

May 1, 2008
Comments for NRC EIS Scoping Meeting for Lee Nuclear Station

Good evening. My name is Bryan Dolan and I am vice president of Duke Energy's nuclear plant development group, which is responsible for licensing the proposed Lee Nuclear Station.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak this evening and thank the NRC for holding this public meeting.

In the Carolinas, Duke Energy has been adding approximately 40,000-60,000 customers each year. As a regulated utility, Duke Energy has an obligation to serve this growth in demand for electricity. Each year, Duke Energy Carolinas uses an integrated planning approach to ensure it can reliably and economically meet the electric energy needs of our customers well into the future. The planning process takes into consideration many factors, including projected electricity use, existing generation, generation supply contracts, demand-side management, energy efficiency initiatives, and potential new sources of generation such as renewable resources, coal, natural gas and nuclear.

Duke's planning process tells us that among other options such as renewables, coal and natural gas, it is prudent to maintain new nuclear as an option for our customers going forward. Although we have not yet made a decision to build a new nuclear plant, if we are to maintain nuclear as an option for our customers in the latter part of the next decade, it is important that we prudently plan for this option now.

As part of our planning, we are working through both Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing and state regulatory processes. We are also conducting work at the Lee Nuclear site to prepare the property for possible construction. Additionally, we have a traffic advisory committee, which includes local residents, evaluating potential traffic impacts to the community during construction and operation, and we are working with neighbors and businesses regarding transmission and railroad right of ways.

Duke Energy is an experienced nuclear operator, having operated three nuclear stations in the Carolinas for more than 30 years. Catawba, Oconee and McGuire have safely generated more than 1.3 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity, which is a significant contributor to our reliable electric supply, the economic growth of our region and the low electricity rates our customers enjoy. Duke Energy Carolinas' electricity rates are about 20 percent below the national average.

Going forward it is important that we make sound decisions on behalf of our customers to ensure reliable electricity at affordable prices. We currently serve our customers with a diverse mix of energy resources and will continue to serve with diversity.

Thank you for your time this evening and your interest in Lee Nuclear. We appreciate the support Cherokee County and neighboring residents and businesses have given this project. We look forward to continuing our work in the community, and interacting with you regarding our plans.

Bryan Dolan
Vice President Nuclear Plant Development
Duke Energy