

reduce resource use and worker exposure and related impacts.

Under the Proposed Action, DOE estimates that immobilization of liquid waste resulting from the processing of 29.2 MTHM SNF (without uranium recovery) would result in about 505 HLW glass-filled stainless-steel canisters. This results in 435 more canisters from SNF processing than was analyzed in the previous SRS SNF EIS. In the context of the approximately 8,400 HLW glass-filled stainless-steel canisters that DOE's most recent estimate indicated would be produced at DWPF, this increase is not substantial (less than 7 percent), and SRS's total expected canisters would still be within the 10,000 canisters DOE evaluated in the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Defense Waste Processing Facility* (DOE/EIS-0082-S, November 1994) and no additional storage capacity would be needed.

Although a national repository for SNF has not yet been identified, DOE remains committed to meeting its obligations to safely dispose of SNF and HLW. The estimated 505 additional HLW canisters that would eventually require disposal would be more than offset by the estimated 1,000 SNF storage canisters that would have needed disposal if the SNF were not processed in H-Canyon.

Under the Proposed Action, because the uranium would not be recovered, the fissile material concentration in the HLW glass needs to be as much as 2,500 grams per cubic meter to maximize the amount of material allowed in the H-Canyon transfers sent to the HLW sludge batches. Analyses indicate that increasing the fissile material content in the glass up to 2,500 grams per cubic meter would not constitute a criticality issue and would have minimal impact on key properties related to durability of the glass. Testing has demonstrated that the HLW glass produced under the Proposed Action will meet the performance standards of previously produced DWPF glasses.

Implementing the Proposed Action would entail activities at H-Canyon that are the same as or comparable to existing or historical operations and are largely bounded by activities evaluated in the SRS SNF EIS. Therefore, the Proposed Action is not expected to result in substantial increases to the range of cumulative impacts described in the SRS SNF EIS.

#### Amended Decision

DOE has decided to implement the Proposed Action as described in the SRS ABD SA. DOE will manage up to 29.2 MTHM of SNF using conventional

processing without uranium recovery in H-Canyon at SRS. DOE anticipates processing these materials beginning as early as 2022, and continuing approximately 12 to 13 years, consistent with program and policy priorities and funding. DOE will use three dissolvers in order to cost-effectively utilize H-Canyon and expeditiously complete the mission, although only two dissolvers would be operated at any one time. Meanwhile, SNF will continue to be stored in L-Basin at SRS, pending processing in H-Canyon.

In the ROD for the SRS SNF EIS (65 FR 48224, August 7, 2000), DOE identified the Minimum Impact Alternative as the environmentally preferable alternative; this has not changed. No environmental impacts resulting from operations under this amended decision would require specific mitigation measures. DOE will continue its current practices and policies to use all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm and impacts to workers when implementing the actions described herein. For example, DOE will continue to evaluate and implement, as appropriate, physical modifications to the H-Canyon facility and process chemistry changes that would reduce personnel exposure, facility effluents, and waste generation.

#### Basis for Decision

The proposed use of conventional processing for 29.2 MTHM of SNF, including target materials, as described in the SRS ABD SA (DOE/EIS-0279-SA-07, 2022) and this amendment to DOE's 2000 SNF ROD (65 FR 48224) takes advantage of existing processes in existing facilities. The activities encompassed by this amended decision will not incur potential health or environmental impacts significantly different from those analyzed in existing NEPA reviews. This amended decision reduces the overall cost of managing the currently stored SNF by eliminating the need for storage in L-Basin and maximizes near-term utilization of H-Canyon to expeditiously complete the mission. Further, the actions resulting from this Amended ROD allow processing of the remaining inventory of SNF stored at SRS L-Basin, converts the SNF to forms that are proliferation resistant and can be safely stored for long periods with minimal maintenance.

As described in the SRS ABD SA, most impacts would be similar to or bounded by those described in the SRS SNF EIS. While the decision documented in this Amended ROD will increase the number of canisters of

vitrified HLW, it is not expected to significantly affect the quantity of vitrified HLW canisters requiring management and would be more than offset by the SNF canisters that would not require disposal.

The actions to be taken pursuant to this Amended ROD strongly support U.S. non-proliferation policy and goals by permanently dispositioning the HEU contained in the SNF. This Proposed Action is consistent with U.S. agreements regarding receipt of foreign research reactor materials in which involved countries with the economic ability to do so contribute to the costs of transportation and U.S. receipt, processing, and disposition of the materials.

#### Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on April 8, 2022, by William I. White, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management, Office of Environmental Management, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with the requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. The administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 14, 2022.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2232-828]

#### Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* Request for a temporary amendment of the reservoir elevation requirement at the Wateree development.

b. Project No.: 2232–828.

c. *Date Filed*: January 25, 2022.

d. *Applicant*: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC.

e. *Name of Project*: Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location*: The project is located on the Catawba-Wateree River in Burke, McDowell, Caldwell, Catawba, Alexander, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Lincoln, and Gaston counties, North Carolina, and York, Lancaster, Chester, Fairfield, and Kershaw counties South Carolina.

g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)–825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact*: Mr. Jeffrey G. Lineberger, Director of Water Strategy and Hydro Licensing, Duke Energy, Mail Code EC–12Q, 526 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28202, (704) 382–5942.

i. *FERC Contact*: Mr. Steven Sachs, (202) 502–8666, *Steven.Sachs@ferc.gov*.

j. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests is 30 days from the issuance of this notice by the Commission. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/doc-sfiling/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov*, (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P–2232–828.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. *Description of Request*: The applicant requests a temporary variance of its reservoir elevation requirement at the Wateree development. The applicant intends to maintain the water surface between 6 and 7 feet below the full pool elevation of 100 feet local datum for 11 to 16 months beginning in the third quarter of 2022. This differs from the normal target elevation which is 3 feet below full pool (97 feet local datum) from March through November and 5 to 5.5 feet below full pool (95 to 94.5 feet local datum) at all other times, and compares to the normal minimum elevation which is 6 feet below full pool (94 feet local datum) from March through October, and 7 feet below full pool (93 feet local datum) the remainder of the year. The applicant states the low reservoir elevation would allow it to install pneumatic crest gates on the Wateree dam.

l. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov* or call toll-free, (866) 208–3676 or TYY, (202) 502–8659.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. *Comments, Motions to Intervene, or Protests*: Anyone may submit comments, a motion to intervene, or a protest in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, motions to intervene, or protests must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

o. *Filing and Service of Responsive Documents*: Any filing must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "MOTION TO INTERVENE", or "PROTEST" as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number(s) of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone

number of the person intervening or protesting; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, motions to intervene, or protests must set forth their evidentiary basis. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2010.

Dated: April 13, 2022.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP22–141–000]

#### Great Basin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Application and Establishing Intervention Deadline

Take notice that on March 30, 2022, Great Basin Gas Transmission Company (Great Basin), P.O. Box 94197, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193, filed an application under sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations requesting that the Commission authorize the 2023 Mainline Replacement Project (project), which consists in the abandonment and replacement of approximately 20.36 miles of 16-inch-diameter steel pipe and associated auxiliary or appurtenant facilities located in Humboldt County, Nevada, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open for public inspection. The estimated cost of the project is \$47,119,897.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room, due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19), issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For