5. Two (2) Personnel Actions. Closed pursuant to exemptions (2) and (6).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Becky Baker, Secretary of the Board, Telephone (703) 518–6304.

Becky Baker,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98–25243 Filed 9–16–98; 5:00 pm]

BILLING CODE 7535–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–269, 50–270, and 50–287]

Duke Energy Corporation OCONEE Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process

The Duke Energy Corporation (Duke Energy) has submitted an application for renewal of operating licenses DPR–38, DPR 47, and DPR–55 for an additional 20 years of operation at the Oconee Nuclear Station (Oconee), Units 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The plant is located in Oconee County, South Carolina. The application for renewal was submitted by letter dated July 6, 1998, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54. A notice of receipt of application, including the environmental report (ER), was published in the **Federal Register** on July 14, 1998 (63 FR 37909). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for renewal of the facility operating licenses was published in the **Federal Register** on August 11, 1998 (63 FR 42885). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement in support of the review of the license renewal application and to give the public an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process as defined in 10 CFR 51.29.

In accordance with 10 CFR 54.23 and 10 CFR 51.53(c), Duke Energy submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51 and is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room in the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C., and the Local Public Document Room located in the Oconee County Public Library, 501 West South Broad Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's ''Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants'' (NUREG–1437) in support of the review of the application for renewal of the Oconee operating licenses for an additional 20 years. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources. 10 CFR 51.95 requires that the NRC prepare a supplement to the GEIS in connection with the renewal of an operating license. This notice is being published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft supplement to the GEIS for public comment. Participation in this scoping process by members of the public and local, State, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The draft supplement to the GEIS will be the subject of separate notices and a separate public meeting. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final supplement to the GEIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

The scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS will be used to accomplish the following:

a. Define the proposed action, which is to be the subject of the supplement to the GEIS.

b. Determine the scope of the supplement to the GEIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.

c. Identify, and eliminate from detailed study, those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.

d. Identify any environmental assessments and other environmental impact statements (EISs) that are being or will be prepared that are related to but are not part of the scope of the supplement to the GEIS being considered.

e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.

f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision making schedule.

g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completion of the supplement to the GEIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.

h. Describe how the supplement to the GEIS will be prepared, including any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in the scoping process:

a. The applicant, Duke Energy Corporation.

b. Petitioners for leave to intervene in the proceeding, Norman (Buzz) Williams, William (Butch) Clay, W. S. Lesan, and the Chatooga River Watershed Coalition.

c. Any other Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.

d. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.

e. Any affected Native American tribe.

f. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.

Participation in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS does not, in itself, entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the supplement to the GEIS relates. Notice of an opportunity for a hearing regarding the renewal application was the subject of the aforementioned **Federal Register** notice of acceptance of docketing (63 FR 42885). Matters related to participation in any hearing are outside the scope of matters to be discussed at this public meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC has decided to hold a public meeting for the Oconee license renewal supplement to the GEIS. The scoping meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, Clemson, South Carolina, on Monday, October 19, 1998. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 2:00 p.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m. with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting and will continue until 10:00 p.m. Both meetings will be transcribed and will include (1) an overview by the NRC staff of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process, the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS, and the proposed review schedule; (2) an overview by Duke Energy of the proposed action, Oconee license renewal, and the environmental impacts as outlined in the ER; and (3) the

opportunity for interested Government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS. Persons may pre-register to attend or to speak at the meeting on the NEPA scoping process by contacting Mr. James H. Wilson by telephone at 1–800–368–5642, Extension 1108, or by Internet to the NRC at oconeeis@nrc.gov no later than 12:00 noon on October 15, 1998. In addition, individuals may register to speak up until 15 minutes before the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Mr. James H. Wilson's attention no later than October 13, 1998, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mailstop T–6 D 59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

Comments may be hand-delivered to the NRC at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written comments should be postmarked by November 19, 1998. Electronic comments may be sent by the Internet to the NRC at oconeeis@nrc.gov. Electronic submittals should be sent no later than November 19, 1998, to be considered in the scoping process and will be available for inspection at the NRC and Local Public Document Rooms.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection at the NRC and Local Public Document Rooms.

Information about the proposed action, the supplement to the GEIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from Mr. James H. Wilson at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of September 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Thomas H. Essig,

Acting Chief Generic Issues and Environmental Projects Branch, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98–25175 Filed 9–18–98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40–8989; License No. SUA–1559]

Envirocare of Utah, Inc.; Issuance of Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hearby given that the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, has taken action with regard to a Petition for action under 10 CFR 2.206 received from Dr. Thomas B. Cochran, Director of Nuclear Programs, on behalf of the Petitioner, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), dated December 12, 1997, as supplemented May 6, 1998, with regard to Envirocare of Utah, Inc. (Envirocare). Specifically, by letter dated December 12, 1997, the Petitioner requested that NRC (1) conduct an immediate investigation of issues raised in the Petition and immediately suspend Envirocare's NRC license; (2) conduct an investigation of possible criminal violations of section 223 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act); (3) immediately suspend Envirocare's license with the State of Utah, under section 274j(2) of the Act; (4) investigate the adequacy of the State of Utah agreement state program to protect whistleblowers; (5) contact each current and former Envirocare employee personally, on a confidential basis, to advise them of their rights to inform the NRC of unsafe practices and violations, to inform them of the protections available to them, and to ask them if they have any information which they wish to disclose, on a confidential basis or otherwise; and (6) order a special independent review of Envirocare's relationships with its employees, along the lines of the review ordered by the NRC for the Millstone site.

Petitioner asserts, as a basis for the December 12, 1997, request, that Envirocare's employee-related practices and contractual provisions constitute a violation of 42 U.S.C. § 5851 (Section 211 (''Employee Protection'') of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974(ERA)) and the NRC's whistleblower protection regulations under Parts 19 and 40 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (i.e., 10 CFR 19.16, 19.20, and 40.7). Specifically, Petitioner states that current and former Envirocare employees who have provided to governmental authorities information adverse to Envirocare's interests fear for their lives and the lives of their families should their identities become known to Envirocare. Petitioner also states that certain provisions in Envirocare's standard employment contract prevent its employees from disclosing to the NRC information concerning unsafe practices and violations under the NRC license and threaten them with severe financial penalties in the event of a disclosure. By letter dated January 16, 1998, NRC acknowledged receipt of NRDC's December 12, 1997, Petition.

With respect to the May 6, 1998, Supplement, NRDC requested that (1) NRC suspend all licenses Envirocare has with the NRC; (2) NRC request the State of Utah to suspend all licenses that Envirocare holds with the State of Utah under the purview of the Utah Division of Radiation Control; (3) the license suspensions indicated in (1) and (2) above are to be enforced until such time as NRC and the State of Utah have completed the actions under (4) and (5) below; (4) NRC undertake a program, in cooperation with the State of Utah and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to contact each and every current and past employee on an individual basis and obtain a sworn statement from each, indicating: (i) whether they were intimidated by the unlawful Envirocare Employee Agreement; (ii) whether they withheld or altered any health, safety, or environmental information in any Envirocare report, or in any written or oral communication with any official of the State of Utah, EPA or NRC; and, (iii) whether they failed to report any health, safety, or environmental information to appropriate authorities; and in cases where there was information withheld, altered, or not reported, identify fully what the information was; (5) NRC investigate the extent to which such information, revealed under (4) above, has affected existing and past licenses held by Envirocare issued by the NRC or the State of Utah, under the purview of the Utah Division of Radiation Control.

In support of Petitioner's May 6, 1998, request, NRDC asserted that NRC now has before it new information that it did not have at the time that NRDC's earlier Petition (dated January 8, 1997) requesting enforcement action against Envirocare was denied by NRC on