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Dated: July 28, 2025.

Carlos D. Clay,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-14497 Filed 7-30-25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2740-053]

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Relicensing and Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

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

- a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.
- b. *Project No.:* 2740-053.
- c. *Date Filed:* July 14, 2025.
- d. *Applicant:* Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy).
- e. *Name of Project:* Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project (Bad Creek Project).
- f. *Location:* Oconee County, South Carolina.
- g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791 (a)-825(r).
- h. *Applicant Contact:* Alan Stuart, Hydro Licensing Project Manager, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, Mail Code DEP-35B 525 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202; (980) 373-2079; alan.stuart@duke-energy.com.
- i. *FERC Contact:* Sarah Salazar at (202) 502-6863, or sarah.salazar@ferc.gov.
- j. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.
- k. *Project Description:* The existing Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project includes: (1) a 363-acre upper reservoir with a storage capacity of 35,513 acre-feet, of which 31,808 acre-feet is usable storage capacity between minimum elevation 2,150 feet mean sea level (msl) and full pond elevation of 2,310 feet

msl; (2) a rockfill dam across Bad Creek with crest elevation at 2,315 feet msl, 2,581 feet long, and 360 feet high; (3) a rockfill dam across West Bad Creek with crest elevation at 2,315 feet msl, 908 feet long and 170 feet high; (4) a saddle dike across a natural depression on the eastern rim of the reservoir with crest elevation at 2,313 feet msl, 960 feet long, and 90 feet high; (5) an ungated water intake structure in the upper reservoir; (6) a power tunnel totaling 5,026 feet long and 29.53 feet in diameter, connecting to four concrete, steel-lined penstocks about 386 feet long and varying from 13.78 to 8.43 feet in diameter; (7) an underground powerhouse containing four reversible pump-generating units, with a nameplate rating of 350,000 kilowatts each, for a total generating capacity of 1,400 megawatts (MW); (8) four concrete-lined draft tube tunnels about 316 feet long and 16.4 feet in diameter, connecting to two concrete-lined tailrace tunnels about 875 feet long and 24.61 feet in diameter; (9) an inlet/outlet structure equipped with four 20-foot by 30-foot, steel lift gates, located in the existing Lake Jocassee which serves as the lower reservoir; (10) transmission facilities consisting of (a) generator leads connecting the powerhouse to four above ground step-up transformers, (b) a 100-kV transmission line extending about 9.25 miles from the Bad Creek switchyard to the Jocassee switchyard, (c) a 525-kV transmission line extending about 9.25 miles from the Bad Creek switchyard to the Jocassee switchyard; and (11) appurtenant facilities. The project also includes an existing 4.8-mile-long road that leads from the project entrance to the powerhouse area near Lake Jocassee.

The project is an automated pumped storage plant where water is regularly moved from the upper reservoir to the lower reservoir during generation, and from the lower reservoir back to the upper reservoir during pumping. All water utilized for generation originates from the 7,980-acre lower reservoir (Lake Jocassee) which has a normal maximum elevation of 1,110 feet msl and normal minimum elevation of 1,080 feet msl. The project is licensed to operate on a weekly pump-storage cycle with the upper reservoir fluctuating between 2,310 feet msl (normal max. elevation) and 2,150 feet msl (normal min. elevation), resulting in a maximum drawdown of 160 feet and 31,808 acre-feet useable storage capacity. In practice, the project operates in a daily pump-storage cycle by maintaining the upper reservoir above 2,250 feet msl for approximately 97% of the time to

maximize head and unit efficiency. The average annual generation of the project is about 1,884,685 MWh. The average annual energy required for pumping during the same period is about 2,398,114 MWh. The net energy consumption of the project is 513,429 MWh.

Duke Energy proposes to continue to operate and maintain the project as well as to construct, operate, and maintain a second generating facility, the Bad Creek II Complex, which would consist of a new: (1) upper reservoir inlet/outlet structure, (2) water conveyance system, (3) underground powerhouse, (4) powerhouse access tunnels, (5) lower reservoir inlet/outlet structure, (6) switchyard, (7) transformer yard, and (8) transmission line. The proposed powerhouse would include four new, reversible pump-turbine units with an installed generating and pumping capacity between 106 MW and 425 MW. Average annual generation would increase by up to 25,856 MWh. No modifications would be made to the existing upper and lower reservoirs. Duke Energy proposes a new project boundary that includes all lands necessary for access, or control of, the expanded project.

1. In addition to publishing the full text of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this notice, as well as other documents in the proceeding (e.g., license application) via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://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 (P-14796). For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

You may also register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/ferconline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

m. The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, community organizations, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the

public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595, or OPP@ferc.gov.

n. *Procedural schedule*: The application will be processed according to the following preliminary schedule.

Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target
Deficiency Letter (if necessary)	August 2025.
Additional Information Request (if necessary)	August 2025.
Notice of Acceptance/Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis	September 2025.

o. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Dated: July 28, 2025.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-14500 Filed 7-30-25; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-12898-02-R5]

Notice of Final Decision To Reissue the Vickery Environmental, Inc. Land-Ban Exemption

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of final decision on a request by Vickery Environmental, Inc. of Vickery, Ohio to reissue its exemption from the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that an exemption to the land disposal restrictions under the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) has been granted to Vickery Environmental, Inc. (VEI) of Vickery, Ohio for five Class I injection wells located in Vickery, Ohio. As required by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, VEI has demonstrated, to a reasonable degree of certainty, that there will be no migration of hazardous constituents out of the injection zone or into an underground source of drinking water (USDW) for at least 10,000 years. This final decision allows the continued underground injection by VEI of only those hazardous wastes designated by the codes in Table 1 through its five Class I hazardous waste injection wells identified as #2, #4, #5, #6, and #8. This decision constitutes a final EPA action for which there is no administrative appeal.

DATES: This action is effective as of July 31, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kaelyn Quinlan, Lead Petition Reviewer, EPA, Region 5, Water Division, Underground Injection Control Section, WP-16J, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590; telephone number: (312) 886-7188; email address: quinlan.kaelyn@epa.gov. Copies of the petition and all pertinent information are on file and are part of the Administrative Record. Please contact the lead reviewer if you wish to review the Administrative Record.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VEI

submitted a request for reissuance of its existing exemption from the land disposal restrictions of hazardous waste in June 2022. EPA reviewed all data pertaining to the petition, including, but not limited to, well construction, well operations, regional and local geology, seismic activity, penetrations of the confining zone, and computational models of the injection zone. EPA has determined that the hydrogeological and geochemical conditions at the site and the nature of the waste streams are such that reliable predictions can be made that fluid movement conditions are such that injected fluids will not migrate out of the injection zone within 10,000 years, as set forth at 40 CFR 148.20(a)(1)(i). The injection zone includes the injection interval into which fluid is directly emplaced and the overlying arrestment interval into which it may diffuse. The injection interval for the VEI facility is composed of the Mt. Simon Sandstone between 2,791 and 2,950 feet below ground level (bgl). The arrestment interval for the VEI facility is composed of the Rome, Conasauga, Kerbel, and Knox Formations between 2,360 and 2,791 feet bgl. The confining zone at the VEI facility is composed of the Black River and Wells Creek Formations between 1,816 and 2,360 feet bgl. The confining zone is separated from the lowermost underground source of drinking water (at a depth of 602 feet bgl) by a sequence of permeable and less permeable sedimentary rocks. This sequence provides additional protection from

fluid migration into drinking water sources.

EPA issued a draft decision, which described the reasons for granting this exemption in more detail, a fact sheet, which summarized these reasons, and a public notice on January 18, 2025, pursuant to 40 CFR 124.10. The public comment period ended on February 18, 2025. EPA received five comments during the comment period. EPA has prepared a response to the comments, which can be viewed at the following URL: <https://www.epa.gov/node/88753#public-notices>. This document is part of the Administrative Record for this decision.

Conditions

This exemption is subject to the following conditions. Non-compliance with any of these conditions is grounds for termination of the exemption:

(1) The exemption applies to the five existing hazardous waste injection wells, #2, #4, #5, #6, and #8 located at the VEI facility at 3956 State Route 412, Vickery, Ohio.

(2) Injection of restricted hazardous waste is limited to the part of the Mt. Simon Sandstone at depths between 2791 and 2950 feet below the surface level.

(3) Only restricted wastes designated by the RCRA waste codes found in Table 1 may be injected.

(4) Maximum concentrations of chemicals that are allowed to be injected are listed in Table 2.

(5) The average specific gravity of the injected waste stream must be no less than 1.08 over a one-year period.

(6) VEI may inject up to a combined total of 240 gallons per minute into Well #2, #4, #5, #6, and #8, based on a monthly average.

(7) This exemption is approved for the 20-year modeled injection period, which ends on June 30, 2027. VEI may petition EPA for a reissuance of the exemption beyond that date, provided that a new and complete petition and no-migration demonstration is received at EPA, Region 5, by January 31, 2027.

(8) VEI must submit, within 90 days after the exemption is granted, an approvable plan to demonstrate that chemicals listed in Table 2 are not or