



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 6, 2025

Michell Hicks, Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 1927
Cherokee, NC 28719

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT
NUMBERS 1, 2, AND 3 SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL (DOCKET
NUMBERS: 50-269, 50-270, AND 50-287)

Dear Principal Chief Michell Hicks:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed the environmental impact statement NUREG-1437, Supplement 2, Second renewal, "Site-Specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants Regarding Subsequent License Renewal for Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2, and 3, Final Report" (FEIS). Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2, and 3 (Oconee Station), is operated by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, in Oconee County, South Carolina. The NRC staff initiated consultation with you regarding this project in August 2021. In accordance with Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 800.8(c), the NRC staff elected to use the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, process to comply with its obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. As such, Section 3.9 of the FEIS documents the staff's findings with regard to historic and cultural resources at the Oconee site.

In a letter dated February 16, 2024, the NRC provided the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) web address and accession number for the draft EIS to your office. The FEIS includes the NRC staff's site-specific evaluation of the environmental impacts of the subsequent license renewal (SLR) for Oconee Station and alternatives to the SLR. As documented therein, the NRC staff's recommendation is that the adverse environmental impacts of the SLR for Oconee Station (i.e., the continued operation of Oconee Station for a period of 20 years beyond current expiration dates) are not so great that preserving the option for energy-planning decision-makers would be unreasonable. Further, the NRC staff concludes that SLR would not adversely affect historic properties.

The FEIS is available through the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> under [ML25031A307](#).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jean Trefethen by phone at 301-415-0867 or via email at Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Moses, John
on 02/06/25

John Moses, Deputy Director
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

cc:

Russell Townsend, THPO
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Qualla Boundary
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719
Sverka@nccherokee.com

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL (DOCKET NUMBERS: 50-269, 50-270, AND 50-287)

DATED: February 6, 2025

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML25038A025- Letter **concurrency via e-mail**

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