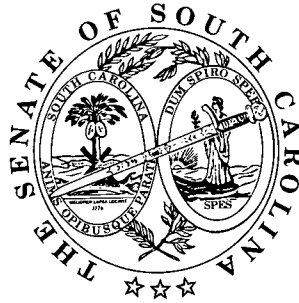


HARVEY S. PEELER, JR.

SENATOR, CHEROKEE, SPARTANBURG,
UNION AND YORK COUNTIES
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 14

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May 1, 2008

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Chief - Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch
Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration
Mailstop T-6D59
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Subject: Duke Energy COL Application (Federal Register/March 20, 2008/Page 15009)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am South Carolina State Senator Harvey Peeler and I represent District 14, which includes Cherokee, York, Spartanburg and Union Counties. I have been a resident of Cherokee County, South Carolina my entire life.

I appreciate the NRC coming to our community to solicit input from residents regarding Duke Energy's proposed Lee Nuclear Station.

I support Duke Energy's efforts to license and build the Lee Nuclear Station.

In the Carolinas, there is a growing need for additional safe and reliable sources of electric generation. Duke energy is adding thousands of new customers each year and currently uses different types of generation to serve its customers. Some of Duke's largest manufacturing customers are located right here in Cherokee County.

As we look for additional ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet energy demand in our county, we must look at all available resources, but they simply cannot sustain our current energy needs or meet our growing needs for base load power; the base level of power we need 24-hours a day, not just when the wind is blowing or the sun is shining.

The addition of Lee Nuclear to Cherokee County will support economic development. Nuclear plants substantially contribute to local and state economies, both directly and indirectly. During construction, Lee Nuclear could bring thousands of well-paying construction jobs to our community. These include craft skills such as welders, machinists and electricians. Once the station is complete, there will be hundreds of full time jobs for engineers, scientists, operators, technicians and others. These workers will have competitive salaries and will spend dollars in our community to purchase goods and services. This Type of business, with many employment options, encourages our sons and daughters and their sons and daughters for generations to come to seek employment in Cherokee County.

Duke Energy has shown a strong commitment to safe and reliable nuclear generation, while at the same time balancing its responsibility to the environment. For example, Duke's Catawba, Oconee and McGuire nuclear stations are Wildlife and Industry Together or W.A.I.T., certified sites. As you may know, W.A.I.T. is a national program where companies demonstrate wildlife habitat stewardship and community involvement. This program encourages on-site wildlife habitat development and ongoing educational partnerships with local schools and community groups. We expect Duke Energy will apply its same aggressive environmental standards to Lee Nuclear.

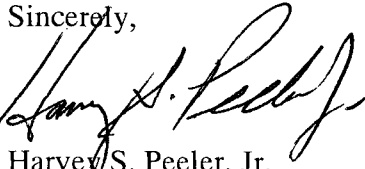
Duke Energy is an experienced nuclear operator, having a proven track record in operating nuclear plants in South Carolina for more than 30 years. Both the Oconee and Catawba nuclear stations located here in South Carolina are good neighbors and the employees are actively involved in the plant communities serving as mentors, tutors, civic leaders and more.

Nuclear energy is important in our nation's quest for greater energy independence, and going forward it must play an even larger role in satisfying our state's and country's increasing electricity needs. It must also play an increasing role as we work as a nation to address global climate change. Not only have nuclear plants proven to be safe, they produce high levels of electric reliability while emitting no greenhouse or acid rain gases.

As the Majority Leader in the Senate, I was personally involved last year when the South Carolina General Assembly passed Act 16, "The Base Load Review Act". This Act, which became law on May 3, 2007, addresses how electric utilities and their customers pay for base load plants. I personally worked closely with the manufacturing companies here in Cherokee County regarding this legislation. I was impressed by how the energy experts of our state's manufacturing base, who employ thousands, all supported nuclear energy over other forms of base load power. Act 16 should send a signal to the financial community that South Carolina is open for business when it comes to building the next generation of nuclear plants.

I want to thank the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for its strict oversight of nuclear plant operations and the licensing of new nuclear stations, and I encourage you to approve the license application for Lee Nuclear Station. This project has strong support here in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
South Carolina Senate

HSPJr/kch

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