

SALEM



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Duke moves to relicense Bad Creek

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
THE JOURNAL

SALEM — Duke Energy has filed a document notifying a federal regulatory agency it plans to relicense the Bad Creek Hydro Station for another 40 to 50 years, while also possibly building a second powerhouse.

Lead communications consultant Ben Williamson announced Wednesday afternoon Duke Energy filed a “pre-application document” with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the inten-

tions of relicensing the project.

“Filing the pre-application document with FERC is the first step in a multiyear collaborative process that includes review and input from various regulators and local, state and federal stakeholders,” Williamson said in a news release. “The relicensing of Bad Creek Hydro Station supports Duke Energy’s clean energy transformation and will allow us to continue operating the company’s largest renewable energy storage asset for another 40 to 50 years.”

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BAD CREEK: A feasibility study is ongoing

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He added the station inside a mountain at Lake Jocassee produces 1,400 megawatts "of clean energy with no direct fuel costs associated with its generation."

"It also supports the operational needs of Duke Energy's system, particularly as more solar is added," Williamson said. "The

station's store-and-release design works like a battery, allowing us to quickly adapt to customer needs and support our growing portfolio of solar energy. Our operators can start Bad Creek's units to meet customer needs when the sun isn't shining and the units store energy when excess solar energy is on the system."

No decisions have been made on whether a second powerhouse will happen at Bad Creek, but a feasibility study is ongoing and expected to be finished by the end of this year. Should Duke Energy opt to move on the project, Williamson said it would "include a comprehensive regulatory process."

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