

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory  
Commission**

[Project No. 2206–089]

**Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Notice of  
Availability of Environmental  
Assessment**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Energy Projects has reviewed an application submitted by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (licensee) to grant easements to the Town of Norwood, North Carolina and Union County, North Carolina (co-applicants) to allow the use of Yadkin-Pee Dee Hydroelectric Project No. 2206, project lands and waters on Lake Tillery for municipal water supply. The Yadkin Pee-Dee Project is located on the Yadkin and Pee Dee Rivers in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties, North Carolina. The project does not occupy federal land.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared as part of Commission staff's review of the proposal. In the application, the licensee proposes to grant easements to the co-applicants to construct and operate a raw water intake facility (facility) on Lake Tillery, one of the project's two storage reservoir. The easement area would total 0.34 acres of land within the project boundary. The intake structure and intake piping would require a 0.25 acre easement and an adjacent boathouse and pier for use in servicing the withdrawal facility would require an additional 0.09 acre easement. The facility would withdraw a maximum annual average of 19.6 million gallons per day (MGD) and an instantaneous maximum of 49.0 MGD. A maximum monthly average of up to 23.3 MGD of the water withdrawn would be transferred out of the Yadkin River Basin into the Rocky River Basin, for consumptive use. A portion of the transferred water would be returned via treated wastewater effluent back through the Rocky River into the Pee Dee River approximately five miles downstream from the Lake Tillery Dam.

The EA contains Commission staff's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facility and the proposed water withdrawal volume and concludes that approval of the proposal would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (P-2206) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866) 208–3372 or for TTY, (202) 502–8659.

For further information, contact Robert Ballantine at (202) 502–6289 or by email at [robert.ballantine@ferc.gov](mailto:robert.ballantine@ferc.gov).

Dated: July 7, 2020.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

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the framework the Agency intends to apply in reaching a decision.

**DATES:** EPA will hold a virtual public hearing within 90 days of the OTC recommendation or by September 4, 2020. Further information on the date and time of the virtual public hearing will be available at <https://www.epa.gov/interstate-air-pollution-transport/ozone-transport-commission-otc-section-184c-petition>.

**ADDRESSES:** Materials related to this action, including the recommendation and supporting materials submitted to EPA by the OTC, can be viewed online at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) under Docket No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2020–0351. To reduce the risk of COVID–19 transmission, the EPA Docket Center and Reading Room is closed to the public with limited exceptions. Visitors must complete docket material requests in advance and then make an appointment to retrieve the material. Visitors will be allowed entrance to the Reading Room by appointment only, and no walk-ins will be allowed. Additional information on the exception procedures, location and hours of the Reading Room is available at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>. Please call or email the contact listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** if you need alternative access to material indexed but not electronically available in the docket at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beth Murray, Clean Air Markets Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency, 202–343–9115, [murray.beth@epa.gov](mailto:murray.beth@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Ground-level ozone is a secondary air pollutant created by chemical reactions between the ozone precursor pollutants NO<sub>x</sub> and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight. Precursor pollutant emissions can be transported downwind directly or, after transformation in the atmosphere, as ozone. Studies have established that ozone formation, atmospheric residence, and transport can occur on a regional scale (*i.e.*, across hundreds of miles) over much of the eastern U.S.<sup>1</sup> Starting more than two decades ago, EPA has issued multiple rules requiring reductions in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to address the interstate transport of NO<sub>x</sub> and ozone, including the NO<sub>x</sub> SIP Call, 63 FR 57356 (October 27, 1998), the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), 70 FR 25162 (May 12, 2005), the Cross-State Air

<sup>1</sup> For example, Bergin, M.S. et al. (2007). Regional air quality: Local and interstate impacts of NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions on ozone and fine particulate matter in the eastern United States. *Environmental Sci. & Tech.* 41: 4677–4689.