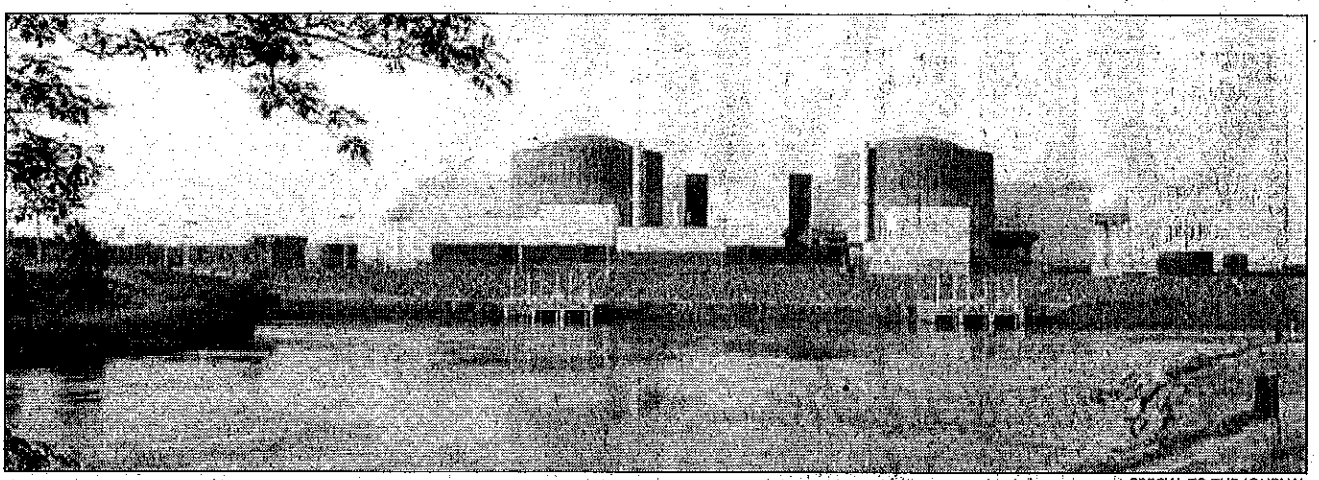


SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Duke Energy's 11 nuclear generating units had a record-breaking year in 2016, providing the Carolinas with nearly 90 billion kilowatt-hours of carbon-free electricity.

Duke Energy has record-breaking year

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — One unit at Duke Energy Oconee Nuclear Station provided more than 7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity over 12 months, and two other units completed their shortest refueling outages ever.

This helped Duke Energy's 11 nuclear generating units complete a record-breaking year in 2016, providing the Carolinas with nearly 90 billion kilowatt-hours of carbon-free electricity.

That's enough electricity to power 7.5 million homes — more homes than are in North Carolina and South Carolina combined.

"Much of our success this past year was based on enhancements in outage planning and execution, along with our ongoing commitment and focus on continuous improvement," Duke Energy chief nuclear officer Bill Pitesa said. "The lower costs of nuclear fuel, coupled with shorter refueling outages, continue to be a major factor in keeping our customers' costs down."

The 11 generating units achieved a combined capacity factor of 95.72 percent — a new fleet record — marking the 18th consecutive year of attaining a 90-plus percent capacity factor and demonstrating the company's consistency and reliability.

McGuire Nuclear Station's two units established a station-best 12-month generation record of nearly 20 billion kilowatt-hours in North Carolina. A unit at Catawba Nuclear Station in York set a 12-month record, cranking out more than 10 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, while another unit had its longest continuous operating run.

The two-unit Brunswick Nuclear Plant in North Carolina generated more than 15 billion kilowatt-hours, another new record. Brunswick also completed its shortest refueling outage ever. And the Harris and Robinson nuclear plants, in North Carolina and South Carolina, respectively, each achieved record six-month generation during 2016 — producing more power over that time period than ever before.

In total, the nuclear plants generated nearly 90 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity in 2016, compared to 88 billion kilowatt-hours in 2015. The additional 2 billion kilowatt-hours are enough to power more than 2,500 schools.

"Our nuclear employees continue to show their commitment to our customers by ensuring our nuclear stations operate reliably year-round to deliver clean electricity to power the Carolinas," Pitesa said. "Our team is proud of these 2016 accomplishments and continues to focus on finding additional enhancement opportunities to better serve our customers."