



# Duke Energy Nuclear Programs Update for the South Carolina Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council

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*For Information Purposes Only*

# Agenda

- Nuclear Fleet Overview
  - Operating
  - New
  - Decommissioning
- 2013 Performance
- 2014 Initiatives
- Groundwater Protection

# Current Nuclear Fleet



- Duke Energy Carolinas Service Area
- Duke Energy Progress Service Area
- Overlapping Areas

Station	Capacity (MW)	Units	Commercial Operation	License Renewal
Oconee	2,538	3 PWR	1973	2033, 2034
Catawba	2,258	2 PWR	1985	2043
McGuire	2,200	2 PWR	1981	2041, 2043
Brunswick	1,870	2 BWR	1975	2034, 2036
Harris	900	1 PWR	1987	2046
Robinson	724	1 PWR	1971	2030
Crystal River	Retirement announced on February 5, 2013			
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,490</b>	<b>11</b>		

# New Nuclear Plants

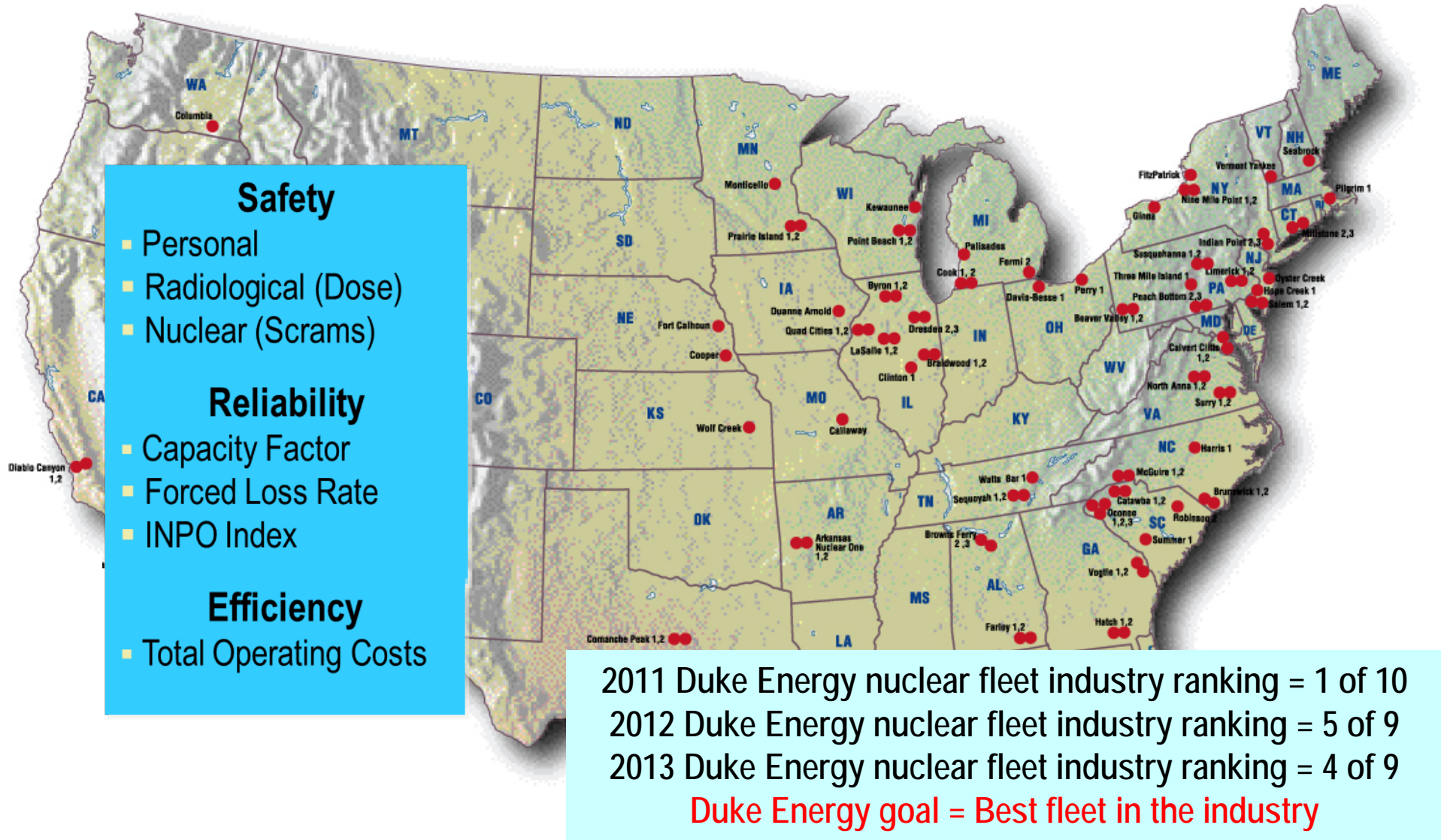
- Combined construction and operating license applications
  - Lee (two AP1000 units near Gaffney, South Carolina)
  - Levy (two AP1000 units in Levy County, Florida)
- Lee Nuclear Station licensing challenges
  - Waste Confidence
  - Central and Eastern United States seismic impacts
  - Condensate return

# Crystal River Unit 3

- Containment shield building damage in 2009 during steam generator replacement activities
- Decision to retire unit rather than repair announced in February 2013
- Plant will be maintained in SAFSTOR until decommissioning
- Submittals to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in December 2013
  - Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PDSAR)
  - Decommissioning Cost Estimate
  - Irradiated Fuel Management Program update



# Nuclear Fleet – Key Performance Indicators



# 2013 Generation Highlights

- Fleet capacity factor of 92.81 percent
  - 15th year of fleet capacity factor greater than 90 percent (excluding Crystal River 3 in 2010-2012)
  - Exceeded U.S. industry average for past 21 years
- June-July-August fleet capacity factor 99.73%
- Robinson had a 531-day continuous run (unit best)
- Oconee 2 had a 552-day continuous run (unit best)
- Oconee 3 had a 504-day continuous run (unit best)
- Oconee station had 315-day continuous run of all three units (site best)
- Oconee station had a capacity factor of 94.55% (site best)

# 2014 Fleet Initiatives

- Equipment Reliability
- Workforce Sustainability
- Outage Execution
- Financial Stewardship (Excellence in Cost Management)

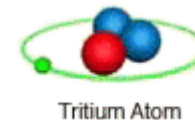


# Duke Energy Groundwater Protection Program – Discussion Outline

- Background on Tritium
- Nuclear Industry Groundwater Protection Initiative (GPI): NEI 07-07
- Nuclear Industry Underground Piping and Tanks Integrity Initiative (UPTI): NEI 09-14
- May 2014 Oconee Event
- Overview of Catawba, Robinson and Oconee Groundwater Programs
- Summary
- Questions

# Tritium Background

- Tritium is a radioactive variation of the chemical element hydrogen (radioactive hydrogen-3 or  $^3\text{H}$ ) and has a half-life of about 12.5 years.
  - Half-life: Time period for a radioactive atom to naturally lose half of its radioactivity.
- The tritium nucleus is made up of one proton and two neutrons.
- Tritium is naturally occurring (cosmic rays in the upper atmosphere can convert a minor fraction of hydrogen into deuterium and tritium).
- Tritium is present at background levels in the environment, predominantly due to atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the 1960s.



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# Tritium Background

- Of the three primary types of radiation, alpha, beta and gamma, tritium emits only a very low energy beta radiation (approximately 18.6 kiloelectron volt or KeV).
  - Due to this low beta energy, tritium must be taken into the body to deliver radiation dose.
- The U.S. EPA's drinking water standard for tritium is 20,000 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). A picocurie is one millionth of a millionth of a curie ( $10^{-12}$  Ci).
  - The drinking water limit for tritium would produce a dose of 4 mrem in a year for a person drinking 2 liters of water at the concentration limit per day over a period of one year.
- The U.S. NRC's limit for tritium release without restrictions on use is 1 million pCi/L (permitted effluent releases).



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# Tritium Production in Reactors

## Pressurized water reactors (PWRs)

- Tritium is produced primarily from neutron capture by boron-10 (B-10).
  - 90% of the total tritium in PWR reactor coolant is produced by reactions with soluble boron.  
*e.g.*,  $^{10}_5B + ^1_0n \rightarrow ^{11}_5B \rightarrow ^3_1H + 2(^4_2He)$
  - The remaining 10% is produced by ternary fission, neutron capture in other B-10, lithium-6 neutron capture, and deuterium activation.

## Boiling water reactors (BWRs)

- Do not use soluble boron
- Tritium production much lower, but still must be addressed



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# Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 07-07

- Nuclear Industry Groundwater Protection Initiative: NEI 07-07
  - Voluntary program – industry Chief Nuclear Officer commitment
- Groundwater monitoring
  - Install additional monitoring wells
  - Voluntary stakeholder communications if  $> 20,000$  pCi/L ( $^3\text{H}$ )
- Manage/prevent leaks and spills
  - Programs to prevent leaks and spills (enhancing systems and work practices)
  - Voluntary stakeholder communications for leaks or spills  $> 100$  gallons with any detectable radioactivity with the potential to reach groundwater



# NEI 09-14

- Nuclear Industry Underground Piping and Tanks Integrity Initiative: NEI 09-14
- Underground Piping and Tanks Integrity Initiative **goal** – to provide reasonable assurance of structural and leakage integrity of in-scope underground piping and tanks, with special emphasis on piping and tanks that contain licensed [radioactive] materials.
- The Underground Piping and Tanks Integrity Initiative will:
  - Drive proactive assessment and management of the condition of piping and tanks that fall within the Initiative scope.
  - Ensure sharing of industry experience.
  - Drive technology development to improve available techniques for inspecting and analyzing underground piping and tanks.
  - Improve regulatory and public confidence in the industry’s management of the material condition of its underground tanks and piping systems.



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# Oconee May 2014



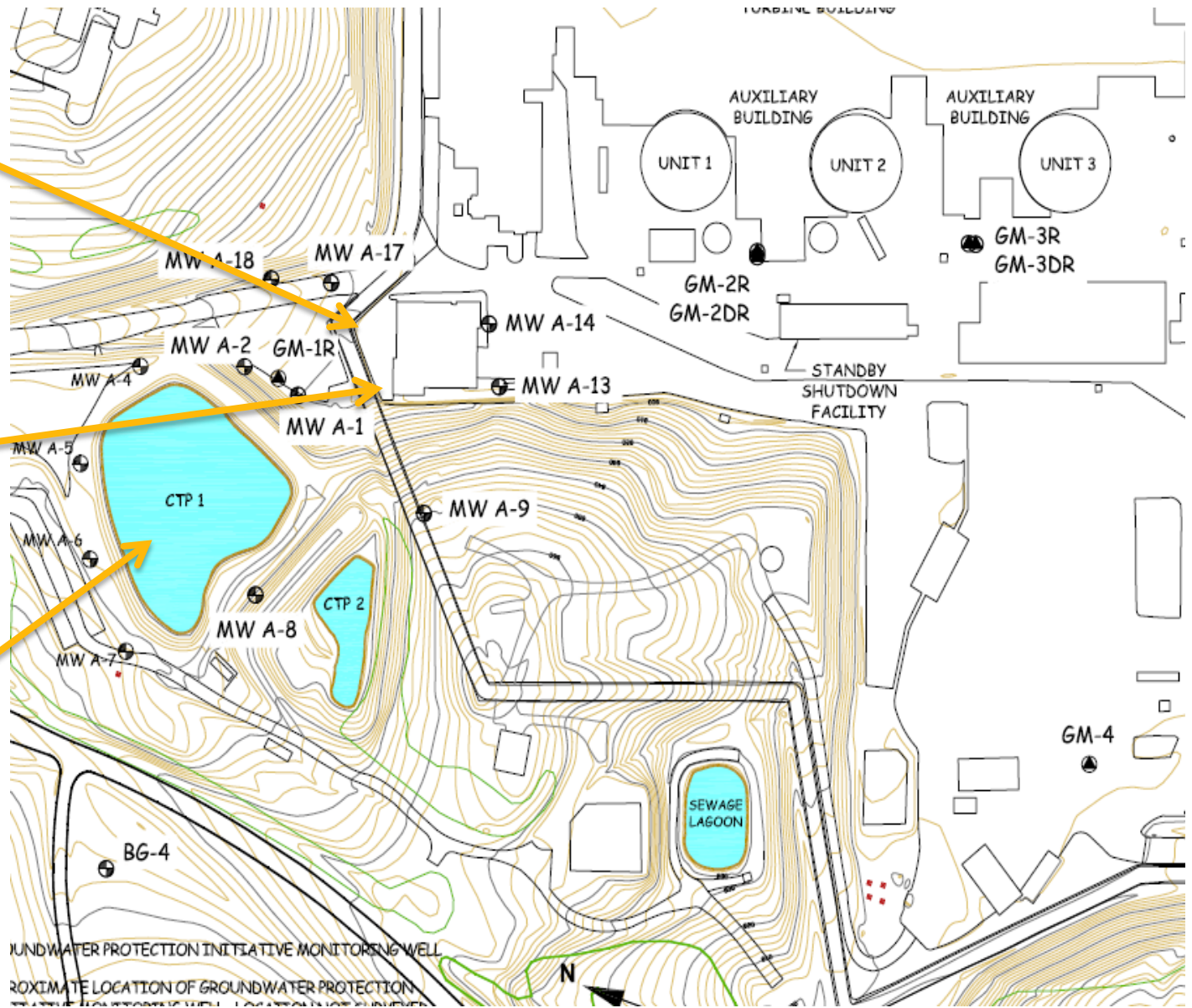


# Seepage Location

Discharge Pipe Transfer Path

Location of Seepage

Chemical Treatment Pond 1



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Visible Seepage



Pipe is Not Source





Location of Seepage

Path of Surface Flow to Discharge Pipe

Second Segment Of Discharge Pipe Transfer Path



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# Identification and Follow-up Actions

- Seepage identified at 4:45 p.m. on 5/6/2014
- Occurred during water transfer from Chemical Treatment Pond 1
- Water seepage from the ground subsided after termination of transfer
- Volume assumed to exceed 100 gallons
- Tritium activity of 3,150 pCi/L (16% of EPA drinking water limits)
- Action taken to prevent additional transfers from Chemical Treatment Pond 1
- Initiated NEI 07-07 stakeholder communications
- No Impact to public or employee health and safety
- Repair plan developed and completed

# Plant Overview

## Catawba

- ~ 40 monitoring wells
- Two NEI 07-07 communications in 2013

## Robinson

- ~30 monitoring wells
- No NEI 07-07 communications since program began

## Oconee

- ~60 monitoring wells
- No NEI 07-07 communications in 2013



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# Summary

- Tritium is a naturally-occurring radioactive isotope with relatively low biological impact. It is generated during nuclear power plant operations, particularly at PWRs.
- Industry instituted voluntary programs to prevent radioactive leaks and spills, identify them if they occur, mitigate any consequences and inform stakeholders.
- Programs are in place at all Duke Energy nuclear plants including Catawba, Oconee and Robinson in South Carolina.
- An event occurred at Oconee in May 2014 resulting in stakeholder notification. There were no public health and safety impacts.

# Questions ?