



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

April 29, 2026

Rounette K. Nader, Vice President
New Nuclear Generation and
License Renewal
Duke Energy
525 South Tryon St
Charlotte, NC 28202

SUBJECT: EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR BELEWS CREEK SITE - NOTICE
OF INTENT TO CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS AND PREPARE AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Ms. Nader:

By letter dated December 30, 2025, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management (ADAMS) Package Accession No. ML25364A004), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Duke Energy Corporation, submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in accordance with the requirement of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, Subpart A, "Early Site Permits (ESP)," an application for a ESP to construct multiple reactors at the Belews Creek, North Carolina site. This submission initiated the NRC's proposed action of determining whether to grant the ESP. The NRC staff determined that DEC submitted an application in accordance with 10 CFR Part 52, and that the application is acceptable for docketing under Docket No. 52-055. The NRC sent a letter of acceptance and docketing to DEC on February 9, 2026, (ML26016A624). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application and notice of hearing were published in the *Federal Register* on February 9, 2025, (91 FR 5787). This letter provides information related to the NRC staff's environmental review of the application.

The NRC staff has prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) advising the public that the NRC intends to conduct a scoping process to gather the information necessary to prepare an environmental impact statement related to the review of DEC's application for an ESP.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28, DEC is invited to participate in the environmental scoping process. As discussed in the NOI, the NRC staff is providing the public with the opportunity to review details regarding the project at <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/advanced/who-were-working-with/applicant-projects/dukeenergy>. The public and stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments to BelewsCreekEnvironmental@nrc.gov.

R. Nader

- 2 -

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. William Burris via email at William.Burris@NRC.gov or Ms. Patricia Vokoun via email at Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Barnhurst, Daniel
on 04/29/26

Dan Barnhurst, Chief
Environmental Project Management Branch 3
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguard

Docket No.: 52-055

cc: GovDelivery

SUBJECT: EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR BELEWS CREEK SITE - NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS AND PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DATED: April 29, 2026

DISTRIBUTION

PUBLIC

W. Burris, NMSS

P. Vokoun, NMSS

D. Barnhurst, NMSS

K. Savoy, NMSS

M. Hayes, NRR

E. Sayoc, NRR

I. Banks, NRR

S. Stephens, OGC

C. Condon, PNNL (caitlin.condon@pnnl.gov)

H. McClendon, PNNL (hayley.mcclendon@pnnl.gov)

S. Dailey, USACE (Samantha.J.Dailey@usace.army.mil)

S. Burnell, HQ/OPA

L. Wilkins, HQ/OCA

ADAMS Accession No.: PKG: ML26111A200, Letter: ML26111A321

e-Concurrence case: 20260421-90022