

## 1.1 Historic and Cultural Resources

### 1.1.1 Affected Environment

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties; the remaining license termination and decommissioning activities at OCNGS are an undertaking that could potentially affect historic properties, should such properties be present. The NHPA defines historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Historic properties are a subset of cultural resources that are considered during the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 process. Cultural resources include, but are not limited to, properties that may not be NRHP-eligible or listed; places or landscapes of traditional cultural importance; and sacred, ceremonial, and religious sites.

Construction of OCNGS began in 1964 and was completed in 1969. Commercial operations began in December 1969. OCNGS stopped producing power and was officially retired in 2018 (Exelon 2018b). At present, the OCNGS licensed site boundary occupies approximately 152 ac (61.5 ha) (HDI 2025a). Additional information on the licensing history of the OCNGS can be found in Section **Error! Reference source not found.** of this EA.

Decommissioning activities within the license boundary and areas previously disturbed by the original construction would include removing all above-grade structures and some paved surfaces, decontaminating, and backfilling deep basements; some below-grade structures will remain (HDI 2025a). No intact soil will be disturbed, and no trees will be removed. The ISFSI would remain undisturbed and under an NRC license.

The NRC staff has determined the area of potential effects is the 152-ac (61.5 ha) licensed site boundary.

The NRC staff reviewed the current and historic land use within and immediately adjacent to the OCNGS site. In addition, the NRC staff relied upon historic and cultural resources descriptions provided in LTP ER Section 8.8.13 to inform their independent analysis (HDI 2025a). In September 2025, the NRC staff confirmed applicable historic and cultural resources data by accessing LUCY, which is the New Jersey cultural resources Geographic Information System online viewer (NJHPO 2025a). Except for the South Branch of the Forked River Trestle and Oyster Creek Trestle, no historic or cultural resources have been previously recorded in the OCNGS licensed area or immediately adjacent as depicted on LUCY. However, the Oyster Creek Paleoindian Spot Find (ID#5907) has been reported close to the OCNGS, near the area previously used to access the barge landing. This off-site area will not be used during license termination or decommissioning.

An architectural inventory of the licensed area was conducted by SEARCH in 2025 (SEARCH 2025). The survey was conducted in accordance with applicable New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) guidelines. Only two previously recorded and evaluated structures were recommended NRHP-eligible—the South Branch of the Forked River Trestle and the Oyster Creek Trestle. The trestles were previously determined to be NRHP-eligible in 2009 and 2022. Eleven newly recorded historic buildings/structures and one potential district—the OCNGS complex—were identified and evaluated. All were recommended to be individually ineligible for listing on the NRHP; OCNGS was also recommended ineligible

for NRHP-listing as a district. Based on documentation in the *Architectural History Survey* (SEARCH 2025), the NRC staff made a determination of No Adverse Effect pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b). The New Jersey SHPO disagreed with this assessment, and noted that six buildings/structures contributed to the NRHP-eligibility of the OCNGS as a whole under Criterion A: reactor/turbine building complex, old rad waste building, diesel generator building, canal and intake structure, electrical substation west of the canal (outside the APE), and auxiliary reservoir (outside the APE). The New Jersey SHPO also requested clarification and additional information (including more detailed and updated maps), which was prepared by SEARCH (SEARCH 2026) as a supplement to SEARCH's 2025 *Architectural History Survey*. Development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(b)(iv) was identified as the appropriate means by which to resolve adverse effects.

### **1.1.2 Impacts**

#### *Decommissioning GEIS Determination*

As discussed in the GEIS, the amount of land required to support the decommissioning process in most cases is relatively small and is a small portion of the overall plant site (NRC 2002). Usually, the areas disturbed or used to support decommissioning are within the operational areas of the site and typically are within the protected area. For plants in which the disturbance of lands beyond the operational areas is not anticipated, impacts on cultural, historic, and archaeological resources are not considered to be detectable or destabilizing. The GEIS concluded the impacts of decommissioning on historic and cultural resources within the operational area are SMALL. The staff does not anticipate any impacts beyond those discussed in the GEIS because planned disturbances mostly are within the OCNGS operational area.

#### *Site-Specific Activities*

Although the GEIS concluded a site-specific inquiry was necessary outside the operational area, there would be minimal decommissioning activities outside of that area and none on previously undisturbed land (HDI 2025a). Clean backfill for demolished buildings and structure foundations would be sourced from on-site demolition activities. If necessary, additional clean fill would be obtained from off-site sources that satisfy applicable regulatory requirements (HDI 2025a). Furthermore, the NRHP-eligible railroad trestles will be avoided and the area around Oyster Creek Paleoindian Spot Find (ID#5907) will not be disturbed during license termination or decommissioning.

Based on its cultural resources review, which included consultation with the New Jersey SHPO and the identification of buildings/structures at OCNGS that contribute to the NRHP-eligibility of OCNGS as a whole, the NRC has made a revised determination of Adverse Effect pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(2). To resolve adverse effects from the undertaking, a draft MOA has been developed for review by consulting parties and the public which includes mitigation measures that will be conducted prior to external removal, demolition, or alteration of the contributing buildings/structures. Based on execution of the MOA and commitment to completion of mitigation measures in the MOA, impacts to historic and cultural resources would be less than significant. Consultations conducted pursuant to the NRC staff's analysis of historic and cultural resources are discussed in Section 4.1.

## **1.2 National Historic Preservation Act Consultation**

NHPA consultation was conducted pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c). The NRC staff initiated consultation with four federally recognized Indian Tribes with historic and ancestral ties to the

project vicinity—the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Shawnee Tribe, and Stockbridge-Munsee Community. These consultations were conducted to make sure the Tribes were afforded an opportunity to identify their concerns, provide advice on the identification and evaluation of historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance, and, if necessary, participate in the resolution of any adverse effects to such properties (NRC 2025a). Three Tribes recognized by the State—the Powhatan Renape Indians, Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation, and Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians of New Jersey—also were provided an opportunity to provide input on NRC review (NRC 2025b).

The Shawnee Tribe and Stockbridge-Munsee Community responded that the project was located outside their areas of interest (Shawnee Tribe 2025 and Stockbridge-Munsee Community 2025). **[UPDATE WITH FINAL INPUT FROM TRIBES]**.

The NRC staff also initiated consultation with the New Jersey SHPO and informed the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of its intent to use the NEPA process to satisfy the NRC's Section 106 responsibilities pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c) (all consulting parties were similarly notified) (NRC 2025c and 2025d). The New Jersey SHPO responded (NJHPO 2025b) with a request to review the architectural inventory report (SEARCH 2025) and the ACHP responded (ACHP 2025) confirming receipt and reiterating the procedures at 36 CFR 800.8(c). The NRC staff subsequently made a preliminary determination of No Adverse Effect based on SEARCH 2025 and sent the report and correspondence to the New Jersey SHPO requesting concurrence on December 17, 2025 (NRC 2025e). The New Jersey SHPO responded by letter dated January 15, 2026 (NJHPO 2026a), stating that they did not concur with the NRC staff's preliminary determination, and in their opinion, six buildings/structures contribute to the NRHP-eligibility of OCNCS as a whole; the letter also requested additional/updated maps.

On March 3, 2026, correspondence (including SEARCH 2025 and SEARCH 2026) was sent to the New Jersey SHPO requesting concurrence on the revised determination of effect (NRC 2026a); to the ACHP providing notification of a determination of adverse effect pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) (NRC 2026b); to the Delaware Nation and the Delaware Tribe requesting comment (NRC 2026c and NRC 2026d, respectively); and three state recognized Tribes requesting comment (Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians of New Jersey [NRC 2026e]; Powhatan Renape Indians [NRC 2026f]; and Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation [NRC 2026g]).

The New Jersey SHPO concurred with the determination of adverse effect by email dated March 17, 2026 (NJHPO 2026b), which also agreed to the applicability of an MOA to resolve adverse effects. The ACHP responded by letter dated March 6, 2026 (ACHP 2026), where they elected not to participate in the resolution of adverse effects.

The draft historic and cultural resources section of the EA, including the draft MOA, has been made available to consulting parties and the public for review and comment. Consultation is ongoing.

**[UPDATE WITH FINAL INPUT FROM SHPO]**.

### 1.3 References

ACHP (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation). 2025. "License Termination Plan for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Ocean County, NJ." Letter to Desiree Davis, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards from Jamie Loichinger, Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Dated September 3, 2025. ADAMS Accession Number ML25247A092.

ACHP (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation). 2026. "License Termination Plan for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Ocean County, NJ." Letter to Stephen Koenick, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards from Bill Marzella, Program Analyst, Office of Federal Agency Programs, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Dated March 6. ADAMS Accession Number ML26065A072.

Exelon Nuclear 2018b. *Certification of Permanent Removal of Fuel from the Reactor Vessel for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station*. Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. ADAMS Accession Number ML18268A258.

HDI (Holtec Decommissioning International). 2025a. *Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Decommissioning Project License Termination Plan Revision 2*. Camden, New Jersey. ADAMS Accession Number ML25345A095.

NJHPO (New Jersey Historic Preservation Office). 2025a. LUCY Online Map Viewer. <https://dep.nj.gov/hpo/tools/lucy/> (Accessed September 30, 2025).

NJHPO (New Jersey Historic Preservation Office) 2025b. "Re: HPO Project No. 25-1028; Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Oyster Creek License Termination Plan." Email to Beau Goldstein, RPA, Environmental Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission from Vincent Maresca, Program Specialist. Dated September 22, 2025. ADAMS Accession Number ML25266A077.

NJHPO (New Jersey Historic Preservation Office) 2026a. "Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station New SHPO Opinion." Letter to Desiree Davis, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission from Katherine Marcopul, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. Dated January 15, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26026A103.

NJHPO (New Jersey Historic Preservation Office) 2026b. HPO Document ID #HPO-C2026-132. "Updated Section 106 Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan Application (Docket Number: 05000219; HPO Project #25-2028)." Concurrence from Katherine Marcopul, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. Dated March 17, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26077A111.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2002. *Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities*. NUREG-0586, Supplement 1, Vol. 1, Washington, D.C. ADAMS Accession Numbers ML023470304, ML023470323, ML023500187, ML023500211, ML023500223.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2025a. "Oyster Creek Section 106 Initiation – Federally Recognized Tribes." Washington, D.C. ADAMS Accession Number ML25212A148 (Package).

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2025b. "Oyster Creek Environmental Notification - State Tribes." Washington, D.C. ADAMS Accession Number ML25212A173 (Package).

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2025c. "Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan (Docket Number 05000219)." Letter to Shawn LaTourette, State Historic Preservation Officer, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office from Desiree Davis, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated August 19, 2025. ADAMS Accession Number ML25213A012.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2025d. "Notification of Section 106 Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan (Docket Number 05000219)." Letter to Jamie Loichinger, Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, from Desiree Davis, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated August 19, 2025. ADAMS Accession Number ML25213A011.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2025e. "HPO Project No. 25-1028; Section 106 Consultation for the Oyster Creek License Termination Plan." Email to Vincent Maresca, Program Specialist, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, from Beau Goldstein, RPA, Environmental Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards. Dated December 17, 2025. ADAMS Accession Number ML25351A266.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2026a. "Updated Section 106 Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan Application (Docket Number: 05000219; HPO Project #25-2028)." Letter to Shawn LaTourette, State Historic Preservation Officer, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office from Stephen Koenick, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated March 3, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26054A194.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2026b. "Updated Section 106 Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan Application (Docket Number: 05000219; ACHP Project #023585)." Letter to Jamie Loichinger, Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, from Stephen Koenick, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated March 3, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26054A195.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2026c. "Updated Section 106 Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan Application (Docket Number: 05000219)." Letter to Deborah Dotson, President, Delaware Nation, from Stephen Koenick, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated March 3, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26054A238.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2026d. "Updated Section 106 Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan Application (Docket Number: 05000219)." Letter to Brad KillsCrow, Chief, Delaware Tribe of Indians, from Stephen Koenick, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated March 3, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26062A162.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2026e. "Updated Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan Application (Docket Number: 05000219)." Letter to Tribal Leader, Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians of New Jersey, from Stephen Koenick, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated March 3, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26062A164.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2026f. "Updated Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan Application (Docket Number: 05000219)." Letter to Tribal Leader, Powhatan Renape Indians, from Stephen Koenick, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated March 3, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26054A291.

NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2026g. "Updated Consultation for the Environmental Review of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan Application (Docket Number: 05000219)." Letter to Tribal Leader, Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation, from Stephen Koenick, Acting Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 1, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Dated March 3, 2026. ADAMS Accession Number ML26062A163.

SEARCH. 2025. *Architectural History Survey of Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station*, Ocean County, New Jersey. Orlando, Florida. ADAMS Accession Number ML25345A158.

SEARCH. 2026. *Supplement to OCNGS Architectural History Survey Report*, Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-16, ADAMS Accession Number ML26058A164.

Shawnee Tribe. 2025. "Section 106 Consultation - Oyster Creek License Termination Plan." Email to Beau Goldstein, RPA, Environmental Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission from Erin Paden, Tribal Historic Preservation Specialist. Dated August 29, 2025. ADAMS Accession Number ML25245A129.

Stockbridge-Munsee Community. 2025. "RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Oyster Creek License Termination Plan." Email to Beau Goldstein, RPA, Environmental Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission from Jeffrey Bendremer, Ph.D., Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Dated September 4, 2025. ADAMS Accession Number ML25247A094.