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

May 23, 2025

John Lowery, Chairman
Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
6984 NC Hwy 711
West Pemboke, NC 28372

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE SCOPING PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2 SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (DOCKET NUMBER: 50-261)

Dear Chairman John Lowery:

The purpose of this letter is to provide notification of the scoping process for a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) environmental review. Specifically, the NRC is conducting a review of the environmental effects of the proposed subsequent renewal of the renewed facility operating license for H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2 (Robinson) for an additional 20 years of operation. Robinson is operated by Duke Energy Progress, LLC (Duke) and is located in Darlington County, South Carolina. Duke submitted an application for Robinson subsequent license renewal (SLR) by letter dated April 1, 2025, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants." The application is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which is accessible online at https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html, under Package Accession No. ML25091A290.

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, authorizes the NRC to issue initial operating licenses for up to 40 years for nuclear power reactors. Upon application and approval, such licenses may be renewed for terms of up to an additional 20 years for each renewal. SLR is defined as the term consisting of the period of extended operation from 60 to 80 years. The NRC makes the decision to approve or deny an SLR application based on whether the applicant has demonstrated that the safety and environmental requirements in the agency's regulations can be met during the period of extended operation. The NRC renewed the Robinson initial operating license on April 19, 2004; the renewed operating license expires on July 31, 2030. If approved, the requested SLR would extend the expiration date to July 31, 2050.

As part of its environmental review of an SLR application, the NRC prepares a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS), which is a plant-specific supplement to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (ML24087A133), consistent with the NRC's environmental protection regulations at 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions."

These regulations also implement Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). In accordance with Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (36 CFR) 800.8(c), the NRC intends to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), through the NEPA process in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. Therefore, the SEIS will include the identification of historic properties and historic and cultural resources, an assessment of impacts, and a determination.

In the context of the NHPA, the NRC has determined that the area of potential effects (APE) for the Robinson SLR includes lands within the nuclear power plant site boundary and the transmission lines up to the first substation that may be directly or indirectly affected by land-disturbing or other operational activities associated with continued operations and maintenance and/or refurbishment activities. The APE may extend beyond the site if such activities affect offsite historic properties. This determination is made irrespective of land ownership or control.

In accordance with its January 9, 2017, Tribal Policy Statement (82 FR 2402), the NRC encourages participation by State-recognized Tribes in the NRC's licensing and regulatory processes. Therefore, the NRC invites you to submit any comments or concerns that you may have regarding the scope of the NRC's environmental review of the proposed action (Robinson SLR) within 30 days. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC by accessing https://www.regulations.gov and searching for Docket ID NRC-2025-0076 or by emailing RobinsonEnvironmental@nrc.gov. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the NRC at:

ATTN: Program Management, Announcements
and Editing Staff
Office of Administration
Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

The NRC expects to publish a draft of its SEIS in March 2026. The NRC will forward the draft SEIS to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments, the NRC plans to issue the final draft of the SEIS in August 2026.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC's environmental review, please contact Beau Goldstein, Staff Archaeologist, by phone at 301-415-1765 or via email at Beau.Goldstein@nrc.gov or Karen Loomis, Environmental Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-5142 or via email at Karen.Loomis@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah L Lopas Lopas, Sarah signing on behalf of Rome, Michelle on 05/23/25

Michelle Rome, Chief
Environmental Technical Review Branch 1
Division of Rulemaking, Environment,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 50-261

cc: Listserv

Kevin Melvin
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
kmelvin@lumbeetribe.com

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