



Appendix F – Environmental Justice Summary

Bad Creek Pumped Storage
Project

Oconee County, South Carolina

January 2025



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1 Project Introduction and Background

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy or Licensee) is the owner and operator of the 1,400-megawatt Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project (Project) (FERC Project No. 2740) located in Oconee County, South Carolina, approximately eight miles north of Salem. The Project utilizes the Bad Creek Reservoir as the upper reservoir (Upper Reservoir) and Lake Jocassee, which is licensed as part of the Keowee-Toxaway (KT) Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2503), as the lower reservoir.

The existing (original) license for the Project was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) for a 50-year term, with an effective date of August 1, 1977, and expiration date of July 31, 2027. The license has been subsequently and substantively amended, with the most recent amendment on August 6, 2018, for authorization to upgrade and rehabilitate the four pump-turbines in the powerhouse and increase the Authorized Installed and Maximum Hydraulic capacities for the Project.¹ Duke Energy is pursuing a new license for the Project pursuant to the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process, as described at 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 5.

In accordance with 18 CFR §5.11 of the Commission's regulations, Duke Energy developed a Revised Study Plan (RSP) for the Project and proposed six studies for Project relicensing. The RSP was filed with the Commission and made available to stakeholders on December 5, 2022. FERC issued the Study Plan Determination on January 4, 2023, which included modifications to one of the six proposed studies. Duke Energy completed its first year of studies in 2023 with stakeholder consultation as required by the Commission's SPD. Duke Energy filed the Initial Study Report (ISR) on January 4, 2023, and per the Commission's regulations at 18 CFR §5.15(c), Duke Energy held an ISR meeting with participants and FERC staff within 15 days of filing the ISR on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Duke Energy completed its second and final year of studies in 2024 and this Updated Study Report describes the Licensee's methods and results of the studies conducted in support of preparing an application for a new license for the existing Project and construction of the proposed Bad Creek II Power Complex (Bad Creek II).

¹ *Duke Energy Carolinas LLC, 164 FERC ¶ 62,066 (2018)*



2 Environmental Justice Study

2.1 FERC Environmental Resource Issues

On June 16, 2022, the Commission issued comments on the Project Pre-Application Document and requested that Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy) conduct an Environmental Justice Study for the Project relicensing pursuant to Section 5.9 of the Commission’s regulations. The request for an Environmental Justice Study aligns with the socioeconomic resource issues identified by the Commission in Scoping Document 1 issued for the Project relicensing on April 22, 2022, and Scoping Document 2, issued on August 5, 2022; identified resource issues address the effects of continued Project operations as well as potential construction and operation of Bad Creek II during the new license term:

- Effects of Project construction and operation activities on local roads (including traffic), housing, businesses, employment opportunities, and government services.
- Effects of Project construction and operation activities on human health or the environment in identified environmental justice communities.

The Environmental Justice Study is complete and the final study report was filed with the ISR; therefore, it is not being filed with the Updated Study Report.² It will be included in the draft license application and final license application.

2.2 Study Goals and Objectives

Tasks carried out for the Environmental Justice Study employ standard methodologies consistent with the scope and level of effort described in the RSP. The goal of the Environmental Justice Study was to define the potential effects of continued Project operations during the term of a new license issued by FERC, including construction and operation of Bad Creek II, on disadvantaged environmental justice communities that may be present in the study area.

² Duke Energy consulted with environmental justice communities in late-2024. The results of this consultation as well as updated census data will be included in the draft and final license application.



The Environmental Justice Study goal was accomplished by completing the following objectives:

- Identify the presence of environmental justice communities that may be present within the study area.
- Identify the presence of non-English speaking populations that may be present within the study area.
- Identify sensitive receptor locations in the study area.
- Identify outreach strategies to engage environmental justice communities and non-English speaking populations in the relicensing if present within the study area.
- Discuss (a) the effects of the relicensing and Bad Creek Complex II construction on any identified environmental justice communities, (b) effects that are disproportionately high and adverse, and (c) potential effects on non-English speaking communities and sensitive receptor locations, if present within the study area.
- Identify mitigation measures to avoid or minimize project effects on environmental justice communities, non-English speaking communities, and sensitive receptor locations, if present within the study area.

As indicated above, the final study report was filed with the ISR and is therefore not being filed with this Updated Study Report; the final report, outreach consultation, and updated census information will be included in the final license application.