WATER STRATEGY, HYDRO LICENSING & LAKE SERVICES



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January 3, 2025

Electronically Filed

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426

Subject: Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project (P-2740-053)

Updated Study Report and Updated Study Report Meeting

Dear Secretary Reese:

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy or Licensee) is the Licensee, owner, and operator of the 1,400-megawatt (MW) Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project (Project) (FERC Project No. 2740), located in Oconee County, South Carolina, approximately eight miles north of Salem. The Project utilizes the Bad Creek Reservoir as the upper reservoir and Lake Jocassee, which is licensed as part of the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2503), as the lower reservoir.

The existing (original) license for the Project was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) for a 50-year term, with an effective date of August 1, 1977, and expires July 31, 2027. Accordingly, Duke Energy is pursuing a new license for the Project pursuant to the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), as described at 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 5. Duke Energy is proposing additional energy storage and generation capacity at the Project, which would be developed by constructing a new 1,400-MW Bad Creek II Power Complex (Bad Creek II) adjacent to the existing powerhouse.

On December 5, 2022, Duke Energy filed the Revised Study Plan (RSP) describing the studies the Licensee proposed to conduct in support of relicensing the Project, in accordance with 18 CFR §5.11. The Commission approved the RSP with modifications on January 4, 2023, in its Study Plan Determination (SPD). As approved by the Commission in its SPD, Duke Energy has implemented the following six studies during the 2023-2024 field seasons:

- Water Resources Study:
- Aquatic Resources Study;
- Visual Resources Study;
- Recreational Resources Study;
- Cultural Resources Study; and
- Environmental Justice Study.

Duke Energy filed the Initial Study Report (ISR) on January 4, 2023, and per 18 CFR §5.15(c), Duke Energy held an ISR meeting with participants and FERC staff on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Additionally, in accordance with 18 CFR §5.15, Duke Energy has filed quarterly study progress reports documenting study implementation and is hereby filing the Updated Study Report (USR) with the Commission.

The USR describes methods and results of the studies conducted in support of preparing an application for a new license for the existing Project and construction of Bad Creek II. Duke Energy is filing the USR with the Commission electronically and is distributing notification to the parties listed on the attached distribution list. For parties listed on the attached distribution list who have provided an email address, Duke Energy is distributing this letter via email; otherwise, Duke Energy is distributing a notification of filing via U.S. mail. Parties interested in the relicensing process may obtain a copy of the USR electronically through FERC's eLibrary system¹, or from Duke Energy's public relicensing website.² If any party would like to request a CD containing a copy of the USR, please contact the undersigned at the address listed below. Note that Controlled Unclassified Information // Privileged (CUII/PRIV) pertaining to locations of protected archeological sites is being filed under separate cover.

In comments filed on the ISR or at the ISR meeting, FERC staff requested that certain study data (including GIS files) be provided electronically, and Duke Energy committed to including the requested data and GIS files with the USR filing. The requested data is being provided in electronic format as part of this USR filing.

USR Meeting

The Commission's regulations at 18 CFR §5.15(f) require Duke Energy to hold a meeting with relicensing participants and FERC staff within 15 days of filing the USR. Accordingly, Duke Energy will hold an USR Meeting from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (approximately) on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at its Wenwood Operations Center in Greenville, SC. An agenda for the USR Meeting is provided in Attachment 2. Please note the agenda is intended as an approximation and more or less time may be spent on individual studies, as needed.

Duke Energy encourages in-person participation by stakeholders and Commission staff. Please contact Alan Stuart (alan.stuart@duke-energy.com) by January 9, 2025 to register for the meeting or to request a Microsoft Teams option to participate.

Duke Energy looks forward to continuing to work with Commission staff, resource agencies, Indian Tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and interested members of the public throughout the relicensing process. If there are questions regarding this filing, please contact me at Alan.Stuart@duke-energy.com or via phone at 980-373-2079.

¹ https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp under docket number P-2740-053

² https://www.badcreekpumpedstorage.com/

Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project (P-2740) Updated Study Report and Updated Study Report Meeting

Sincerely,

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