Duke announces upgrade at Bad Creek during anniversary event

Staff Report
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During a 25th anniversary celebration at the Duke Energy Bad Creek Hydro Station near Salem, senior vice president and chief fossil/hydro officer Regis Repko announced plans to upgrade the facility, adding about 200 megawatts of energy to its existing 1,065 megawatts.

"To put those numbers in perspective, one megawatt powers about 800 homes at any given time," Repko said at the anniversary celebration. "Bad Creek has seen a lot of improvement in the last 25 years – equipment upgrades, control systems upgrades…and next year we plan to file a license amendment with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to increase the capacity of Bad Creek. That addition will not only help us reduce our carbon footprint, but it will enable us to meet the needs of our customers."

The 32,000-square-foot, four-story Bad Creek facility is located eight miles north of Salem. The four-unit station began generating electricity in 1991, and is the largest hydroelectric station on the Duke Energy system. It is named for the two streams, Bad Creek and West Bad Creek, which were dammed to create the Bad Creek reservoir.

In addition to being a power supply, Duke Energy said the facility helps it to add other renewables, like solar, to the energy grid since its storage-and-release design provides energy to customers when the sun's not shining. The station can quickly convert its stored energy during peak demand when customers need it most – sending energy to thousands of homes. When demand is low, water is pumped back up from Lake Jocassee and rests in the upper reservoir until needed.







Top: The Bad Creek Hydroelectric Station is named for the two streams, Bad Creek and West Bad Creek, which were dammed to create the Bad Creek reservoir. Middle: The Bad Creek station hosted a media tour. Right: Duke Energy recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Bad Creek station. (Photos/Teresa Cutlip)