

POLICY ISSUE
(Notation Vote)

April 14, 2017

SECY-17-0050

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: Victor M. McCree
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: DUKE ENERGY PROPOSAL TO FURTHER CONSOLIDATE DUKE
CORPORATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS FACILITY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this paper is to request Commission approval of the proposal by Duke Energy Progress, LLC, and Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (referred to hereafter as "Duke Energy") to consolidate the emergency operations facilities (EOFs) for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant (Brunswick), Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (Harris), and H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant (Robinson) with the existing Duke Energy Corporate EOF (hereafter referred to as the Duke Charlotte EOF). Prior Commission approval is required because the Duke Charlotte EOF is located more than 25 miles from Brunswick, Harris, and Robinson. This paper does not address any new commitments and does not have any resource implications.

BACKGROUND:

EOF Purpose

The purpose of an EOF is to provide a facility from which the licensee can manage the overall licensee emergency response during an event, including coordinating radiological and environmental assessments, determining protective actions, and communicating and

CONTACT: Amanda Marshall, NSIR/DPR
(301) 287-3677

coordinating with Federal, State and local agencies. This facility complements other licensee emergency response facilities, such as the Technical Support Center (TSC), which is located onsite at each respective site and from which the licensee staff provides plant management and technical support to plant operations personnel during emergency conditions; relieves the reactor operators of peripheral duties and communications not directly related to reactor system manipulations; prevents congestion in the control room; and performs EOF functions until the EOF is staffed and ready to respond. EOF functions can be fulfilled by each respective site's TSC under emergency response conditions, as needed.

Consolidated EOFs

The concept of a consolidated or common EOF, which supports multiple nuclear power reactor sites and is located beyond 25 miles from nuclear power reactor sites, is not without precedent. A listing of existing consolidated facilities is provided in Enclosure 1, "Consolidated Emergency Operations Facilities." Staff consideration of such requests is conducted on a case-by-case basis, with a focus on the adequacy of the consolidated EOF to support a declared emergency event at multiple sites. The consolidated Midwest EOF for Exelon Corporation, LLC (Exelon) in Warrenville, Illinois, is the most similar to the Duke Energy proposal, in terms of the number of sites served by the consolidated EOF and the distance of the consolidated EOF from the various sites. The Exelon Midwest EOF was approved by the Commission to serve the following six sites, consisting of both boiling water reactor and pressurized water reactor technologies: Braidwood Station (Units 1 and 2); Byron Station (Units 1 and 2); Clinton Power Station (Unit 1); Dresden Nuclear Power Station (Units 2 and 3); LaSalle County Station (Units 1 and 2); and Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station (Units 1 and 2).

DISCUSSION:

Request to Incorporate Additional EOFs into Duke Charlotte EOF

By letter dated April 29, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML16120A076), as supplemented by letters dated October 3, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16277A521), and January 16, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17017A210), Duke Energy requested Commission approval to consolidate the EOFs for Brunswick, Harris, and Robinson with the existing Duke Charlotte EOF. Currently, the Duke Charlotte EOF is approved for use by Catawba Nuclear Station (Catawba), McGuire Nuclear Station (McGuire), Oconee Nuclear Station (Oconee), and William States Lee III Nuclear Station (Lee). The proposal is based on Duke Energy's previous acquisition of Brunswick, Harris, and Robinson from Progress Energy.

The Brunswick, Harris, and Robinson sites are approximately 184 miles, 110 miles, and 69 miles (straight line distance), respectively, from the Duke Charlotte EOF¹. The distance of the Duke Charlotte EOF from Brunswick, Harris, and Robinson in the proposed plan is not expected to impede the licensees', the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's), or State and local response agencies' ability to perform their respective functions.

If a licensee desires to locate an EOF more than 25 miles from a nuclear power reactor site, prior Commission approval is required under paragraph IV.E.8.b of Appendix E, "Emergency Planning and Preparedness for Production and Utilization Facilities," to Part 50, "Domestic

¹ The Catawba, McGuire, and Oconee sites are approximately 17 miles, 15 miles, and 120 miles (straight line distance), respectively, from the Duke Charlotte EOF. Once constructed, the Lee site will be approximately 40 miles (straight line distance) from the Duke Charlotte EOF.

Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities,” of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR).

Staff Consideration

As part of its review process, the staff considered the following: (1) whether the Duke Charlotte EOF would be able to fulfill its intended required emergency response functions; (2) the facility’s location and size; (3) the anticipated staffing and training of licensee emergency response personnel at the facility; (4) the facility’s communications capabilities and data systems; (5) the facility’s capacity for accommodating a multi-site event; and (6) impacts on the NRC and/or State and local response organizations. The NRC staff also took into account prior Commission feedback on previous consolidation approvals, focusing on maintaining a near-site location for NRC responders at all affected sites, as well as the requirements of Appendix E of 10 CFR Part 50 to ensure the Duke Charlotte EOF continues to have the capability to effectively respond to events occurring simultaneously at more than one nuclear power reactor site. The staff’s evaluation of the Duke Energy proposal is discussed in more detail in Enclosure 2, “Evaluation of the Duke Energy Request to Further Consolidate the Duke Charlotte EOF.”

CONCLUSION:

On the basis of its evaluation (see Enclosure 2), the staff concludes the Duke Charlotte EOF will continue to fulfill necessary emergency response functions and meet applicable regulations in 10 CFR 50.47 and Appendix E of 10 CFR Part 50, and criteria set forth in NUREG-0696, “Functional Criteria for Emergency Response Facilities,” as supplemented by the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)/Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR) Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) document - NSIR/DPR ISG-01, “Emergency Planning for Nuclear Power Plants.” Given the technological capabilities of the facility, the EOF’s capacity to address multi-site events, an emergency response organization comprised of experienced and diverse personnel from the Duke Energy corporate offices, and longstanding NRC and State experience with the Duke Charlotte EOF, the further consolidation of the Duke Charlotte EOF will continue to effectively support Duke Energy’s emergency response at all of the sites that the facility serves. The NRC staff continues to find that there will be reasonable assurance that protective measures can and will be implemented in the event of a radiological emergency at any of the sites that the facility serves.

RECOMMENDATION:

The NRC staff recommends that the Commission approve the proposal to consolidate Brunswick, Harris, and Robinson site EOFs into the existing Duke Charlotte EOF.

COORDINATION:

The Office of the General Counsel reviewed this package and has no legal objection.

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Consolidated Emergency Operations Facilities
2. Evaluation of the Duke Energy Request to Further Consolidate the Duke Charlotte Emergency Operations Facility

SUBJECT: DUKE ENERGY PROPOSAL TO FURTHER CONSOLIDATE DUKE CORPORATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS FACILITY

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ADAMS Accession No: ML16363A431 (Package) ML16363A439 (SECY Paper) ML16363A442 (Enclosure 1) ML17067A502 (Enclosure 2)

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DATE	01/11/17	01/25/17	01/25/17	01/26/17
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