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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DOE Response to Recommendation 2012-2 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Hanford Tank Farms Flammable Gas Safety Strategy

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On September 28, 2012 the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board submitted Recommendation 2012-2, concerning *Hanford Tank Farms Flammable Gas Safety Strategy*, to the Department of Energy. In accordance with section 315(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(b), the following represents the Secretary of Energy's response to the Recommendation.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's response to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steven Petras, Nuclear Engineer, Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Office of Health, Safety and Security, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 9, 2013.

Mari-Josette Campagnone,

Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Office of Health, Safety and Security.

January 7, 2013

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Energy (DOE) acknowledges receipt of Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 2012-2, *Hanford Tank Farms Flammable Gas Safety Strategy*, issued on September 28, 2012, published in the Federal Register on October 12, 2012, and accepts the Recommendation.

The Board acknowledged in its Recommendation that some improvements had been made to the specific administrative controls used for flammable gas monitoring, but noted that more work was needed to make the ventilation system a credited safety

control. DOE agrees. In developing an Implementation Plan (IP), DOE will take the pragmatic and graded approach detailed below to address the sub recommendations that will significantly improve the robustness of flammable gas controls in the near term. DOE is confident this is the most expeditious approach to implement a more robust safety control for Double Shell Tank (DST) ventilation monitoring consistent with the intent of Recommendation 2012-2.

DOE's approach to addressing sub recommendations 1 and 2 will be divided into the following 3 phases:

- Phase 1 will be to complete implementing the DOE-approved Documented Safety Analysis by January 2013. This will include supplementing the flammable gas monitoring control with a new control that will measure ventilation flow through each tank on a periodic basis. This Documented Safety Analysis will establish priorities for DST primary tank ventilation system maintenance, commensurate with the importance of maintaining active ventilation on these tanks.

- Phase 2 will be to install initial safety-significant instrumentation for real-time monitoring of the ventilation exhaust flow from each DST that will not involve confined-space, radiological pit entry for data collection as is currently required. At this point, a robust safety-significant engineered control will be in place to provide exact flow measurement through each tank in real-time.

- Phase 3 will be to refine the tank flow real-time monitoring to make the monitoring data available at remote locations.

Remaining actions associated with sub recommendations 3 through 5 to reduce the potential hazards posed by gas release events will also be identified in the IP and will address:

- Restoring and upgrading existing installed non-safety-related equipment being used to fulfill safety functions at the Hanford Tank Farms to the appropriate safety classification.
- Implementing compensatory measures in the event of DST ventilation systems become unavailable.
- Evaluating the means to reduce flammable gases retained in the DST waste.

DOE is committed to the safe operation of its nuclear facilities consistent with the principles of Integrated Safety Management and the Department's nuclear safety requirements. DOE values the Board's input on how the Department can improve its activities. We look forward to working with the Board and its staff

on preparing DOE's IP for Recommendation 2012-2. I have assigned the Manager, Office of River Protection, to be the Department's responsible manager for this Recommendation. He can be reached at (509) 376-8830.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. David Huizenga, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management, at (202) 586-7709.

Sincerely,
Steven Chu

[FR Doc. 2013-01132 Filed 1-18-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 12690-005]

Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County, WA; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission or FERC's) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects reviewed the Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County, Washington's (Snohomish PUD) application for a 10-year pilot license for the proposed Admiralty Inlet Tidal Project No. 12690, which would be located in Admiralty Inlet in Puget Sound, near the City of Port Townsend, in Island County, Washington, and has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE/EA-1949). In the EA, Commission staff analyzed the potential environmental effects of constructing and operating the project and concludes that licensing the project, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

A copy of the EA is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at www.ferc.gov using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, 202-502-8659. A copy of the EA can also be found on DOE's Public Reading

Room Web site at http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/NEPA_DEA.aspx. Please reference DOE/EA-1949 in the National Environmental Policy Act, Draft Documents section.

You may also register online at www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice. Comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ferconline.asp>) under the "eFiling" link. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filings, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please affix Project No. 12711-005 to all comments.

For further information, contact David Turner by telephone at 202-502-6091 or by email at david.turner@ferc.gov.

Dated: January 15, 2013.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2232-596]

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Notice of Application for Amendment of License and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. *Application Type*: Non-project use of project lands and waters.
- b. *Project No.*: 2232-596.
- c. *Date Filed*: November 21, 2012.
- d. *Applicant*: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC.

e. *Name of Project*: Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location*: Lake Norman in Lincoln County, North Carolina.

g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a-825r.

h. *Applicant Contact*: Dennis Whitaker, Duke Energy—Lake Services, 526 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28202, (704) 382-1594.

i. *FERC Contact*: Mark Carter, (678) 245-3083, mark.carter@ferc.gov.

j. *Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests*: February 13, 2012.

All documents may be filed electronically via the Internet. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please include the project number (P-2232-596) on any comments or motions filed.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. *Description of Application*: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (licensee) requests Commission approval to authorize changes to the layout of the existing Westport Marina on Lake Norman. The licensee originally notified the Commission of its intent to permit Westport Marina in 1984. The marina layout has changed over time, and the licensee now seeks to incorporate those changes as well as authorize the following proposed changes: (1) Replacing a portion of existing seawall approximately 400 feet long and adding a portion of new seawall approximately

50 feet long; (2) moving an existing wooden dock to be adjacent to an existing seawall along the shoreline; (3) reorienting three boat slips; (4) dredging 1,300 cubic yards of sediment from three separate areas within the footprint of the area; (5) permit an additional 11 slips for personal watercraft; and (6) allow a specified area of this marina to be used as a staging area for businesses conducting shoreline work.

l. *Locations of the Application*: A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 502-8371. This filing may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field (P-2232) to access the document. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, for TTY, call (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (h) above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. *Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene*: Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214, respectively. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

o. *Filing and Service of Documents*: Any filing must (1) Bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "PROTEST", or "MOTION TO INTERVENE" as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001