

NEWS FROM NUCLEAR WATCH SOUTH, SIERRA CLUB, BEYOND NUCLEAR

For immediate release

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***Fukushima in the Foothills?* Experts will speak to Oconee nuclear plant's extreme flood risks**

CLEMSON, SC — The risk of potential dam failures and extreme flooding at Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station will be addressed at a special in-person event on March 12 at 1:30 pm at the OLLI Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Clemson. The event will also be live broadcast via Zoom.

A retired Nuclear Regulatory Commission engineer and senior risk analyst, along with two nuclear power specialists, will address the particular risks faced by the three Oconee reactors and a recent Nuclear Regulatory Commission decision that has put reactor license renewals on hold, including at Oconee.

The event, open to public and the media, takes place on Saturday, March 12 at 1:30 pm at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Clemson. The event is co-sponsored by Beyond Nuclear, Nuclear Watch South and the Sierra Club. No pre-registration is required.

The event, *Fukushima in the Foothills?*, will feature Jeff Mitman who is a retired U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) senior risk analyst, Paul Gunter, a reactor oversight expert from the Takoma Park, Maryland-based NGO, Beyond Nuclear, and their attorney, Diane Curran, Esq. (via Zoom). Linda Pentz Gunter, the international specialist from Beyond Nuclear, will also be available to answer questions.

The speakers will address the latest developments surrounding the federal challenge to Duke Energy's application currently before the NRC for Duke Energy's three reactors' second 20-year operating license extension which would allow the reactors to operate until 2053 and 2054.

The Oconee Nuclear Station's three reactors are located on Lake Keowee, just over 10 miles from the city of Clemson and Clemson University. They combine for a 2,500 megawatt output. The three reactors also sit just ten miles downstream from the massive Jocassee Dam (385' tall) and the adjacent Keowee Dam (170'). Beyond Nuclear and Sierra Club contend that Duke Energy has failed to adequately prepare for an extreme flood should the Jocassee and Keowee dams fail.

Beyond Nuclear experts contend that, based on Duke's own analysis, a catastrophic Jocassee Dam failure could flood the Oconee Nuclear Stations to a depth of 19 feet disabling the reactors' cooling and safety systems, likely causing three reactor meltdowns and significant offsite radiation releases downwind and downstream. This scenario poses an unimaginable catastrophe for Upstate South Carolina, North Georgia and Western North Carolina.

Recently, the fate of Duke Energy's license extension was thrown into doubt by a stunning NRC decision to require flood risk analysis to be performed for the Environmental Impact

Statement upon which the utility relies for its license. At the least, the time it will take for the process and analysis to unfold places Duke's licensing request on indefinite hold.

WHO: Presentations by Jeff Mitman, Paul Gunter and Diane Curran, followed by Q&A.

WHERE: OLLI Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 100 Thomas Green Blvd, Clemson, SC 29631

WHEN: Saturday, March 12, 2022.

TIME: 1:30pm-3:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82152220529?pwd=Q0Z0cFNaVzFwbjhgRzZKNUxWQ3Mxdz09>

Meeting ID: 821 5222 0529

Passcode: 236537

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Jeff Mitman was part of the NRC emergency response team sent to Japan in the immediate aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident on March 11, 2011. He is a recently retired NRC nuclear engineer and senior risk analyst who was on staff to review Oconee nuclear generating station and its operations below the Jocassee and Keowee Dams. He is the expert witness in a legal challenge to Duke Energy's license extension application.

Paul Gunter is the director of Reactor Oversight at Beyond Nuclear with more than 40 years of experience in the public interest on nuclear reactor safety and nuclear waste issues.

Diane Curran is one of country's leading attorneys litigating in the public interest before the NRC on the licensing and oversight of commercial power reactors. She is representing Beyond Nuclear and Sierra Club in a legal challenge of Duke Energy's license extension application.

Linda Pentz Gunter is the international specialist at Beyond Nuclear, the organization's founder and a former journalist who writes for and curates Beyond Nuclear International.

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Stop Duke from Sending Safety Over the Jocassee Dam**

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