

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting Summary

Title: Environmental Scoping Meeting Related to the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3, Subsequent License Renewal Application

Meeting Identifier: 20211035

Date of Meetings: Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Location: Webinar

Type of Meeting: Comment-Gathering Meeting

Purpose of the Meeting(s):

To gather information necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement to evaluate the environmental impacts for the subsequent license renewal of the operating licenses for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3. The NRC is seeking public input on this action.

General Details:

The NRC held a public scoping meeting as part of the Oconee Nuclear Station Subsequent License Renewal environmental review. The meeting started at 2:00 p.m. ET and ended at approximately 2:43 p.m. ET. The meeting began with a review of meeting ground rules and an introduction of the NRC staff, followed by a presentation by the NRC staff on the license renewal safety review process and the license renewal environmental review process. The presentations emphasized that comments were welcome to help focus the environmental review. There was an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the NRC staff's presentation followed by an opportunity for members of the public to provide oral comments on the scope of the environmental review to be conducted.

Approximately 75 people (this number includes the NRC staff) attended the meeting. The participants included members of the NRC staff and the public, as well as representatives of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, state and local government officials, members of public advocacy organizations, and the news media.

Summary of Presentation:

The NRC staff reviewed the Principles of License Renewal Safety Reviews, which have not changed with the transition from initial license renewal (40 to 60 years) to subsequent license renewal (60 to 80 years).

- The regulatory process adequately ensures the plant's current licensing basis provides and maintains an acceptable level of safety.
- Each plant's current licensing basis is required to be maintained during the renewal term in the same manner and to the same extent as during the original license term.

Therefore, the focus of the safety review is to identify aging effects that could impair the ability of systems, structures, and components within the scope of license renewal to perform their intended functions, and to demonstrate that these aging effects will be adequately managed during the period of extended operation. The NRC staff stressed that this focus has not changed with the transition from initial license renewal to subsequent license renewal. A single, complete Safety Evaluation Report will be issued prior to the NRC staff meeting with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal.

Regarding the environmental review, the NRC staff explained that it conducts the environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). NEPA requires federal agencies to follow a systematic approach in evaluating the potential impacts from the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action. The environmental review begins with the scoping process. Scoping is the process by which the NRC staff identifies the specific impacts and significant issues to be considered within the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and public participation is an important aspect of scoping. The NRC staff considers all scoping comments provided during the public meeting, as well as written comments received during the scoping period in preparing the draft EIS. At the conclusion of the scoping process, NRC will prepare and issue an Environmental Scoping Summary Report that describes comments received during the scoping period and includes significant issues identified as a result of the scoping process.

The NRC staff further explained that it also conducts an independent assessment, including an environmental site audit and documents its findings within the draft EIS. The draft EIS will be issued for public comment and the staff will consider these comments in preparing the final EIS. In conducting our environmental review, the NRC staff will be coordinating with other Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as, tribal leaders to ensure that local technical resource specialists are involved in the review. Within the EIS, the NRC evaluates impacts from the proposed license renewal for a wide range of environmental resources, such as air quality, human health, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species. Ultimately, the purpose of the environmental review is to determine whether or not the environmental impacts of license renewal could be so great that preserving the option of license renewal for decision makers would become unreasonable.

The staff informed the attendees that the EIS will be considered in conjunction with the NRC staff's safety review in recommending to the Commission whether to renew the Oconee Nuclear Station operating license.

The staff ended the meeting by stressing that the closing date for submitting scoping comments is September 9, 2021. In addition to providing comments at the meeting, comments can be: (1) mailed to Office of Administration Mailstop TWFN7A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; (2) submitted online using the Federal Rulemaking website at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Docket ID: NRC-2020-0146); or (3) submitted electronically by email to OconeeEnvironmental@nrc.gov.

Public Participation Themes:

Four speakers provided remarks which primarily expressed support for the continued operation of the plant and the positives that the plant provides.

A complete accounting of the comments provided can be found in the meeting transcript which is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) public electronic reading room under the accession numbers listed below, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Action Items/Next Steps:

The NRC staff will address any comments received during the scoping period as part of the license renewal review for Oconee Nuclear Station. The NRC staff will develop and publish a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," which will be distributed for public comment. The NRC staff's responses to the comments received during the scoping period and received on the draft SEIS will be included in Appendix A of the SEIS. Concurrently, the NRC staff will also be preparing a safety evaluation report which documents the staff's independent safety evaluation.

Attachments:

- List of Attendees
- Meeting description and agenda – [ML21221A217](#)
- NRC staff presentation – [ML21235A045](#)
- Meeting transcript – [ML21279A103](#)

List of Attendees
August 25, 2021 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Environmental Scoping Meeting
Related to the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3, Subsequent License Renewal
Application

NAME	AFFILIATION
Angela Wu	Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Beth Alferink	NRC
Briana Arlene	NRC
Caroline Hsu	NRC
Dave Gasperson	NRC
Donald Palmrose	NRC
Hector Rodriguez	NRC
Jared Nadel	NRC
Jerry Dozier	NRC
John Pelchat	NRC
Kevin Coyne	NRC
Kevin Folk	NRC
Lance Rakovan	NRC
Lauren Gibson	NRC
Lifeng Guo	NRC
Lynnea Wilkins	NRC
Marieliz Johnson	NRC
Nancy Martinez	NRC
Phyllis Clark	NRC
Robert Elliot	NRC
Robert Hoffman	NRC
Scott Burnell	NRC
Tam Tram	NRC
Alan Stewart	Duke Energy
Albert Spear	Duke Energy
Amanda Breland	Duke Energy
Anne Pifer	Duke Energy
Arun Kapur	Duke Energy
Brett Garrison	Duke Energy
Casey Muggleston	Duke Energy
Chase Fulk	Duke Energy
Christopher Seville	Duke Energy
Daniel Roberts	Duke Energy
David Lee	Duke Energy

David Morris	Duke Energy
David Peltola	Duke Energy
David Wilson	Duke Energy
Ed Asbury	Duke Energy
Elizabeth Glen	Duke Energy
Ellen Morton	Duke Energy
Emily DeRoberts	Duke Energy
Erik Wagner	Duke Energy
Gerhard Wald	Duke Energy
Greg Robison	Duke Energy
Heather Galloway	Duke Energy
Joe Terrell	Duke Energy
Mark Hager	Duke Energy
Lori Hekking	Duke Energy
Marsha Kinley	Duke Energy
Matthew Hanche	Duke Energy
Maverick Raber	Duke Energy
Michael Smallwood	Duke Energy
Michelle Spak	Duke Energy
Mikayla Kueuzberger	Duke Energy
Mike Ruhe	Duke Energy
Nicholas Wahl	Duke Energy
Paul Guill	Duke Energy
Renee Gamble	Duke Energy
Rita Sipe	Duke Energy
Rounette Nader	Duke Energy
Scott Andresen	Duke Energy
Scott Fletcher	Duke Energy
Sheila Dalton	Duke Energy
Stantson Lanham	Duke Energy
Steven Capps	Duke Energy
Steven Graham	Duke Energy
Steven Snider	Duke Energy
Tony Garland	Duke Energy
Tracey Leroy	Duke Energy
Albert Yeh	Court Reporter
Brett Titus	Nuclear Energy Institute
Darryl Broome	Oconee Chamber of Commerce
Dick Mangrum	WGOG Radio
Kenneth Harding	Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant

Lloyd Generette	Environmental Protection Agency
Paul Bessette	Morgan Lewis
Rachel Turney-Works	Enercon
Richard Orthen	Next Era Energy
Robert Guild	Sierra Club
Sarita Acker	Clemson University
Thomas Alexander	South Carolina State Senator District 1
Thomas Slavonic	Enercon