

May 3, 2007

APPLICANT: Duke Energy

PROJECT: Project No. 742

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CHEROKEE SITE VISIT ON MAY 15 - 16, 2006, REGARDING
COMBINED LICENSE PRE-APPLICATION SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION
ACTIVITIES

On May 15 - 16, 2006, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff conducted a visit to the Cherokee site. NRC staff from the headquarters offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and Region II conducted the site visit to observe subsurface investigation activities being conducted by Duke Energy (Duke) and to discuss geotechnical and seismic data in support of the anticipated combined operating license (COL) application for a new nuclear power plant.

A list of participants is provided at the end of this summary. The Region II report (ML061790448) and the presentation materials (ML070720252) distributed during the visit are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. From this site, you can access the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. If you do not have access to ADAMS or have problems accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or pdr@nrc.gov.

Background

By letters dated March 4, 2005, October 10, 2005, and March 16, 2006, Duke informed the NRC of their intent to submit a COL application in late 2007 or early 2008 for a new nuclear power facility at the Cherokee site. Duke has contracted Enercon Services, Inc. as a nuclear services provider, and MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, along with William Lettis and Associates (WLA) to conduct the geotechnical site studies required for the COL application.

Visit Highlights

At the Cherokee site, staff observed Cone Penetration Tests and a number of rock cores and observed the site rock exposures and an outcrop area. The NRC staff provided some feedback to the applicant. Specifically, NRC staff discussed the quality difference between the data from the previous site investigation in the 1970's and the new data because the applicant indicated it will integrate the preexisting data. NRC staff also discussed the need to clarify a linear geological map boundary next to the site and the need to explain the unusually high water volume of a de-watering well at the site.

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