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Campestrin, Antoinette
Walker-Smith, Mary Neely
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Duke Energy Corporation; Belews Creek Early Site Permit Application

Comment On: NRC-2025-2161-0007

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Belews Creek, North Carolina Site, Early Site Permit, Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement

Document: NRC-2025-2161-DRAFT-0007

Comment on FR Doc # 2026-08155, NRC-2025-2161-0007, from Jim Harrell

Submitter Information

Name: Jim Harrell

Address:

Cary, NC, 27518

Email: harrelljr@zachrynuclear.com

General Comment

As a long-time North Carolina resident, I am very supportive of the addition of carbon-free, reliable, safe nuclear energy in the form of Small Modular Reactors at Belews Creek. In addition to unparalleled capacity factors/reliability, when asset lifetimes (e.g., ~80 years for nuclear) are considered, the cost for NOAK nuclear per MWh is reasonably comparable with other power options. Duke's history of safe and reliable operation of nuclear facilities clearly demonstrates their expertise and customer focus. Having lived near two Duke nuclear plants, I have seen the huge economic development benefit through taxes, jobs, etc., as well as improvement in education opportunities, local facilities, etc. Duke's ESP pursuit is a strong indication of thoughtful planning for the future carbon-free power needs of their customers based on expected demand growth.