



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

Progress Energy - Shearon  
Harris Nuclear Power Plant,  
Wake and Chatham Counties,  
NC  
(Regulatory)

- **Project proposal to expand an existing nuclear power plant in Wake/Chatham County, NC**
- **Current concerns are related to secondary/cumulative effects, alternatives analysis, and compensatory mitigation.**

---

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 02, 04

DATE: 8 April 2013

1. **PURPOSE:**

To provide information on the proposal by Progress Energy to construct two additional nuclear power generating units at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant site, near Holly Springs, in Wake and Chatham Counties, North Carolina.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this proposal is being developed by Progress Energy for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the lead Federal agency. The Corps is officially a Cooperating Agency on the EIS as agreed upon in a letter dated September 19, 2008. This proposal includes impacts associated with expanding the existing Harris Nuclear Power Plant in southwestern Wake County and southeastern Chatham County, North Carolina.

b. Interagency scoping meetings and public hearings have been completed for preparation of the DEIS.

c. The alternatives analysis has been challenging for this project due to the expected impacts from flooding to nearly 600 acres of wetlands and 26 miles of stream channel. This flooding would result from expanding the existing Harris Reservoir by 20 vertical feet.

d. Two species, the Cape Fear shiner and the red-cockaded woodpecker (both endangered) are possibly within the scope of this project and will likely be addressed under formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In addition, an active bald eagle nest has been found within the project area. While the eagle has been delisted, it is still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The USFWS suggest following

PROJECT INFORMATION – Progress Energy – Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Wake and Chatham Counties, NC (Regulatory) - Continued

the guidelines established under the Act when conducting activities near nesting trees. Other listed species are found on the alternative sites; therefore, coordination with USFWS and NMFS will be necessary as the alternatives are assessed.

e. At the request of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Corps participated in a writing session for portions of the DEIS in 2009, at Richmond, Virginia. Other portions of this document are still under review and development.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

a. An interagency, Instream-Flow Study Group has completed their evaluation to determine downstream flow requirements from Harris Reservoir for maintaining the biological integrity of Buckhorn Creek and the Cape Fear River. Three possible flow alternatives will be disclosed within the DEIS for comment.

b. Progress Energy is currently considering establishing an umbrella mitigation bank to identify potential compensatory mitigation areas to provide compensatory mitigation for anticipated impacts.

c. A Corps approved jurisdictional determination has been conducted for the site.

d. Recent information, submitted by Progress Energy to the NC Public Utilities Commission, does not show a need for the project within the 15 year planning horizon. In addition, a newly proposed merger between Progress Energy and Duke Power is now under review. This merger creates some additional uncertainty in predicting anticipated power demands. The NRC is addressing this unexpected problem relevant to the NEPA Purpose and Need.

e. The NRC has delayed the completion of the DEIS due to budgetary constraints and project workload.

f. To date, a Department of the Army permit application has not been received for this project.