



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

September 29, 2026

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

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ESTABLISHING FIXED FEE
CAP AND REVISED SCHEDULE FOR ONGOING BELEWS CREEK EARLY
SITE PERMIT REVIEW

Dear Ms. Nader:

In preparation for the Executive Order 14300 fixed fee caps to take effect on October 1, 2026, a fixed fee cap must be established by September 30, 2026, for each requested activity for which a complete application has been accepted for review by the NRC before October 1, 2026, if the review will continue past October 1, 2026.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 170.33, this communication establishes the fixed cap on service fees (fixed fee cap) for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC's) review of the Belews Creek Early Site Permit application. The fixed fee cap for the NRC's review of this requested activity is \$2,178,000. The NRC considered various factors when establishing this fixed fee cap, such as the quality and complexity of the application, technology type, and any pre-application engagement. The Reduced Hourly Rate as established in 10 CFR 170.20(b) applies to this requested activity.

The fixed fee cap represents the maximum amount that the NRC may charge for service fees for this requested activity following acceptance of the complete application. The fixed fee cap will not be increased except in instances of applicant failure, as defined in 10 CFR 170.3.

If applicant failure occurs, the NRC will notify Duke Energy Corporation in writing of the new fixed fee cap, which will be set at the lowest practicable amount determined by the NRC to account for the applicant failure and complete the review.

The NRC will continue to track service fees against the fixed fee cap beginning on February 8, 2026, which is the date a complete application was accepted for review by the NRC for this requested activity.

Disputes associated with a fixed fee cap must be submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 15.31 and 170.33(f) and NRC Form 529 procedures.

This letter also provides a schedule acceleration driven by review efficiencies and productive collaboration from that communicated to Duke Energy Corporation by letter¹ dated February 8, 2026. The table below provides updated key milestones for the safety and environmental reviews.

Safety Review Milestones	Original Estimated Completion Dates¹	Revised Estimated Completion Dates
Advanced Final Safety Evaluation Report (without open items)	March 2027	December 2026
Final Safety Evaluation Report	May 2027	February 2027
Environmental Review Milestones		
Draft Environmental Impact Statement	February 2027	December 2026
Final Environmental Impact Statement	May 2027	March 2027

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Emmanuel Sayoc, Project Manager, at (301) 415-4085 or by email at emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov. For questions that are specific to the environmental review please contact Mr. William Burris, Project Manager, at (301) 415-1621 or by email at william.burris@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Michelle Hayes on 09/29/26

Michelle W. Hayes, Chief
Advanced Reactor Licensing Branch 2
Division of Advanced Reactor Licensing
Office of Advanced Reactors

Project No.: 05200055

¹ U.S. NRC, "Acceptance Review Results for an Early Site Permit Application For Belews Creek Site," February 8, 2026, ML26016A624.

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ADAMS Accession Number:

PKG: ML26259A004

Letter: ML26259A008

E-concurrence case: 20260916-02439