

Updated Preliminary Findings of the Environmental Review for Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Subsequent License Renewal



May 15, 2025

Public Meeting Information:

<https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details&Code=20250516>

Agenda

- Introductions and Purpose
- Opening Remarks
- Point Beach Subsequent License Renewal
- Environmental Review
- Second Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Preliminary Findings
- Participant Contact Information
- Public Participation – Formal Comment Period

Introductions and Purpose

- Kevin Folk, Environmental Review Lead, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
- Chris Tyree, Safety Review Lead, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
- Ted Smith, Chief, Environmental Technical Review Branch 2, NMSS

Meeting Logistics

- NRC is actively soliciting comments on the second draft SEIS, which updates the NRC's November 2021 draft SEIS, to aid the NRC staff's environmental review
- For this virtual meeting, participants are in listen-only mode until the comment session
- No regulatory decisions will be made at today's meeting

Point Beach Subsequent License Renewal

- The subsequent license renewal (SLR) application for Point Beach Units 1 and 2 was submitted on November 16, 2020
- NRC published a Draft SEIS (NUREG-1437, Supplement 23) in November 2021
- On February 24, 2022, the NRC Commission issued three orders (CLI-22-02, CLI-22-03, and CLI-22-04) that impacted the Point Beach environmental review
- The Commission issued SRM-SECY-22-0024 in April 2022 that directed the staff to initiate a rulemaking to revise the License Renewal Generic Environmental Impact Statement (LR GEIS; NUREG-1437) and Table B-1 in 10 CFR Part 51 to fully support SLR

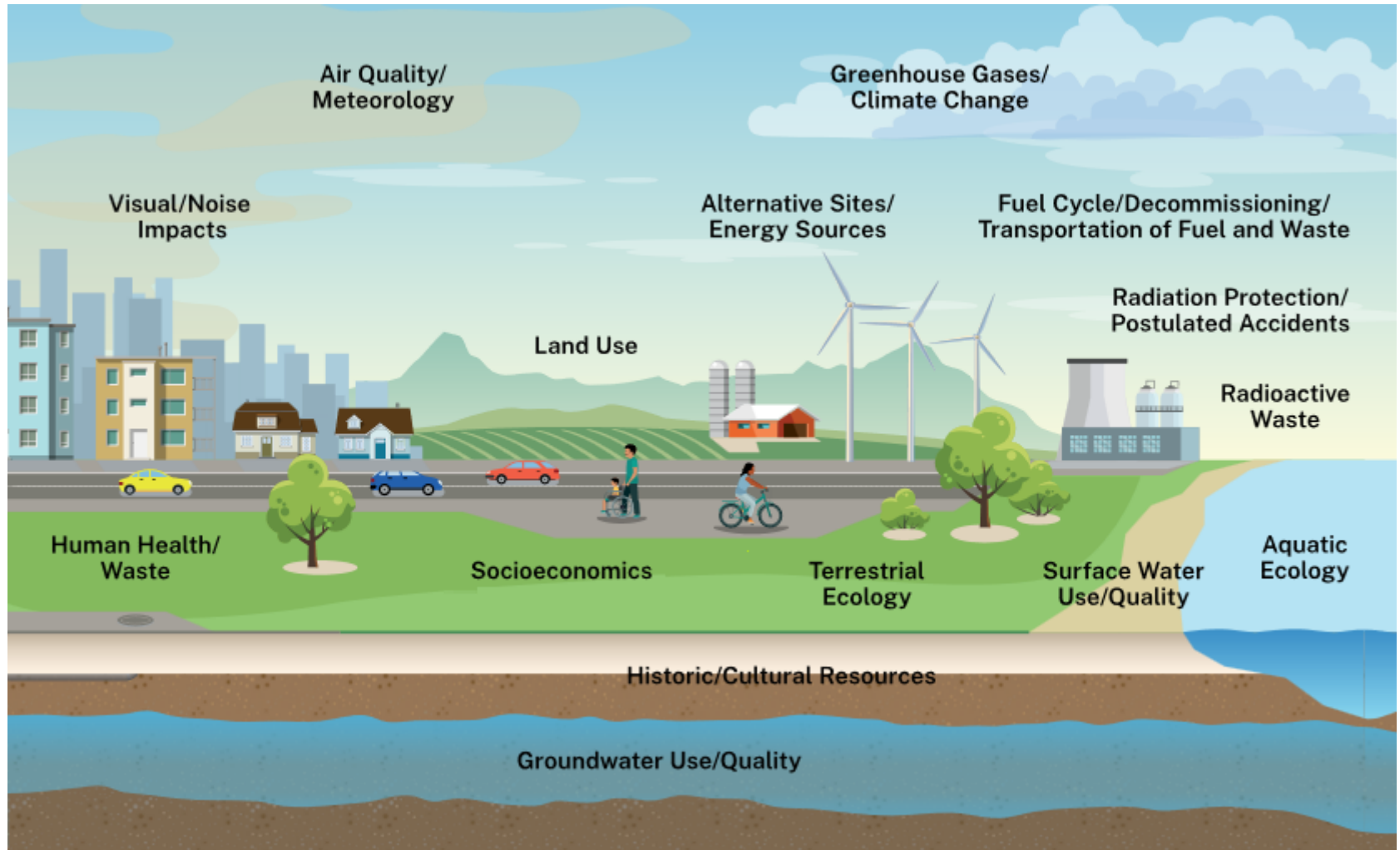
Point Beach Subsequent License Renewal (Cont.)

- On August 6, 2024, the NRC published a final rule revising its environmental protection regulation, 10 CFR Part 51, and Revision 2 of NUREG-1437 (LR GEIS)
- NRC staff provided a letter to NextEra dated August 25, 2024, outlining its plan to complete the Point Beach environmental review
- NRC staff has prepared a supplement (second draft) to the November 2021 draft SEIS in accordance with 10 CFR 51.72
- NRC staff will also issue a Safety Evaluation Report supplement
- The current renewed facility operating licenses expire on October 5, 2030, for Unit 1 and March 8, 2033, for Unit 2
- If a subsequent license renewal is granted, it will be for an additional 20 years

Environmental Review

- License Renewal Generic Environmental Impact Statement (LR GEIS)
 - Addresses Category 1 environmental issues common to all plants (or a distinct subset of plants) during the license renewal term
- Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
 - Neither the applicant nor the NRC identified information that is both new and significant related to Category 1 issues that would call into question the conclusions in the LR GEIS
 - Addresses Category 2 environmental issues during the subsequent license renewal term on a plant-specific basis

Environmental Review (Cont.)



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

How Impacts are Defined (Cont.)

- **Sanctuary Resources** (National Marine Sanctuaries Act)
 - No effect
 - Not likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure sanctuary resources
 - Likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure sanctuary resources
- **Historic and Cultural Resources** (National Historic Preservation Act)
 - No effect
 - No adverse effect
 - Adverse effect

Second Draft SEIS Resource Areas

Resource Area	SEIS Section
Land Use and Visual Resources	Section 3.2
Meteorology, Air Quality, and Noise	Section 3.3
Geologic Environment	Section 3.4
Surface Water and Groundwater Resources	Section 3.5
Terrestrial Resources	Section 3.6
Aquatic Resources	Section 3.7
Federally Protected Ecological Resources	Section 3.8
Historic and Cultural Resources	Section 3.9
Socioeconomics	Section 3.10
Human Health	Section 3.11
Reserved	Section 3.12
Waste Management and Pollution Prevention	Section 3.13
Evaluation of New and Significant Information	Section 3.14
Impacts Common to All Alternatives	Section 3.15
Cumulative Effects	Section 3.16
Resource Commitments Associated with the Proposed Action	Section 3.17

Second Draft SEIS Preliminary Findings Overview

Resource Area

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

Impacts

SMALL

Second Draft SEIS Preliminary Findings – Federally Protected Ecological Resources and Sanctuary Resources

- May affect, but is not likely to adversely affect
 - Northern long-eared bat
 - Tricolored bat
 - Piping plover
 - Monarch butterfly
- No effect
 - on designated critical habitats or essential fish habitat
- Not likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure any sanctuary resources

Draft SEIS Preliminary Findings – Other Areas

Resource Area

- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
 - Greenhouse gas impacts on climate change
 - Climate change impacts on environmental resources
- Cumulative Effects

Impacts

- Would not adversely affect known historic properties
- See SEIS Section 3.15.3
- See SEIS Section 3.16

Alternatives Evaluated

- No-action alternative
- Alternative energy sources (replacement power)
 - New nuclear (small modular reactor)
 - Natural gas combined-cycle alternative
 - Combination (small modular reactor, solar, onshore wind)

Preliminary Recommendation

The adverse environmental impacts of subsequent license renewal for Point Beach, Units 1 and 2, 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
Second Draft SEIS Published	April 11, 2025
Comment Period Began	April 18, 2025
Second Draft SEIS Public Meeting	May 15, 2025 (virtual)
Second Draft SEIS Comments Due	June 2, 2025
Final SEIS	October 2025

Reviewing the Second Draft SEIS

- Printed copy:
 - Lester Public Library
1001 Adams Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241
- Point Beach Project Public Website:
<https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/point-beach-subsequent.html>
- Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):
 - <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>
 - Second Draft SEIS accession number: [ML25069A710](#)

Additional Information

- Point Beach Subsequent License Renewal Website:
<https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/point-beach-subsequent.html>
 - Point Beach SLR November 2021 Draft SEIS
 - Point Beach SLR April 2025 Second Draft SEIS
 - Applicant's Environmental Report
 - Current schedule
 - Project managers associated with Point Beach SLR
- Sign up for Point Beach Listserv to Receive 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>, use Docket ID NRC-2020-0277
- Email: PointBeach-SLRSEIS@nrc.gov

Comments should be submitted by **June 2, 2025**

Second Draft SEIS Participant Contact Information

- Meeting Summary
 - Meeting participant list
 - NRC presentation
 - Transcript of the meeting
- Final SEIS
 - To receive the Final SEIS, email contact information to Kevin.Folk@NRC.gov