

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Summary of Public Meetings

Title: Public Meetings to Receive Comments on the Draft Site-Specific Oconee Environmental Impact Statement

Meeting Identifiers: 20240150 and 20240153

Meeting Dates: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, and Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Location: Seneca, SC (2/21) and Webinar (2/27)

Type of Meeting: Comment-Gathering Meetings

Purpose of the Meetings:

To provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's environmental review of the subsequent license renewal environmental report, as supplemented, for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 (Oconee Station), as documented in its draft site-specific environmental impact statement and provide an opportunity for public comment on the NRC staff's findings.

General Details:

The NRC held two public meetings as part of the Oconee Station subsequent license renewal environmental review. The meeting held on February 21 2024, started at 7:00 p.m. eastern standard time (ET) and ended at approximately 8:50 p.m. ET. The meeting held on February 27, 2024, started at 1:00 p.m. ET and ended at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET. Both meetings followed the same agenda, beginning 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 process and the preliminary findings of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The presentation emphasized that comments on the draft EIS were welcome to help NRC refine the document. 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 draft EIS.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting held on February 21, 2024, and approximately 60 people attended the meeting held on February 27, 2024. These numbers include the NRC staff in attendance. Participants included members of the public, government agencies as well as representatives of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC., and members of public advocacy organizations.

Summary of Presentation:

The NRC presentation noted that the operating licenses for Oconee Station were issued in 1973 for Units 1 and 2 and 1974 for Unit 3. The renewed licenses were issued for all three units in 2000. The proposed expiration dates, assuming the 20-year extension is granted once the environmental review is completed, would shift the expiration dates to 2053 for Units 1 and 2 and 2054 for Unit 3.

In terms of the environmental review, the NRC previously was using a generic environmental impact statement to address generic (Category 1) issues for environmental reviews. However, the Commission Orders directed that NRC could not apply the generic issues to subsequent license renewal; so, NRC had to take an in-depth look at both Category 1 and 2 topics as part of this review. The draft site-specific EIS was issued at the beginning of February. An announcement informing the public the draft site-specific EIS was available was published in the *Federal Register* on February 13th and a 45-day comment period began on February 16th, with public comments due April 1, 2024.

Per the draft EIS preliminary findings, the vast majority of the resource areas analyzed by NRC staff were found to have a potential small impact. For historical and cultural resources, the preliminary finding is that the action, subsequent license renewal, would not adversely affect known historic properties. For environmental justice, the preliminary finding is that the action would have no disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. For special species and habitats, the NRC identified that the action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the monarch butterfly and tricolored bat. No essential fish habitat or national marine sanctuaries are present.

The presentation noted that the NRC does not make decisions in terms of whether a plant should continue to operate or what the ratio of types of power production should be in the United States. The primary finding in the draft EIS is that the adverse environmental impacts of subsequent license renewal for Oconee Station for an additional 20 years beyond the current expiration dates are not so great that preserving the option of subsequent license renewal for energy-planning decisionmakers would be unreasonable.

The staff ended the meeting by stressing that the closing date for submitting comments on the draft report is April 1, 2024. 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-2021-0146); or (3) submitted electronically by email to OconeeEnvironmental@nrc.gov.

Public Participation Themes:

February 21, 2024, Meeting

Eight speakers provided remarks. Comments addressed several topics including: uranium fuel cycle, processing of uranium fuel, waste management, timing of public meetings and availability to the public (i.e. not on Wednesday due to religious conflict), general draft EIS process and public comment timing, general support of nuclear power, renewable energy, climate change, flooding due to climate change, climate change effects on animals, roadway flooding due to climate change, concern that the earthen dam could fail and cause flooding, public health and safety, public participation, age of the Oconee Plant, new NRC chair appointment, and concern for future impacts on future generations.

February 27, 2024, Meeting

Ten speakers provided remarks. Comments primarily focused on climate change, flooding, and the Jocassee Dam. Alternative energy options, radioactive waste storage, and other topics were touched upon as well.

A complete accounting of the comments provided during both meetings can be found in the meeting transcripts which are available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System 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 the comments received during the public commenting period as part of the subsequent license renewal review for Oconee Station. The NRC staff will include an analysis of comments in the final NUREG-1437, Supplement 2, Second Renewal, "Site-Specific Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants Supplement 2, Second Renewal Regarding Subsequent License Renewal."

References:

February 21, 2024, Meeting

- Meeting Description and Agenda – ML24039A102
- NRC Staff Presentation – ML24046A160
- Meeting Transcript – ML24071A167

February 27, 2024, Meeting

- Meeting Description and Agenda – ML24039A046
- NRC Staff Presentation – ML24046A161
- Meeting Transcript – ML24071A168

List of Attendees
February 21, 2024, Public Meeting to Receive Comments on the Draft Site-Specific
Oconee Environmental Impact Statement

NAME	AFFILIATION
Dave Gasperson	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Keion Henry (He/Him)	NRC
Stephen Koenick	NRC
Jared Nadel	NRC
Lance Rakovan	NRC
Evan Robinson	NRC
Angela Sabet	NRC
Nick Smalley	NRC
Eric Stamm	NRC
Shawn Williams	NRC
Trent Acker	Duke Energy Carolinas
Rosellen Aleguire	
Steven Capps	Duke Energy Carolinas
Elaine Cooper	Sierra Club
Jamie Dodson	Duke Energy Carolinas
Robert Fennell	Duke Energy Carolinas
Heather Galloway	Duke Energy Carolinas
Jeremy Galloway	Duke Energy Carolinas
Todd Grant	Duke Energy Carolinas
MK Green	Duke Energy Carolinas
Audrey Jones	Sierra Club
Mikayla Kreuzberger	Duke Energy Carolinas
Tracey LeRoy	Duke Energy Carolinas
Eunice Lehmacher	Sierra Club
Roulette Nader	Duke Energy Carolinas
Frank Powell	
Jane Powell	
Daniel Roberts	Duke Energy Carolinas
Greg Robinson	Duke Energy Carolinas
Steve Snider	Duke Energy Carolinas
Bert Spear	Duke Energy Carolinas
Joanne Sweeney	Nuclear Watch South
David Wilson	Duke Energy Carolinas

List of Attendees
February 27, 2024, Public Meeting to Receive Comments on the Draft Site-Specific
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NAME	AFFILIATION
Scott Burnell	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Beth Alferink	NRC
Kim Conway	NRC
Elijah Dickson	NRC
Dave Gasperson	NRC
Keion Henry	NRC
Hsiang-Yuan Ho	NRC
Steven Koenick	NRC
Karen Loomis	NRC
Nancy Martinez	NRC
Marla Morales	NRC
John Moses	NRC
Jared Nadel	NRC
Leah Parks	NRC
Lance Rakovan	NRC
Jeff Rikhoff	NRC
Evan Robinson	NRC
Miranda Ross	NRC
Angela Sabet	NRC
Nick Smalley	NRC
Zee St Hilaire	NRC
Eric Stamm	NRC
Antoinette Walker-Smith	NRC
Lynnea Wilkins	NRC
Ashley Waldron	NRC
Mark Yoo	NRC
Rosellen Aleguire	
Jana Bergman	Curtiss Wright
Anna Bishop	
Crystal Bowers	Duke Energy Carolinas
Lucas Calvert	Duke Energy Carolinas
Glenn Carroll	
Elaine Frick	
Chase Fulk	Duke Energy Carolinas
Heather Galloway	Duke Energy Carolinas
Michael Geers	Duke Energy Carolinas

Lloyd Generette	Environmental Protection Agency
Elizabeth Glenn	Duke Energy Carolinas
Mary Kathryn Green	Duke Energy Carolinas
Paul Guill	Duke Energy Carolinas
Paul Gunter	Beyond Nuclear
Susan Jenkins	State of South Carolina
Stephanie Johansen	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Marsha Kinley	Duke Energy Carolinas
Leslie Jones	
Arun Kapur	Duke Energy Carolinas
Will Lane	
Leslie Miner	
Roulette Nader	Duke Energy Carolinas
Dan Nally	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Abigail Patterson	Duke Energy Carolinas
Frank Powell	
William Powell	
Priscilla Preston	
Betsy Rivard	
Daniel William Roberts	Duke Energy Carolinas
Greg Robinson	Duke Energy Carolinas
Joanne Sweeney	
Ellie Taylor	