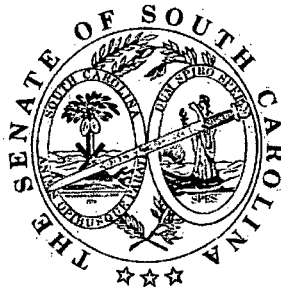


HARVEY S. PEELER, JR.

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: NRC public hearing on the Proposed Lee Nuclear Station Make-Up Pond C

Dear Sirs:

My name is Harvey S. Peeler, Jr. Majority Leader of the South Carolina Senate. I am privileged to represent the people of Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union and York counties. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Lee Nuclear Station Pond C matter.

Duke Energy has an excellent track record that spans several decades, of providing reliable, safe, affordable nuclear power to the citizens of South Carolina. Because of Duke Energy's proven track record, I am confident Lee Nuclear Station will be operated just as safely and efficiently.

Additionally, Lee Nuclear Station will benefit our state in other ways, namely by creating thousands of construction jobs, providing hundreds of well paying jobs for decades to come, stimulating the local economy through the addition of service jobs to support the nuclear plant and its workers, and providing a low-cost, safe, reliable, carbon-free, environmentally responsible source of electricity to our citizens. I encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue Duke Energy a license to construct and operate Lee Nuclear Station.

My understanding is Duke Energy will withdraw the water needed to operate the Lee plant from the Broad River at the Ninety-Nine Islands Reservoir, and that during drought conditions Duke will rely on drought contingency ponds as the source of water for the plant's needs rather than withdrawing water from the Broad River. This seems prudent to me because it will allow for the water in the river during low-flow conditions to be available for downstream users and for protecting the river's ecology.

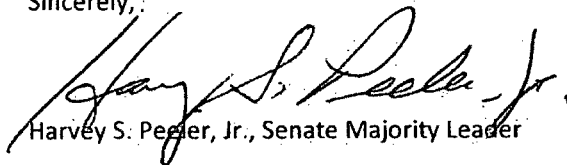
As a South Carolina legislator, I am familiar with the South Carolina Surface Water, Permitting, Use and Reporting Act which was approved by the S.C. legislature and signed by the Governor earlier this month. Duke's proposed plans to withdraw water from on-site drought contingency ponds, during drought periods, is perfectly aligned with what our state environmental permitting and environmental resource agencies advocated in this legislation. Specifically, the legislation states that when minimum flow conditions exist in the river, the water withdrawer is to stop withdrawing consumptive quantities of water from the river and begin withdrawing water from a supplemental source such as a drought contingency pond.

Duke Energy is proposing the construction of an additional drought contingency pond, which it would utilize during prolonged drought periods. I fully support Duke's request to construct this additional drought contingency pond.

Again, I want to point out that Duke's plans to use two drought contingency ponds during low river flow conditions directly aligns with the expectations and requirements stated in the S.C. surface water legislation. It is my understanding Duke Energy has evaluated the environmental implications of constructing this new drought contingency pond and has provided its conclusions to the NRC.

In closing, I would like to thank the NRC for providing the opportunity for the public to provide input to the licensing process for the proposed Lee Nuclear Station.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Harvey S. Peeler, Jr., Senate Majority Leader

Senate District 14