



M. Christopher Nolan
Vice President

**New Nuclear Generation Strategy
& Regulatory Engagement**

13225 Hagers Ferry Rd., MG011E
Huntersville, NC 28078

(704) 382-7426

Chris.Nolan@duke-energy.com

Serial: RA-25-0150
June 23, 2025

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**SUBJECT: Request for Readiness Assessment for Early Site Permit Application –
Pre-Application Activities for Site Near Belews Creek Steam Station**

REFERENCES:

1. Letter from Duke Energy Business Services, LLC. to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission "Notice of Intent to Pursue an Early Site Permit for Potential Siting of an Advanced Nuclear Plant at the Belews Creek Site in North Carolina," dated August 16, 2023 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML23228A149).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

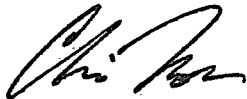
By the letter in Reference 1, Duke Energy Business Services, LLC (Duke Energy) notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intent to submit an Early Site Permit (ESP) application for a new nuclear generation facility located at a site near Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County, North Carolina.

Duke Energy requests the NRC staff conduct a preapplication readiness assessment of safety and environmental topics prior to the anticipated ESP application submittal. Duke Energy requests the readiness assessment be conducted in a phased approach beginning in July 2025 and leveraging the guidance provided in NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) instruction LIC-116, "Preapplication Readiness Assessment" and will coordinate with the staff to develop a detailed schedule in support of this effort.

This letter contains no new regulatory commitments.

Please address any comments or questions regarding this matter to Lee Grzeck, Licensing Manager – New Nuclear Generation at (980) 373-1530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Nolan", written in a cursive style.

M. Christopher Nolan

Vice President, New Nuclear Generation Strategy and Regulatory Engagement

cc: J. Lara, U.S. NRC Region II Administrator
M. Jardaneh, U.S. NRC Branch Chief (Acting)
D. Barnhurst, U.S. NRC Branch Chief
B. Gleaves, U.S. NRC Project Manager
M. Richmond, U.S. NRC Project Manager
M. King, U.S. NRC Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (Acting)
G. Bowman, U.S. NRC Deputy Director for New Reactors