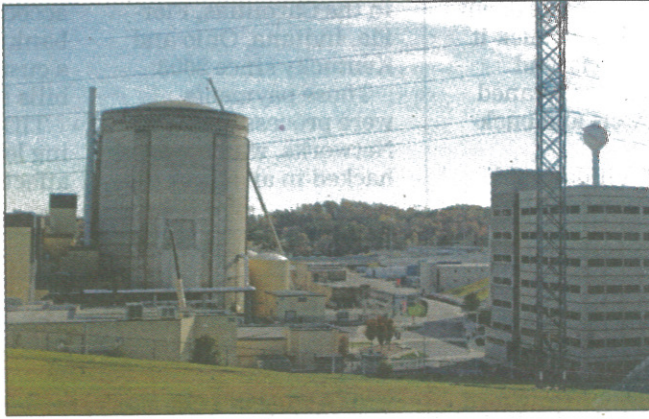


Duke not going

A Duke Energy official told The Journal this week that Oconee Nuclear Station is “here to stay for a long, long, long time” after recent questions about the future of the plant.

REX BROWN | THE JOURNAL



away for ‘long, long time’

BY NORM CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A Duke Energy official said Monday the Oconee Nuclear Station is currently evaluating license extensions beyond the current 60 years the three reactors have been licensed for and isn’t going away “for a long, long, long time.”

“Oconee Nuclear Station is here to stay for a long, long, long time,” said Chris Rimel,

communications manager for Duke Energy’s nuclear generation in South Carolina. “If you take a look at our hard vital utility assets — Oconee Nuclear Station, Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee, Bad Creek, the transmission lines — those things just don’t disappear.

“All of those assets are worth billions of dollars,” he added. “We do not walk away from them. We will not walk away from them. We’re going

to be here for a long, long, long time.”

Rimel responded Monday to a story in The Journal last week in which Oconee County Council members talked about the need to begin preparing for a time in the future when the Oconee Nuclear Station may no longer be operating and contributing one-third of the county’s property taxes.

The three reactors at the

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

DUKE: Wants to operate its 11 nuclear units ‘as long as we can’

FROM PAGE A1

Oconee Nuclear Station, which originally operated under a 40-year licensing agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, are currently running under a 20-year license renewal. That renewal expires for Unit No. 1 Feb. 6, 2033, Unit No. 2 on Oct. 6, 2033, and Unit No. 3 July 19, 2034, according to the NRC’s website.

Three nuclear plants in the United States have applied for a second 20-year renewal license and are in the process of being approved, according to an NRC official. If approved, those reactors would be the first in the nation to be approved for an 80-year lifespan.

Duke Energy operates 11 nuclear reactors, all of which have renewal licenses to run for a total of 60 years.

“We believe our plants are good candidates for second license renewal,” Rimel said. “We are currently evaluating license extensions for an additional 20 years, which would give us the ability to operate for up to 80 years. We want to operate our 11 nuclear units as long as we can.”

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