

Not going anywhere?

Duke Energy will apply for Oconee license renewal in 2021

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Duke Energy has announced it will be applying for renewed operating licenses in 2021 for 11 reactors it operates at six nuclear stations in the Carolinas — including the three reactors at the Oconee Nuclear Station.

A news release from the company also said it would be submitting renewal paperwork for the Oconee Nuclear Station before the other five nuclear stations.

Duke Energy is seeking a license renewal of 20 years.

“These plants generate clean and cost-effective power, provide thousands of well-pay-

ing jobs, and produce substantial economic benefits for the Carolinas,” Duke Energy chief nuclear officer Preston Gillespie said in a news release. “Renewing the licenses of these plants is important for our customers, communities and environment.”

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Other Duke Energy stations up for renewal

North Carolina

Brunswick (Brunswick County)

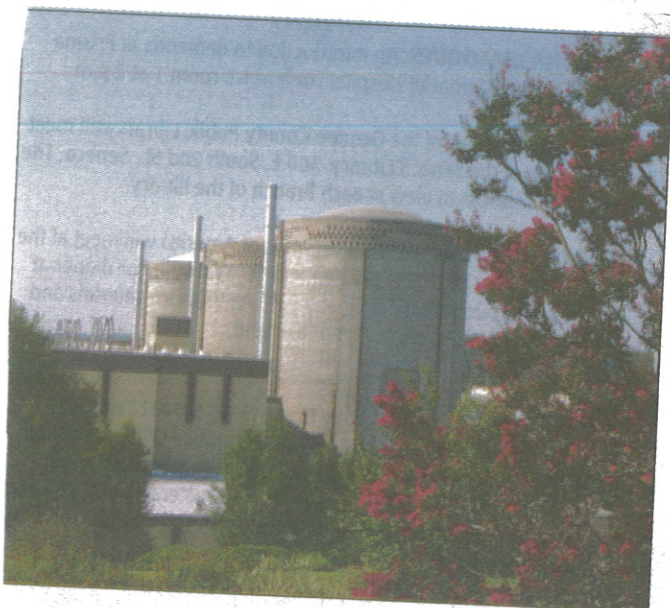
Harris (Wake County)

McGuire (Mecklenberg County)

South Carolina

Catawba (York County)

Robinson (Darlington County)



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station is set to be the company's first station to apply for a renewed operating license in 2021 for its three reactors.

DUKE: Has goal to reduce emissions

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The Oconee operation currently employs more than 1,000 workers.

The three reactors at the 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 on Feb. 6, 2033, Unit No. 2 on Oct. 6, 2033, and Unit No. 3 July 19, 2034, according to the NRC's website.

Duke Energy is Oconee County's largest taxpayer, paying out \$32.67 million in 2018 — more than a third of the \$96.17 million the county received in property taxes.

One goal moving forward for Duke Energy is to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 50 percent by 2020 and become a net-zero emitter by 2050.

“A diverse, increasingly carbon-free energy mix is important for our customers,” the release said. “And nuclear energy is a proven part of that mix, having provided our Carolinas customers with safe, clean and reliable electricity for decades.”

The three generating units at Oconee produce more than 2,500 megawatts, according to the release, making it Duke Energy's largest — and the fifth largest in the United States.