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NRC Issues New Reactor Licenses to Duke Energy for William States Lee III Site in South Carolina

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued two Combined Licenses (COL) for Duke Energy Carolinas' William States Lee III site in South Carolina. The licenses authorize Duke to build and operate two [AP1000](#) reactors at the site, near Gaffney, S.C.

The Commission [authorized](#) the agency's Office of New Reactors to issue the licenses, having found the staff's review of Duke's application adequate to make the necessary regulatory safety and environmental findings. The licenses were issued Dec. 19.

The licenses contain conditions, including:

- Specific actions associated with the agency's post-Fukushima requirements for [Mitigation Strategies](#) and [Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation](#); and
- A pre-startup schedule for post-Fukushima aspects of the new reactor's emergency preparedness plans and procedures.

Duke submitted the Lee application on Dec. 12, 2007. The NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards independently reviewed aspects of the application that concern safety, as well as the staff's [final safety evaluation report](#). The committee provided the [results](#) of its review to the Commission on Dec. 14, 2015. The NRC completed its [environmental review](#) and issued the final impact statement for the proposed William States Lee reactors in December 2013.

The NRC certified the 1,100-megawatt AP1000 design in 2011; more information on the certification process is available on the [NRC website](#).