



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

May 7, 2026

Diane Shields, Chief
Monacan Indian Nation
111 Highview Drive
Madison Heights, VA 24572

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF AN EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE BELEWS CREEK SITE IN STOKES AND FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA (EPID NUMBER: L-2026-ESE-0002) (DOCKET NUMBER: 52-055)

Dear Chief Diane Shields:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by the Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (DEC) for an early site permit (ESP) for the Belews Creek Site in North Carolina. DEC submitted the application on December 30, 2025, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Package Accession No. [ML25364A004](#)), in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52 seeking approval of the potential future construction of multiple nuclear reactors at the Belews Creek site. If licensed, the facility would be located along Belews Creek and Belews Lake in Sauratown Township, Stokes County, and partially in Belews Creek Township, Forsyth County, North Carolina (see Enclosures 1 and 2). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) with your office.

The ESP application and review process makes it possible to evaluate and resolve safety and environmental issues related to siting potential future construction of multiple nuclear reactors at the Belews Creek site. An ESP does not, however, authorize construction and operation of a nuclear power plant. Such authorization would require an additional application and review.

The application is available through the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html>. The environmental report portion of the application is listed under ADAMS Accession No. [ML25364A006](#). The application is also available on the Internet at <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/advanced/who-were-working-with/applicant-projects/dukeenergy>.

As part of the review of this ESP application, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by 10 CFR 51, the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District is participating as a cooperating agency on the environmental review. The NRC will be the lead Federal agency under NEPA and for NHPA Section 106 consultation.

In accordance with Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (36 CFR) Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," Section 800.8(c), the NRC is using the NEPA process to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. The

EIS will include identification of historic and cultural resources and historic properties, an analysis of potential effects of the proposed actions, including potential effects on historic and cultural resources and historic properties as well as the NRC staff's preliminary determinations.

The NRC staff are currently seeking information from consulting parties and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area to identify issues relating to the proposed undertaking's potential effects on cultural resources and historic properties. The NRC has defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this ESP as an approximately 1,080-acres within the Belews Creek site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by land-disturbing and building activities associated with the construction and operation of multiple nuclear reactors (see Enclosure 3).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c)(1)(iii), the NRC wishes to ensure that Indian Tribes who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties in the APE are afforded the 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.

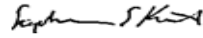
The NRC is considering holding an informational meeting with Federally recognized Tribal governments to provide an overview of the NRC's environmental review. If your Tribe is interested in having the NRC conduct a meeting, please email the points of contact listed in this letter. This meeting would not be open to the public and is intended to afford Tribal representatives an opportunity to discuss with NRC staff the submitted licensing and regulatory requests, the NRC's associated review, and ask questions. If held, the meeting will not be recorded or transcribed, and additional information, including an agenda, will be provided in a separate communication.

The NRC invites you to submit any comments or concerns that you may have regarding the environmental review and NRC's NHPA Section 106 consultation by June 8, 2026. Comments may be submitted to the points of contact listed below. The NRC plans to issue the draft EIS for consulting party and public review and comment in February 2027. A copy of the draft EIS will be made available for your review and comment.

Please note that future correspondence will be sent via electronic format. If you would prefer to receive hard copy correspondence, please contact the points of contact listed below.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC's Section 106 consultation or the environmental review, please contact Jennifer Davis, Senior Environmental Project Manager/Archaeologist, by phone at 301-415-3835 or via email at Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov or to William Burris, Environmental Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-1621 or via email at William.Burris@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Koenick, Stephen
on 05/07/26

Stephen S. Koenick, Acting Chief
Environmental Technical Review Branch 1
Division of Rulemaking, Environment,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 52-055

Enclosures: As stated

cc: GovDelivery

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ADAMS Package No: ML26124A136 (Multiple Federal Tribe)

Encl. 1: ML26128A144; Encl. 2: ML26128A145; and Encl. 3 ML26128A146

e-Concurrence case: 20260504-90012