during a 24-period beginning on November 2, 2004, a new North American industry RCC placement record. Enough to lay an 11-foot-thick block over the playing area of a football field.

30,000

Cubic yards of conventional concrete mix used to fill in the crevices – some up to 30 feet deep – in the bedrock found at the south end of the existing dam during excavation. Enough to pave a 12-mile, two-lane road six inches thick.

8,000

Number of concrete panels used on the center section. Each weighs more than 7,000 pounds.

Photo by Jay Browne

The Great Charleston Earthquake

...and Lake Murray

Though it sounds improbable, it can be said that the building of the backup dam at Lake Murray is the direct result of an event that occurred 119 years ago.

On Aug. 31, 1886, at approximately 9:50 in the evening, a major earthquake struck the city of Charleston. The shock lasted only a minute, but the quake damaged or destroyed most of the buildings in Charleston and killed more than 100 people. Houses and other structures in towns within 200 miles of Charleston were also damaged, and the shock was felt as far away as Boston, Bermuda and Cuba.

Although the Richter scale did not exist in 1886, scientists now estimate that the Charleston quake was a magnitude 7.3, approximately the same intensity as the quake that occurred in Kobe, Japan Jan. 16, 1995. It remains the largest seismic event in the Southeast.

The Charleston earthquake served as the benchmark for earthquake safety standards when the original Lake Murray dam was designed and built in the 1920s. For more than 60 years, it was widely held that the dam could withstand a similar event. In the late 1970s, SCE&G was required to perform a stability analysis of the dam, which met earthquake standards of that time.

In 1984, a new license was issued for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project that required studies on how an increase in the magnitude of the strongest predicted earthquake for the region would impact the dam. A decade later, an independent analysis of the Charleston earthquake conducted by Paul C. Rizzo Associates and others increased the magnitude of the quake from 6.5 to 7.3 on the Richter scale. As a result, it was determined that the dam was vulnerable to wide-scale embankment liquefaction in the event of a major earthquake.

So now, the great wall at Lake Murray stands as the first line of flood protection should the unthinkable ever happen again, as it did one summer evening 119 years ago.

When I grow up I want to

"I liked cutting grass when I was growing up because I enjoyed fixing the lawnmower when it broke. I never had to ask my dad for help," SCE&G engineer Angie Webb told a group of middle school girls attending South Carolina Educational Television's Science Splash event in June.

"I've designed a power plant, managed an electric line crew and served as the engineer for new power lines," she said. One of the appeals of engineering is "you might be working in jeans and boots outdoors one day or in a corporate office in a business suit another day."

Webb spoke to an entranced crowd of youngsters and families as she encouraged the young women to consider engineering and other science careers themselves. "Take math and science, but take English, too. You've got to be good communicators."

SCE&G was a corporate sponsor of Science Splash, created to encourage young girls to "get their feet wet" in science and technology. The event was the culmination of a three-year program called "Tech Team," created by SCETV through a National

SCE&G engineer Angie Webb, above and at right, developed an interest in science at an early age. She recently spoke to a group of middle school girls at SCETV's Science Splash. At right, she shows attendees SCE&G's education Web site.

Photo by Robert Clark

be an engineer

SCANA female employees working in science fields were featured in a recent video shown to middle school girls. From left are Laura Comstock, Delana Goodwin, Sarena Burch and Sylvie Haddad.

Science Foundation grant to change girls' perceptions about technology careers and to combat stereotypes about what girls can and cannot do.

ETV's telecommunications building in Columbia, S.C. was transformed into a massive science laboratory with fun activities and demonstrations as well as the opportunity to meet inspiring female engineers, pilots and scientists.

SCANA's Women's Leadership Group hosted a number of activities in addition to speakers such as Webb. Attendees went online to visit the company's education Web site, *energeticminds.com*; attended Safety City electric safety demonstrations; and watched a video featuring women working in science and technology fields at the company.

The company wants to encourage more women to enter engineering and other science-related fields, according to SCANA Senior Vice President of Marketing and Communications Sharon Jenkins.

"In 2000, women comprised 46 percent of the U.S. labor force but constituted only 23 percent of its scientists and engineers," she said. "We need to change that to benefit our students as well as our state and its workforce of the future."

The following are comments by women highlighted during the video presented by SCE&G:

Laura Comstock

Safety advisor, S.C. Pipeline Corp.

Growing up, I wanted to be a cowboy. I ruled that out because I didn't think they made much money. I got my undergraduate degree in business, and then after I started working, I realized I wanted to get into the field of employee safety. So I went back for my master's degree.

One of the most important things about my job is that what I do impacts more than just our workforce. If I prevent one employee from getting injured, that allows him to go home and teach his daughter to drive or coach her basketball team.

Sarena Burch

Senior vice president, fuel procurement and asset management

When I was in fifth grade, I told my class that I wanted to be a lawyer, and everybody laughed at me. But my teacher said, "Don't laugh. She can do whatever she puts her mind to."

I began my career as an attorney handling electric and gas cases for the Public Service Commission. I'm now in charge of fuel purchasing for SCANA. In high school, I loved the earth sciences, particularly geology. I never dreamed I would actually wind up buying coal for a living.

Delana Goodwin

Junior engineer, SCE&G Electric Operations

Math always came easy to me in school. It was one subject that I didn't really have to study for. And in science, I loved figuring out how things work. As an electrical engineer, it's exciting to be able to design a project and then make it work. I like taking the initiative to learn as much as I can.

When you're having fun and you're doing what you like to do, I

believe you give it your all and then some.

Sylvie Haddad

Technology specialist, CIS Systems

My mother always said that she wanted me to work for NASA and launch rockets to the moon. So when anyone asked me what I was going to be when I grew up, I said "a rocket launcher." I grew up in Lebanon during the war. We not only did not have NASA, but there were also periods when we could not even attend school due to bombings.

I believe that you can do anything you put your mind to. If you have the will, if you really want to get there, you will find a way. Opportunities abound, especially here in the U.S. It would be a real shame not to take advantage of them.

Angie Webb

Business manager, SCE&G gas operations

My engineering background is the strongest asset I have as business manager of the gas operations group.

I was in high school when I decided I would go to engineering school and study to be a mechanical engineer. In engineering, you use all aspects of your education. Science and math are important, but also English because we do a lot of report writing and communicating with others. It's one thing to have a good idea, but it's more important when you can communicate that idea to someone.

Lynne Miller, (not pictured)

SCANA Board of Directors member; President, Environmental Claims Consulting, Quanta Technical Services, Reston, Va.

My father was an engineer. He encouraged me to go out and explore the world. As a biology major in college, I never thought I would one day start my own environmental consulting firm. But in graduate school, I did a research project on the relationship of bird nesting to the environment. That led to my first job in environmental science.

There are things that happen in your career that just develop along the way. You just need to be receptive to them.

By the numbers...

- Even though females earned more bachelor's degrees than males in 2001, only 27 percent of the degrees were in the fields of science and engineering.
- Women from minority groups constitute only about two percent of the science and engineering workforce.
- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 51 percent increase in science, math, engineering and technology jobs between 1998 and 2008.
- The number of female 12th graders saying they liked math and were good in math declined from 53 percent in 1990 to 47 percent in 1996.
- Sixty-one percent of scientists say they first became interested in science before age 11.

On the wings of

Concept photo courtesy of Boeing

flight

When Boeing decided two years ago to locate its $900 million 787 Dreamliner assembly facility in Everett, Wash. instead of North Charleston, it was a huge blow to the state's goal of bringing in new, diversified industries with higher paying employment opportunities.

But Steve Wright, economic development representative for SCANA, said that Boeing's decision to go elsewhere was not a total loss. In fact, he said Boeing's exposure to the Charleston area and the experience gained in working with a major aircraft manufacturer played a significant role in convincing Vought Aircraft Industries Inc. of Texas to select Charleston for its new $560 million manufacturing complex.

"Losing Boeing to Washington [state] was a tremendous letdown," said Wright, who has witnessed both huge successes and disappointing failures in the recruitment of business and industry during his 30-plus years in the field of economic development. "But I think the groundwork we laid in trying to win the Boeing deal paid off tremendously with Vought.

"The recruitment of Boeing was really our first experience with a major aircraft manufacturer and, in some cases, we were learning as we went along. By the time Vought began looking at the Charleston area a year later, we had a good idea of what type location they required and what we would have to do in order to get them here."

Vought's decision to base its project in North Charleston has been hailed by many as the biggest economic development coup since BMW rolled into the upstate more than a dozen years ago. South Carolina now serves as home to 232 auto suppliers, with auto-related companies located in 41 of 46 counties.

The Vought project links two separate companies from two continents: Vought Aircraft Industries and the Rome, Italy-headquartered Alenia Aeronautica.

In a twist of irony, the joint

This machine is part of an automated cell that trims and drills airframe structure panels at a Vought Aircraft manufacturing facility.

venture between the two companies – known as Global Aeronautica – was made possible by Boeing, which tapped Vought and Alenia to construct about 26 percent of the fuselage and other structural components that will go into its 787 Dreamliner jet. Boeing expects this new fuel-efficient, wide-body passenger jet to replace the 757 and the 767.

One aspect of the Dreamliner project that's creating a buzz within the industry is the new-age approach to old-school methods of aircraft manufacturing.

For example, major components will be made offsite by suppliers and flown to Boeing's Washington state facility for final installation.

Also, about half of the airframe, including wings and the parts that Vought and Alenia will manufacture, will use lightweight carbon graphite composites instead of aluminum.

These composite materials are expected to reduce fuel consumption, lower construction costs and result in overall less maintenance.

"We've put more than 15 years of engineering development into this technology," said Newt Newton, general manager of the South Carolina project. "And this marks the first time such materials will be used in commercial aircraft."

In the December 2004 edition of *The Site Selection* newsletter, Department of Commerce Secretary Bob Faith said, "The groundbreaking use of composites has applications far beyond the aerospace industry."

Other sectors seriously considering greater use of composites, he noted, include the automotive, biomedical, maritime and sports industries.

While the recruitment of Vought ended in success, it didn't come without a little sweating from those doing the recruiting.

When Vought executives began evaluating potential locations, more than 35 sites in 14 states were on the drawing board. The year-long search ultimately boiled down to five cities. In addition to Charleston, the short list included Dallas; Kinston, N.C.; Mobile, Ala.; and Tulsa, Okla.

Newton, who served on Vought's six-person site selection team prior to directing the South Carolina project, said the physical logistics of the search focused on a site with a significant portion of land available adjacent to the airport, runways long enough to accommodate the 747 cargo planes that will shuttle Dreamliner parts between Charleston and Boeing's Washington facility, and a deep

Photos courtesy of Vought Aircraft

water port. A skilled workforce that could be adequately trained in aircraft manufacturing was also a must.

"I'm sure we could have made any of the final five sites work," he said.

"But the difference maker really came down to the people we were working with here in South Carolina.

"From the very beginning, those people – from Gov. (Mark) Sanford on down – showed a commitment and desire to get us here that we didn't always see in the other areas."

SCANA Corp. was a part of the recruiting effort from the beginning. The company made a financial commitment to the project early on and Wright worked closely with the Vought team to assess project requirements for electricity and natural gas, starting with site and plant construction and running through actual operations. SCANA also provided aerial services as needed for ongoing site assessments.

In addition to Governor Sanford and his staff, other key agencies playing integral parts in bringing the project to the state's Lowcountry included: Charleston International Airport; S.C. Department of Commerce; Charleston Regional Development Alliance; Charleston County; and the City of North Charleston, just to name a few.

Once up and running, the Vought-Alenia operation will employ approximately 600 workers at two separate, 300,000-square-foot plants, both on the same 380-acre site at Charleston International Airport.

The first plant, operated solely by Vought, will make the 787's aft fuselage sections. The second plant, operated by the joint venture Global Aeronautica, will integrate the center fuselage sections – built in Alenia's existing Italian plants – with the aft sections built in Charleston.

At peak production, the Global Aeronautica plant will produce around 10 completed fuselages a month. Production is expected to begin in 2006 with initial deliveries to Boeing expected in early 2007.

"Landing this project in Charleston is huge and I expect it's only the tip of the iceberg," Wright said. "In the not-too-distant future, I can see Charleston becoming a major hub for the aeronautics industry.

"Just look at what BMW did for the Upstate and our state overall."

BY ROBIN MONTGOMERY

The famed F4U Corsairs, designed by Chance Vought, saw heavy action in World War II.

A proud place in history...

- Chance Milton Vought, founder of a Vought Aircraft predecessor company, in 1917 designed the VE-7, which outperformed the best fighters used in World War I.
- A later version of Vought's VE-7 Bluebird, the VE-7SF, made the first takeoff from a U.S. Navy carrier in 1922.
- The F4U gull-winged Corsair achieved an 11-to-1 kill ratio against enemy aircraft in World War II.
- Vought's legacy companies have produced more than 15,000 aircraft.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Going the EXTRA MILE

SCE&G account rep credited with helping save money, conserve energy and make Staples' customer shopping experience comfortable

As the world's largest seller of office products and a leader in environment stewardship, Staples is often faced with multiple and competing energy challenges.

The company looks to national account representatives to support its energy and environmental goals while also maintaining a comfortable shopping environment for its customers and meeting profit goals.

Headquartered west of Boston in Framington, Mass., Staples was founded in 1986. The company's 65,000 associates in the U.S. Canada, South America, Europe and China achieved sales of $14.4 billion in 2004. With that size and scope, Staples demands and expects the utmost in customer service.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.'s Kim Lucas has delivered as expected, and more. On April 15, at the Edison Electric Institute's National Accounts workshop in Las Vegas, Lucas was rewarded for her efforts.

"On behalf of the energy team at Staples, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest thanks to Kim for her superior level of customer service in 2004," the company's Director of Energy and Environmental Management Bob Valair said in naming Lucas as Staples' national account representative of the year.

"Kim has repeatedly gone above and beyond our expectations to do whatever it takes to meet our needs. Our requests for information on everything from rate changes, account analysis and deposit reviews to specific metering information have been answered in a professional and timely manner.

"In this, Kim has demonstrated that she, like Staples, is truly customer focused.

"At Staples, we are all about making it easy for our customers. We truly appreciate those who share our commitment to service. We are proud to recognize Kim Lucas for helping us save money, conserve energy and make the Staples shopping experience a comfortable one for our customers."

It's not the first time Lucas

Photos by Robert Clark

Photo by Stan Rowin/GPA

has been recognized for her work. When Food Lion, another of her customers, was recognized last year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the prestigious Energy Star Sustained Excellence Award, Lucas was one of four out of 300 electric vendors the grocery store chain invited to the awards ceremony.

She received an award and was invited to the ceremony again in 2005. The Energy Star Sustained Excellence Award is awarded to companies with ongoing smart energy management practices and investments.

Steve Chapman, who heads up SCE&G's commercial customer service engineering division, said Lucas' contributions are commendable and necessary in today's competitive business environment.

"Our group handles all facets of energy products and services with our large commercial customers," Chapman said, "and we strive to exceed their expectations in every situation. I am exceptionally proud of Kim for her efforts."

When she received the award in April, along with an engraved plaque, Lucas said, "I told Bob that I was honored to receive this award. I know he and Staples work with many account reps on a national basis and being selected as their 2004 National Account Rep was quite an honor."

The reason for her success is pretty straightforward – careful communication.

"I've been working with Bob and Staples for many years. His office is at their corporate headquarters in Framingham, Mass. Since he's in Massachusetts, and I'm in South Carolina, most of our communication is by phone and e-mail.

"I do see Bob, as well as many other of my national accounts customers, twice a year at the EEI-National Accounts Workshop. This is a very valuable workshop that allows the utility representatives and customers to get together to network and hear the same industry message."

Lucas and Valair talk on a regular basis, but she says it's her pro-active communications her customers appreciate the most.

"I provide an annual review for him to make sure his stores are on the most advantageous rates. I help him to resolve any billing issues. I help them from start to finish in getting a new store up and on the best rate. Bob has also been extremely grateful of my assistance in informing him of any hurricanes that may be heading our way and my assurances that we are prepared.

"He told me that we were the only company that would call him before he had to call them to inquire about contacts and numbers to call during a major storm. Being proactive is a plus for Staples, and SCE&G," she said.

The recognition for a job well done is all well and good. But for her part, Lucas says she's "just doing my job to keep the customer happy."

Bob Valair, director of energy and environmental management for Staples, works closely with SCE&G's Kim Lucas to meet the company's energy goals. Staples recently recognized Lucas for outstanding customer service.

Lighting a fire for the arts

Visitors still ask about "Aunt Bee's house" when they come to Siler City, but now their discovery of this small town is more likely to come from other cultural pursuits. Folks still flock midday to Johnson's for their heralded hamburgers, only now some return to a downtown studio to feed their artistic souls.

If you're going...

N.C. Arts Incubator Gallery, Siler City, N.C.

Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Handcrafted art, including pottery, sculpture, glass objects and more. Call 919-663-1335 or go to *www.ncartsinc.org* for more information on the N.C. Arts Incubator and its gallery.

That's because Siler City is home to the North Carolina Arts Incubator, the only small business incubator project focused on arts in the state.

The incubator began as a collaboration between three individuals who shared a similar vision of what Siler City's future could be.

Leon Tongret, Small Business Center director at Central Carolina Community College; Joel Hunnicutt, a partner with Chatham Hackney Herring Insurance; and Denis de St. Aubin, a partner with North State Financial, began a discussion in 2000 that crystallized two years later as an arts incubator project for Chatham County's largest community.

An arts incubator's mission is twofold — provide a stimulating work environment for artists and help arts businesses become financially successful and sustainable by offering technology and innovative marketing.

So far, so good for a town known largely for its poultry production — nurturing another fledgling seems to come naturally to Siler City. Today the North Carolina Arts Incubator occupies 11 historic buildings downtown. In-house studios are used by 14 resident artists while 15 additional associate artists teach classes and display artwork in the incubator's gallery.

"We're employing art to revitalize Siler City's historical downtown area," said Tongret, who also serves as president and CEO of the incubator. "If all goes well, we hope to have completed renovation on nearly 14 buildings and have as many as 200 artists working and living downtown in the next five years."

The incubator is an equal opportunity setting. Beginners and experienced artists create side by side, and various media are represented: woodworking, metal arts, ceramics/pottery, textiles, glass-making, electric guitar making and photography.

Future plans include a film studio, an art supply store, two distinctive restaurants and even a food processing area for a culinary arts program.

"We're really still in the infancy stage, but we've made amazing progress in the past three years," explains Tongret. "Artists from across the country are hearing about us and making the move."

Carlyne Thomas works on her latest project.

But not everybody is from out of town. Several artists from Siler City's own backyard began as students within the arts incubator setting. The Professional Arts and Crafts Curriculum at Central Carolina Community College signed on for studio space as soon as the incubator got off the ground. Its clay pottery program is an anchor tenant.

"Enrollment in our pottery program continues to increase and our student population is pretty eclectic," said Dan Rhode, lead instructor of the clay sculpture degree program. "We have stay-at-home moms, retirees, professionals looking for a career change mixed in with recent high school graduates."

Siler City resident Carlyne Thomas founded a successful child care business, in the late 1960s, which became something of an institution in town. Now she's a full-time artist with a downtown studio.

"I began taking pottery classes in 2001, and I just love it," said Thomas, who recently tried her hand at welding as part of a metal arts class.

Fellow student Eddie Kallam has just six months of experience at turning pots and finds his time at the wheel to be a refreshing change. "I've always liked pottery and ceramics," said Kallam, who works full-time in a clinical lab setting in Research Triangle Park. Kallam plans to continue taking classes and perfecting his art on a part-time basis.

Mastering the turn of the pottery wheel takes much practice and patience. Creating the burn is now easier for students, thanks to the pottery program's natural gas-fired kiln.

PSNC Energy recently piped natural gas service to a studio kiln and also to a foundry used for metal work. Both are housed in Siler City's former livery stable just steps away from the pottery studio.

"Natural gas is well-suited for firing clay pottery because of the heat intensity it can generate," said Rhode. "It doesn't really matter how long you've been throwing pots; everybody is always eager to see what comes out of the kiln."

Just like the clay pieces that are refined by fire, the North Carolina Arts Incubator will continue to evolve as an economic developer over the next few years.

"In the years to come we want Siler City to be *the* destination for those who practice art and for those who want to take great art home with them," adds Tongret.

BY ANGIE TOWNSEND
PHOTOS BY JEFF AMBERG

Eddie allam practices pottery making at the N.C. Arts Incubator.

SCANA Energy recognized for marketplace ethics

SCANA Energy recently received the 2005 Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics from the Better Business Bureau of Central Georgia Inc.

The award was presented in the category for 100 to 499 employees. The BBB serves 41 counties in Central Georgia and the Central Savannah River Area.

The Torch Award is designed to promote not only the importance of ethical business practices, but also the willingness and efforts made by outstanding businesses to ensure the marketplace remains fair and honorable for all. Judging criteria include customer/vendor and employee relationships, management practices, business ethics and commitment to integrity.

SCANA Energy was also named first runner-up in the same category for the 2005 Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics by the BBB serving Metro Atlanta, Athens and Northeast Georgia.

"SCANA Energy values its customers and employees throughout Georgia and is committed to providing excellent customer service and a positive workplace," said George Devlin, vice president and general manager of SCANA Energy.

"We conduct business according to the ethical standards that are required of every SCANA Energy employee through our Code of Conduct & Ethics policies.

"Our commitment to the Code of Conduct & Ethics has helped SCANA Energy sustain a reputation as an outstanding employer and corporate citizen. We are proud and honored to receive such a prestigious award from a well-respected organization such as the BBB."

Regulated provider continues for Georgia

The Georgia Public Service Commission has retained SCANA Energy as Georgia's regulated provider of natural gas, serving low-income and credit-challenged customers who might not otherwise be able to purchase natural gas.

SCANA Homework Centers earn national award

SCANA Corp.'s after-school, homework center program has been chosen as one of six winners nationwide for the National School and Business Partnership Award.

The award, which is sponsored by The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships, spotlights business and school partnerships making a positive impact on student achievement, school improvement and/or the overall educational experience. The six winners of the award receive $10,000 each to further the efforts of their partnerships.

SCANA began its homework center program in South Carolina in 1992. Since that time, the program has grown considerably and centers now operate in three states, including Georgia and North Carolina. Thousands of children have benefited from the homework centers, where they receive additional instruction and reinforcement from their own teachers in a supervised, structured environment.

The Council for Corporate and School Partnerships was created by The Coca-Cola Company in 2001 with a purpose to identify, create, recognize and support exemplary partnerships between businesses and schools. The Council serves as a forum for the exchange of information, expertise and ideas to ensure that partnerships between schools and businesses achieve their full potential for meeting key educational objectives. SCANA was one of 170 applicants from 39 states vying for the award.

For more information about SCE&G's Homework Center program, call (803) 217-9944 or go to *www.sceg.com.*

Photo by Robert Clark

Lake Murray visitors and residents were treated July 2 to a fireworks display provided by Capital City/Lake Murray Country, a regional tourism district. SCE&G was a sponsor.

From the Chairman

Dear Customers and Friends:

We recently celebrated a momentous occasion not only for our company but for many others as well. The completion of the Lake Murray Backup Dam ensures the safety now and for future generations of those who live and work downstream of and around the lake.

The backup dam was built to ensure the public safety even if a 500-year earthquake strikes, a standard that did not exist when our original earthen dam was built in 1927.

Safety was the focus throughout the 34-month construction process of a project that had never before been done. While even one injury is too many, the people building the backup dam worked 1.7 million manhours with only five lost-time accidents.

The project was the culmination of the efforts of many organizations and individuals, from the project engineers and contractors to state and federal regulatory agencies.

I would like to personally thank everyone involved who sacrificed time from their homes and families to get the project done.

We genuinely appreciate the patience and understanding of those who live and work around the dam. We made a commitment to communicate openly and honestly throughout the process.

Despite some very adverse weather and unforeseen geologic conditions, we completed the project ahead of schedule to get life back to normal for residents, visitors enjoying the water and businesses relying on it.

The Lake Murray Backup Dam has attracted engineers and other visitors from around the world who are interested in what is the largest dam remediation project in all of North America. This is the only time a project of this type has been done without draining the lake, which we never considered to be an option.

You'll see in this issue of *Insights* the amazing facts and figures of what went into building this wall of concrete and rock, which will stand for the ages, long after we are all gone.

W.B. Timmerman

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