

Nuclear station seeking license into 2050s

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
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SENECA — An application has been filed to renew licenses that could have Oconee Nuclear Station still in operation more than 30 years from now.

A release issued Monday by Duke Energy said the company filed

an application to renew the licenses with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). While the site's operating licenses remain current through the early 2030s, Duke said the subsequent, or second, license renewal would extend the operating

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licenses to 2053 and 2054.

"Oconee Nuclear Station has provided safe, reliable, carbon-free energy to customers and our communities for nearly 50 years," Oconee Nuclear Station site vice president Steve Snider said in a release. "Renewing these operating licenses is a significant step toward achieving Duke Energy's aggressive carbon reduction goals, which cannot be achieved without nuclear power."

The three nuclear reactors at the Oconee Nuclear Station were licensed for operation on three separate dates and have different expiration dates. Unit No. 1 was licensed for 40 years on Feb. 6, 1973. It was relicensed for an additional 20 years, expiring in 2033. If the subsequent license renewal is approved, the plant would be licensed until Feb. 6, 2053.

Unit No. 2 was licensed for 40 years on Oct. 6, 1973, ending on that date in 2013. Its renewal license runs until Oct. 6, 2033, and a subsequent renewal could take it to Oct. 6, 2053. Unit No. 3 was licensed on July 19,

1974, and the renewal runs until that date in 2034. A subsequent renewal would license the plant until July 19, 2054.

A company spokeswoman told The Journal the NRC's goal for subsequent license approval is to be completed within 18 months of filing.

Located on Lake Keowee, the Oconee Nuclear Station is Duke Energy's largest nuclear station, with three generating units that produce more than 2,500 megawatts of

carbon-free electricity.

"A diverse, increasingly carbon-free energy mix is important for customers. And nuclear energy is a proven part of that mix, having provided our Carolinas customers with clean, safe and reliable electricity for decades," Duke Energy chief nucle-

ar officer Kelvin Henderson said. "Our nuclear stations remain economic drivers for their communities, providing thousands of well-paying jobs, significant tax revenues, partnership opportunities and other benefits."

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Approval goal is 18 months



The Oconee Nuclear Station has applied for a license renewal next year that would allow the plant's reactors to operate until 2053 and 2054.