



OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION PUBLIC MEETING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY ...

- Public Meeting Information:
[https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details
&Code=20240153](https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details&Code=20240153)
- Meeting Slides: ML24046A161



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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protecting People and the Environment

**Preliminary Findings of the Environmental
Review for Oconee Nuclear Station
Units 1, 2, and 3
Subsequent License Renewal**

February 27, 2024

Lance Rakovan, Environmental Project Manager



Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Introductions and Purpose
- Environmental Impact Statement Preliminary Findings
- Public Questions on the Presentation
- Public Comments on the Environmental Impact Statement



U.S.NRC Meeting Logistics

- NRC is actively soliciting comments on the draft site-specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to aid the NRC staff's review
- Participants are in listen-only mode until the comment session
- No regulatory decisions will be made at today's meeting



U.S.NRC Introductions

- Mark Yoo, Safety Review Lead, NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
- Lance Rakovan, Environmental Review Lead, NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
- Stephen Koenick, Chief, Environmental Project Management Branch 1, NMSS



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NRC's Regulatory Role

- NRC's Governing Statutes
 - Atomic Energy Act
 - 10 CFR Part 54
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - 10 CFR Part 51
- NRC's Mission
 - Protect Public Health and Safety
 - Promote Common Defense and Security
 - Protect the Environment



Plant Background

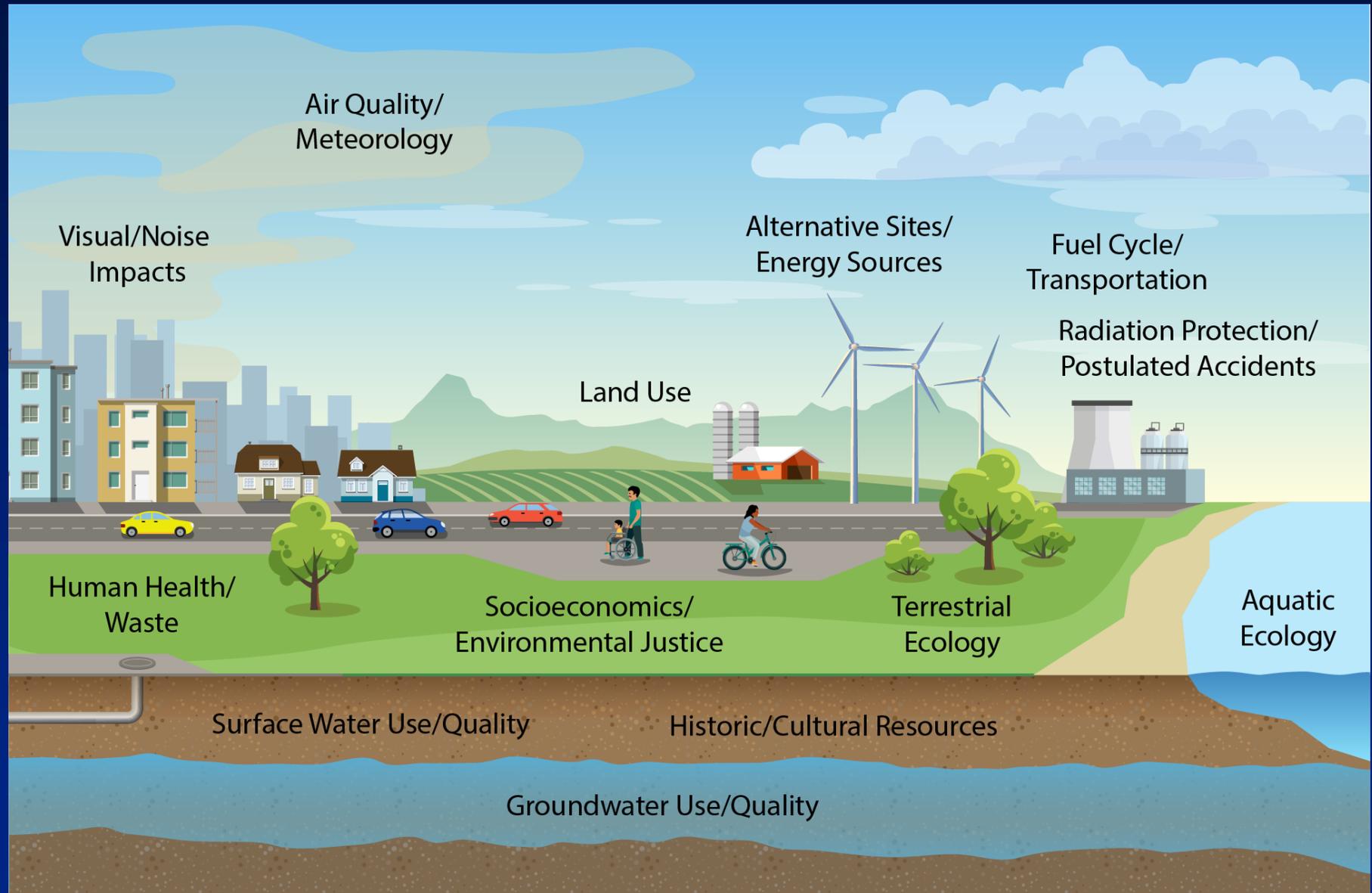
Description	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Operating Licenses Issued	2/6/1973	10/6/1973	7/19/1974
Renewed Licenses Issued	5/30/2000		
Current Expiration Dates	2/6/2033	10/6/2033	7/19/2034
Proposed Expiration Dates	2/6/2053	10/6/2053	7/19/2054



Environmental Review

- Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)
 - Addresses “Category 1” environmental issues common to all plants (or a distinct subset of plants) during the license renewal term
- Site-Specific Environmental Impact Statement
 - Addresses Category 1 environmental issues during the license renewal term on a site-specific basis
 - Includes any new information deemed significant regarding Category 2 issues, and supplements the other information in the FSEIS, as appropriate

Environmental Review



How Impacts are Defined

- SMALL
 - Effects are not detectable or are so minor that they will neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource
- MODERATE
 - Effects are sufficient to alter noticeably, but not to destabilize, important attributes of the resource
- LARGE
 - Effects are clearly noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource



How Impacts are Defined (cont.)

- **Federally Listed Species and Critical Habitat (Endangered Species Act)**
 - No effect
 - May affect but is not likely to adversely affect
 - May affect and is likely to adversely affect
- **Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Act)**
 - No adverse impacts
 - Minimal adverse impacts
 - More than minimal, but less than substantial adverse effects
 - Substantial adverse impact



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How Impacts are Defined (cont.)

- **Natural Marine Sanctuary Act (NMSA)**
 - No effect
 - May effect but is not likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure
 - May effect and is likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure



How Impacts are Defined (cont.)

- **Cultural and Historic Resources (National Historic Preservation Act)**
 - Would adversely affect
 - Would not adversely affect
- **Environmental Justice* (Executive Order 12898)**
 - Disproportionally high and adverse human health and environmental effects

*The NRC chooses to address EJ, though not required. There is a pending vote by the Commission on addressing EJ.



Draft EIS Preliminary Findings

Resource Area

Impacts

- Land Use/Visual Resources
- Air Quality/Noise
- Geologic Environment
- Surface Water/Groundwater Resources
- Terrestrial Resources
- Aquatic Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Human Health
- Postulated Accidents
- Uranium Fuel Cycle
- Waste Management

SMALL



Draft EIS Preliminary Findings (cont.)

Resource Area

- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Cumulative Impacts

Impacts

- Would not adversely affect known historic properties
- No disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations
- See Draft EIS Section 3.15



Draft EIS Preliminary Findings - Special Status Species and Habitats

- May affect but is not likely to adversely affect
 - Monarch butterfly
 - Tricolored bat
- No effect
 - Indiana bat
 - Northern long-eared bat
 - Bog turtle
 - Persistent trillium
 - Small whorled pogonia
 - Smooth coneflower
 - Dwarf-flowered heartleaf
 - Mountain sweet pitcher plant
- No essential fish habitat or National Marine Sanctuaries present



Alternatives

- No new and significant information identified regarding the following alternatives
- Alternative energy sources (power replacement)
 - New nuclear power
 - Natural gas combined-cycle power
 - Combination of new nuclear (solar photovoltaic, offshore wind, small modular reactor, and demand-side management)
- No-action alternative



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Preliminary Recommendation

The adverse environmental impacts of subsequent license renewal for Oconee for an additional 20 years beyond the current expiration dates are not so great that preserving the option of subsequent license renewal for energy-planning decisionmakers would be unreasonable



Environmental Review Milestones

Milestone	Date
Draft EIS published	February 8, 2024
Start of Comment Period	February 16, 2024
Draft EIS Public Meetings	February 21, 2024 February 27, 2024
Draft EIS Comments Due	April 1, 2024
Final EIS	August 2024



U.S. NRC **Obtaining the Draft EIS**

- **Public Library: (printed copy for inspection)**
Oconee County Public Library, 300 E South 2nd St.,
Seneca, SC 29678
- **Oconee Project Public Website:**
<https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/oconee-subsequent.html>
- **Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):**
 - <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>
 - Draft EIS accession number: ML24033A298



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Additional Information

- **Oconee Project Public Website:**

- <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/oconee-subsequent.html>

- Oconee subsequent license renewal application
 - Environmental report
 - Current schedule
 - Project managers associated with Oconee

- **Oconee Correspondence:**

- <https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver/plants-by-region.html>



Submitting Comments

- By mail

Office of Administration

Mailstop TWFN-7-A60M

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC 20555-0001

- Website

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Docket ID NRC-NRC-2021-0146

By Email: OconeeEnvironmental@nrc.gov

Comments should be submitted by April 1, 2024



Public Participation



Audio/Technical Issues

- Drop off and log back on
- Call into bridgeline:
 - 301-576-2978
 - Passcode: 533481601#
 - Conference ID: 533 481 601#
- In Teams, check your device settings:
 - Click “More”
 - Choose “Settings”
 - Choose “Device Settings”



Draft EIS Participant Contact Information

- **Meeting Summary**
 - Meeting participant list
 - NRC presentation
 - Transcript of the meeting
- **Final EIS**
 - To receive the final EIS, email contact information to Lance.Rakovan@NRC.gov