



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 22, 2021

Steven M. Snider
Site Vice President, Oconee Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672-0752

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 – DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR DOCKETING, PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING REGARDING DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS' APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Mr. Snider,

By letter dated June 7, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Package Accession No. ML21158A193), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy) submitted an application for the subsequent license renewal of Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55 for the Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS), Units 1, 2, and 3 to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

By letter dated June 22, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21167A039) and *Federal Register* Notice (FRN) (86 FR 33784) dated June 25, 2021, the NRC noted the receipt and availability of this application.

The acceptance review is intended to identify whether the application is reasonably complete and conforms to the timing and information requirements in applicable regulations. The NRC staff reviewed your application following the guidance in NUREG-2192, Revision 0, "Standard Review Plan for Review of Subsequent License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants," and NUREG-1555, Supplement 1, Revision 1, "Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants," to determine if the application is sufficient and acceptable for docketing in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.101, "Filing of application," 51.45, "Environmental report," 51.53(c), "Postconstruction environmental reports," 54.19, "Contents of application--general information," 54.21, "Contents of application--technical information," 54.22, "Contents of application--technical specifications," and 54.23, "Contents of application--environmental information."

The NRC staff conducted two pre-submittal meetings, one for the environmental review and one for the safety review, as documented in letters dated July 14, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21195A245) and February 8, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21034A553).

Based on the results of the staff's sufficiency review, the NRC staff has concluded that the application will be accepted. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to a detailed technical review, the staff's determination does not preclude requests for additional information or topic specific audits. During the staff's detailed technical review, there may be instances identified in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

This letter also forwards the staff's projected review schedule for the ONS subsequent license renewal application (SLRA) (Enclosure 1). The NRC staff will follow established review procedures and the enclosed schedule to complete the reviews required by 10 CFR Parts 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," and 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants." Based on the information provided in your submittal and discussions during the pre-application meetings, the NRC staff has estimated that review of this SLRA will take approximately 23,000 hours to complete. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated via separate correspondence. Milestones for hearing activities that may be needed are not included in the enclosed schedule or the estimated hours because these dates, if needed, would be established by the Commission or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board and new resource considerations would need to be developed.

The plan also relies on your responses to the staff's requests for additional information, if needed, being of high quality and provided in a timely manner. A timely response is defined as 30 days from the date of the request, or within such other time as may be specified in the request in accordance with 10 CFR 2.108, "Denial of application for failure to supply information." You should also be prepared to provide high quality support in a timely and organized manner during technical audits determined necessary by the staff. Delays in staff's receipt of necessary information could result in changes to the plan in evaluating and processing your application, up to and including the denial of your application in accordance with the regulations or a significant delay in the schedule based on the overall workload for the staff involved in the review. We request that you inform the NRC staff in writing as early as possible should potential delays arise in your support of the schedule. The staff's goal is to complete the review in 18 months provided that Duke Energy fully addresses the staff's information needs in a timely manner.


Finally, we have also enclosed a copy of the notice related to your application that is being sent to the Office of the *Federal Register* for publication (Enclosure 2). This notice announces the opportunity to request a hearing and to file a petition for leave to intervene.

S. Snider

- 3 -

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Ms. Angela Wu, Project Manager, for the safety review of the ONS SLRA at Angela.Wu@nrc.gov, or Mr. Lance Rakovan, Project Manager, for the environmental review at Lance.Rakovan@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

 Signed by Bradford, Anna
on 07/22/21

Anna Bradford, Director
Division of New and Renewed Licenses

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

Enclosures:

1. Review Schedule
2. Copy of *Federal Register* Notice

cc w/encls: Listserv

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 – DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR DOCKETING, PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS' APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL DATED JULY 22, 2021

DISTRIBUTION:

E-MAIL:

PUBLIC

RidsNrrDnrl Resource

RidsNrrPMOconee Resource

AWu, NRR/DNRL

LGibson, NRR/DNRL

LRakovan, NMSS/REFS

RElliott, NMSS/REFS

ABradford, NRR/DNRL

BCaldwell, NRR/DNRL

SWilliams, NRR/DORL

MMarkley, NRR/DORL

DRoth, OGC

KGamin, OGC

MWoods, OGC

RRichardson, OEDO

SBurnell, HQ/OPA

LWilkins, OCA

DMcIntyre, HQ/OPA

DScrenci, RI/OPA

DGasperson, RII/OPA

JPelchat, RII/FCO

ELea, RII/FCO

JNadel, RII/DRP

JBaptist, RII/DRS

Paul.Guill@duke-energy.com

Reene.Gambrell@duke-energy.com

Arun.Kapur@duke-energy.com

ADAMS Accession Nos.:

ML21194A231 (Package)

ML21194A245 (Letter)

ML21194A236 (FRN)

OFFICE	PM:NLRP:DNRL	LA:NLRP:DNRL	PM:ERLRB:REFS	OGC (NLO)
NAME	AWu	SGreen	LRakovan	KGamin
DATE	7/13/2021	07/13/2021	07/14/2021	07/21/2021
OFFICE	BC:NLRP:DNRL	BC:ERLRB:REFS	D:DNRL	
NAME	LGibson	RElliott	ABradford	
DATE	07/21/2021	07/22/2021	07/22/2021	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

**OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3
SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW SCHEDULE**

Milestone	Scheduled	Actual
Receive Subsequent License Renewal Application (SLRA)	6/2021	6/7/2021
Publish <i>Federal Register</i> Notice (FRN) – SLRA Availability	6/2021	6/25/2021
Publish FRN – Docketing Acceptance/Rejection and Opportunity for Hearing	7/2021	
Publish FRN – Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping	8/2021	
Public Meeting – Overview of Subsequent License Renewal Process and Environmental Scoping	9/2021	
Environmental Scoping Period Ends	9/2021	
Deadline for Filing Hearing Requests and Petitions for Intervention	9/2021	
Issue Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS)	5/2022	
Public Meeting – Draft SEIS Meeting, If Needed	6/2022	
End of DSEIS Comment Period	6/2022	
Issue Safety Evaluation Report	8/2022	
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Full Committee Meeting	10/2022	
Issue Final SEIS	12/2022	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FRN Published – Availability of Final SEIS	12/2022	
Decision – Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation	1/2023	

**Copy of the Draft *Federal Register* Notice of
Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 –
Determination of Acceptability and Sufficiency for
Docketing, Proposed Review Schedule, and
Opportunity for a Hearing Regarding the
Duke Energy Carolinas' Application for
Subsequent License Renewal**

ADAMS Accession No. ML21194A236