



**Draft Environmental Impact
Statement for the License
Renewal of the
Westinghouse Columbia Fuel
Fabrication Facility in
Richland County, SC**

**Public Comment Meeting
August 26, 2021
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET**

**Audio for the meeting is
only provided through
telephone**

Telephone Access

Number: 1-800-369-3311

Passcode: 5558821

Webinar Access

Event address:

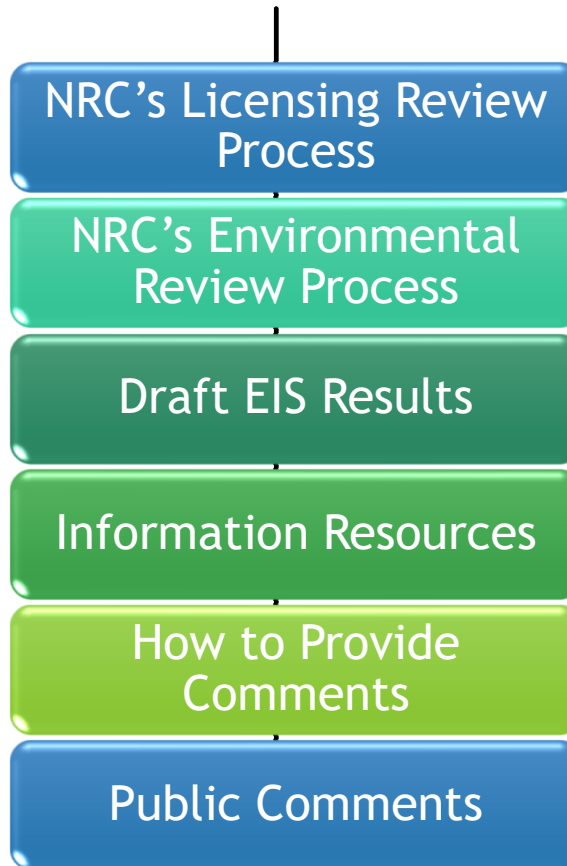
<https://usnrc.webex.com>

Event number: 199 891 1794

Event password: WESTDEIS

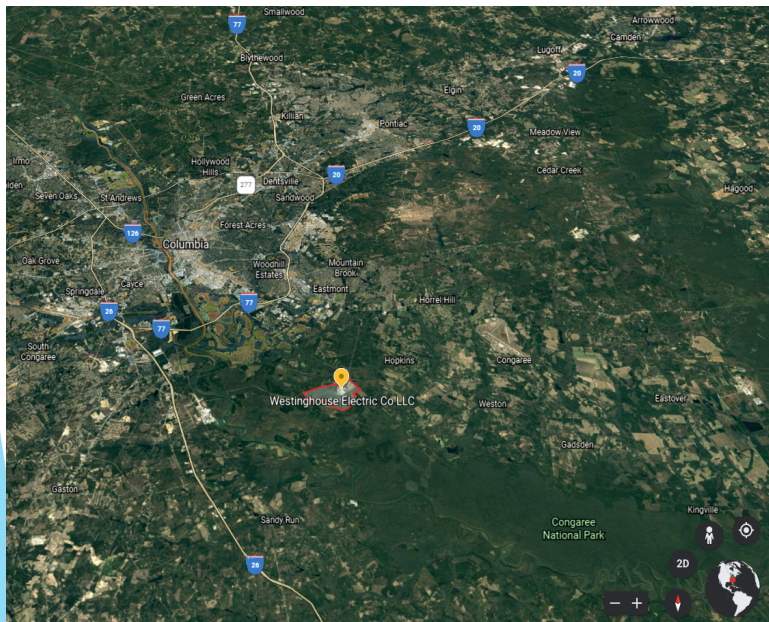
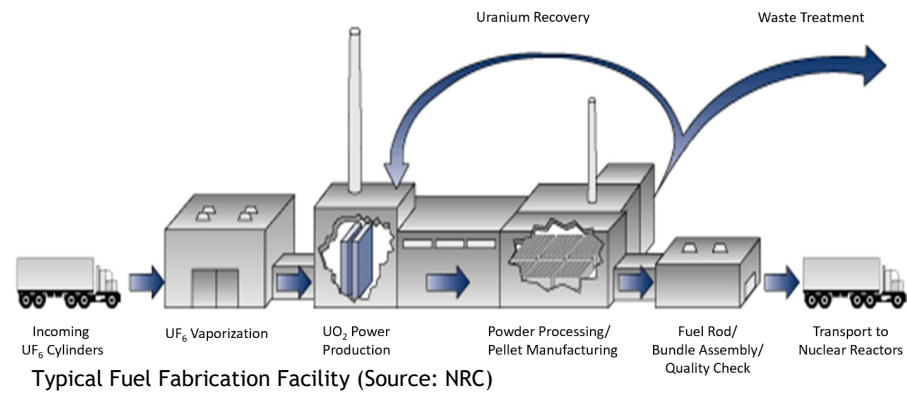
Meeting Purpose & Overview

To Receive
Comments on the
Draft EIS for the
Proposed License
Renewal of
Westinghouse's
Columbia Fuel
Fabrication Facility

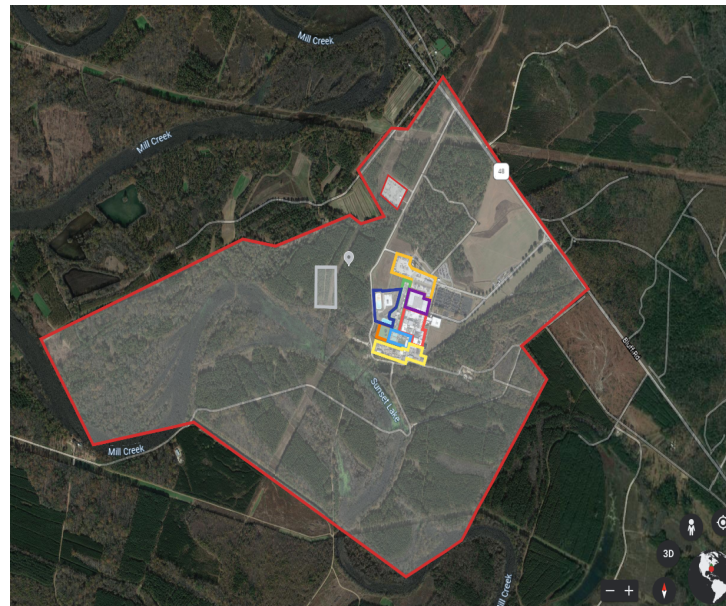


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Proposed Action



General Site Location (Source: modified from Google Earth)



Site Boundary (Source: modified from Google Earth)

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NRC's License Renewal Review Process

- ▶ The NRC's role, as an independent regulator, is to determine whether the proposed license renewal complies with the NRC's regulations
- ▶ The NRC is conducting a review of the license renewal application.
 - ▶ Safety Evaluation Report
 - ▶ Environmental Impact Statement
- ▶ Safety oversight
 - ▶ Inspections
 - ▶ Licensee's performance
 - ▶ Enforcement

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NRC's NEPA Process

June 2018
NRC Publishes EA and FONSI

October 2019
NRC Publishes New Draft EA
for Public Comment

June 2020
NRC Decides
to Prepare an EIS

July 2020
NRC Begins
EIS Scoping Process

August 2021
NRC Issues Draft EIS for
Public Comment

February 2022
NRC Issues Final EIS

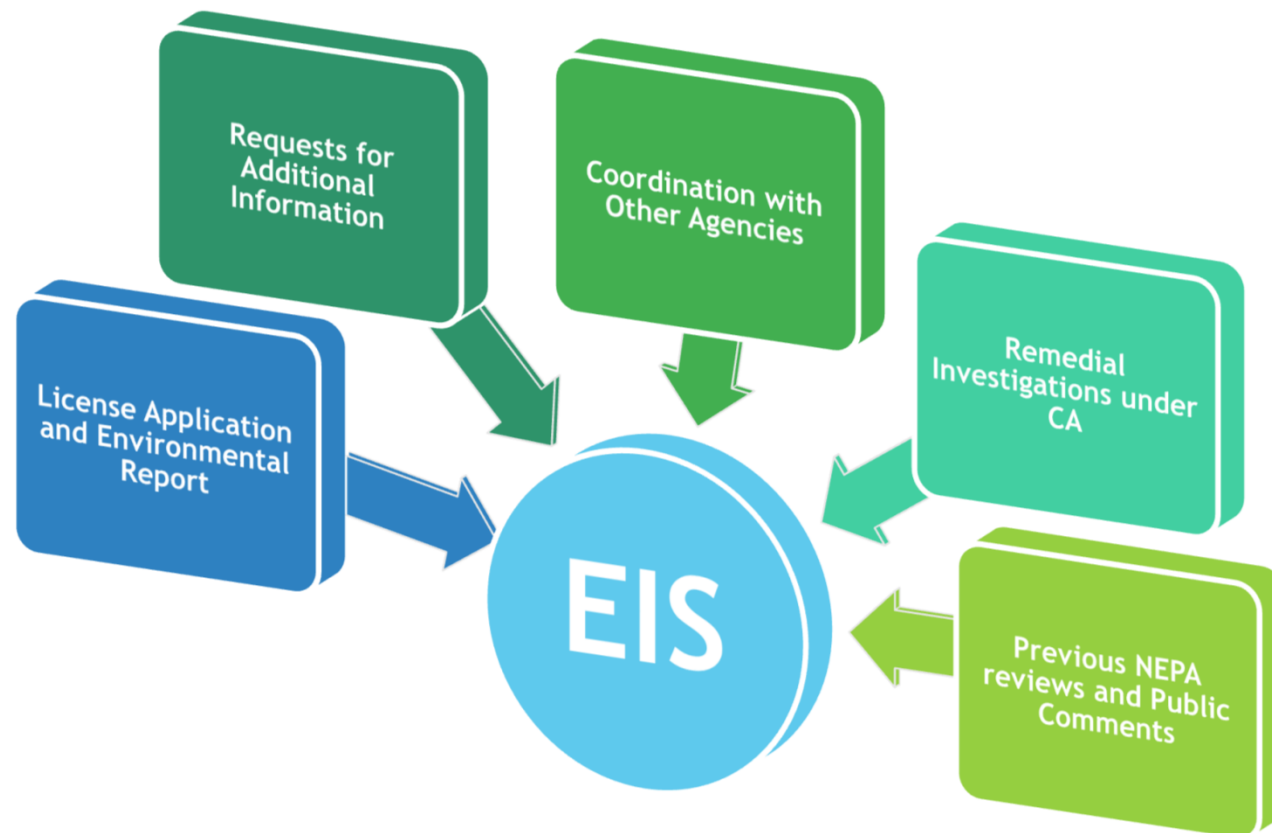
March 2022
NRC Issues Record of
Decision

NRC's Environmental Review Process & Schedule

**NRC is
Seeking
Public
Comments**

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NRC's Environmental Review Process



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NRC's Environmental Impact Evaluation

PROPOSED ACTION

40-year license
renewal

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Deny request to
renew license

20-YEAR LICENSE RENEWAL ALTERNATIVE

20-year license
renewal

SMALL

Environmental effects are not detectable or are so minor that they will neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.

MODERATE

Environmental effects are sufficient to alter noticeably, but not to destabilize, important attributes of the resource.

LARGE

Environmental effects are clearly noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource.

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RESOURCE	IMPACTS
Land Use	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Geology and Soils	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Surface Water	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Groundwater	SMALL to MODERATE - Proposed Action SMALL to MODERATE - No-Action SMALL to MODERATE - 20-Year License Renewal
Ecology	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Air Quality	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Noise	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal

RESOURCE	IMPACTS
Historic and Cultural	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL to MODERATE - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Visual and Scenic	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Socioeconomics	SMALL - Proposed Action MODERATE - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Public and Occupational Health	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Transportation	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Waste Management	SMALL - Proposed Action SMALL - No-Action SMALL - 20-Year License Renewal
Environmental Justice	There would be no disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations

Environmental Monitoring

Type of Sample	Analyses	Minimum Sampling Frequency
Air Particulates	Alpha	Continuous (Collection Weekly)
Surface Water	Uranium, Tc-99	Quarterly
Soil	Uranium, Tc-99	Annually
Vegetation	Uranium, Tc-99, Fluoride	Annually
Fish	Uranium, Tc-99	Annually
Well Water	Uranium, Tc-99	Semiannually
River Water	Uranium, Tc-99	Quarterly
Sediment	Uranium, Tc-99	Annually

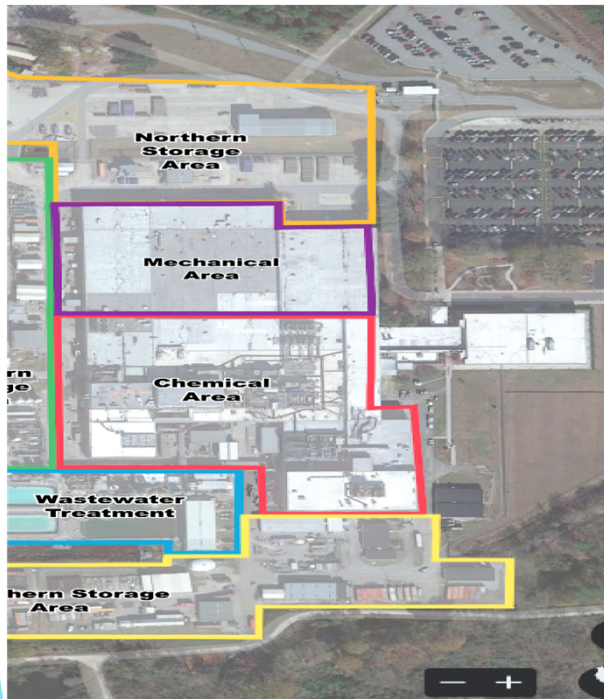
Source: Table 10-1 from 2019 revised license renewal application

During the proposed license renewal period, Westinghouse would be required to:

- ▶ Continue monitoring of air, surface water, soil, vegetation, fish, groundwater, Congaree River, and sediment.
- ▶ Submit the environmental sampling and monitoring program to the NRC for approval upon either the State's approval of the Final Remedial Investigation Report, or within 5 years of the license renewal (whichever comes first).
- ▶ Enter exceedances of water regulatory limits into its Corrective Action Program.

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Soils



Source: Modified from Google Earth

- ▶ Historical operations at the facility.
- ▶ Past, ongoing, and future remediation efforts.
- ▶ NRC staff will continue to review soil sampling results from the remedial investigation process under the Consent Agreement with the State.
- ▶ Soils away from the operational areas have been only minimally affected to date.
- ▶ Potential future releases of contaminants would similarly affect soils near the plant.
- ▶ Considering the remediation efforts, remedial investigations under the Consent Agreement, and the new license conditions regarding the environmental monitoring program, the NRC staff found impacts to soils would be small.

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Surface Water

- ▶ City of Columbia provides water for Westinghouse operations.
 - ▶ a minor fraction of the City's total supply
 - ▶ 80% is returned to the Congaree River through the permitted discharge
- ▶ Congaree River water quality is monitored above and below the site's discharge.
- ▶ Liquid discharges to the Congaree River must meet:
 - ▶ Limits in the NPDES permit, and
 - ▶ NRC's effluent limits for radiological constituents.

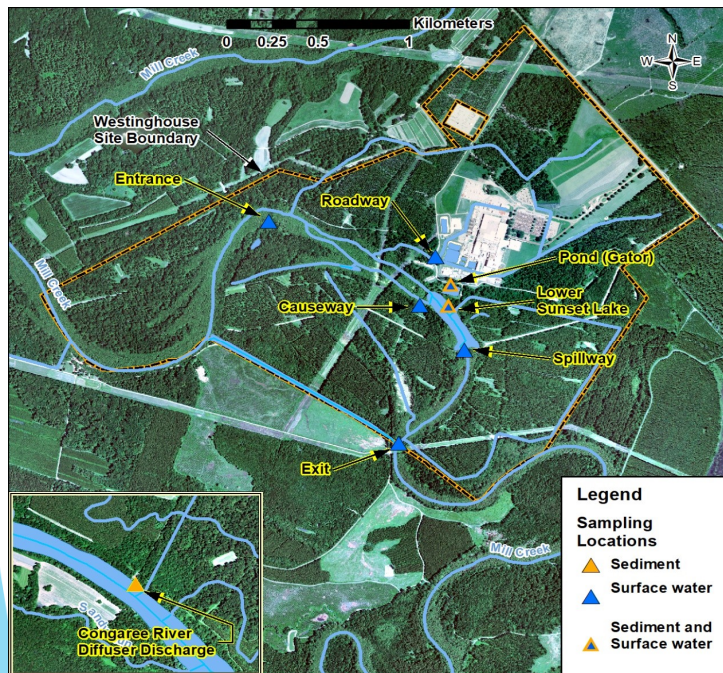
Measured Uranium and Tc-99 Discharged to Congaree River

Year	U (mCi)	Tc-99 (mCi)
2007	10.5	Not Sampled
2008	10.2	Not Sampled
2009	10.3	Not Sampled
2010	8.12	19.2
2011	6.92	14.1
2012	3.1	18.5
2013	5.2	9.2
2014	3.8	10.1
2015	4.3	10.1
2016	3.9	4.0
2017	4.1	7.2
2018	3.4	1.1
2019	3.8	1.1
2020	3.8	5.8

Source: Westinghouse

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Surface Water



Environmental Sampling Locations (Source: 2019 revised license renewal application)

- ▶ Onsite surface water bodies: Mill Creek, Sunset Lake, and Gator Pond.
 - ▶ Not a source of drinking water or used for operations at the Westinghouse facility
 - ▶ Noticeably affected by past plant activities
- ▶ Onsite water quality is monitored in Mill Creek.
 - ▶ Results show minor differences in contaminants at the entrance at Upper Sunset Lake and where it exits the property
- ▶ Low potential for contaminants to move offsite because of the implementation of activities and programs to minimize the effects of releases on other users of the local surface water.
- ▶ The NRC staff found that impacts to surface water would be small.

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Groundwater

- ▶ Groundwater at the Westinghouse facility has been noticeably contaminated from past operations.
- ▶ Westinghouse does not currently withdraw groundwater for any operational needs.
- ▶ Westinghouse has installed additional groundwater monitoring wells.
 - ▶ Recent groundwater monitoring shows water quality standards are exceeded for volatile organic compounds, fluoride, nitrate, uranium, and Tc-99.
 - ▶ Existing groundwater sampling data indicate that the contaminant plumes resulting from past activities currently remain onsite.
- ▶ Actions taken by Westinghouse in response to past contaminant releases have reduced the likelihood of future inadvertent releases.
- ▶ Future inadvertent releases to the subsurface are reasonably foreseeable considering the uncertainties about past leaks and the potential for the risk of leaks to increase with the age of plant components.
- ▶ Current groundwater contamination is not likely to travel beyond the property boundary.
 - ▶ Remediation process under the Consent Agreement with the State, the environmental monitoring and sampling program and subsequent submittals to NRC for approval, established environmental procedures, and continued remedial investigations.
- ▶ Uncertainties remain about the ultimate fate and transport of groundwater contamination at the site.
- ▶ The NRC staff found that impacts to groundwater would be small to moderate.

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Historic and Cultural Resources

- ▶ Information Gathering, Consultation, and Outreach
 - ▶ South Carolina Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
 - ▶ South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
 - ▶ Consulted South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
 - ▶ Westinghouse's responses to NRC's requests for additional information
 - ▶ Considered public comments and information provided during environmental review process
- ▶ In its license renewal application, Westinghouse did not request changes to its NRC licensed activities nor construction of new buildings or structures that would result in land disturbances.
- ▶ Westinghouse developed sitewide procedures for management of historic and cultural resources.
- ▶ Westinghouse is executing a cultural resource survey.
- ▶ The NRC staff does not anticipate that historic and cultural resources would be affected by the proposed license renewal.

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Information Resources

- ▶ Access ADAMS at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and search for Accession Number ML21209A213
- ▶ Richland Public Library Branches
 - ▶ Main: 1431 Assembly St., Columbia, SC 29201
 - ▶ Lower Richland: 9019 Garners Ferry Road, Hopkins, SC 29061
 - ▶ Eastover: 608 Main Street, Eastover, SC 29044
- ▶ NRC webpage for the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility at <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/fc/westinghouse-fuel-fab-fac-sc-lc.html>

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**Submit
Comments
Through
September 20**



Verbally at this Public Meeting



E-mail Comments to: WEC_CFFF_EIS@nrc.gov



Online at: <https://www.regulations.gov> and
search for Docket ID NRC-2015-0039



Leave Comments by Voicemail at:
1-800-216-0881



Mail Comments to: Office of Administration, Mail
Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001

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Contact Us



Diana Diaz-Toro

Environmental Project Manager
NMSS/REFS
(301) 415-0930
Diana.Diaz-Toro@nrc.gov

Tom Vukovsky

Senior Fuel Facility
Project Inspector
NRC/Region II
(404) 997-4622
Thomas.Vukovsky@nrc.gov

David Tiktinsky

Senior Project Manager
NMSS/DFM
(301) 415-8740
David.Tiktinsky@nrc.gov

Dave McIntyre

Office of Public Affairs
(301) 415-8206
David.McIntyre@nrc.gov

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Public Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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