



Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility
Hopkins, South Carolina

Community Update

December 2022

Engaging local communities in meaningful dialogue is integral to our work. As such, we remain committed to open and ongoing communication with residents, elected officials, and other local organizations who are interested in operations at the Westinghouse facility in Hopkins. This update is being provided as part of DHEC's commitment. Updates and information can also be found on our webpage at www.scdhec.gov/Westinghouse.

Westinghouse | Westinghouse owns and operates the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility located in Hopkins, South Carolina.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) | Radiological operations at Westinghouse are regulated by the NRC through an NRC license. NRC's oversight of these operations includes routine facility inspections.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) | DHEC issues air and water permits to regulate non-radiological air emissions and water discharges from the facility. DHEC also has the authority to require Westinghouse to investigate and cleanup any radiological or non-radiological releases to the environment (i.e., groundwater, surface water, soils and sediments) - both within the property boundaries and beyond.

Lower Richland County Communities | Residents in the communities of the Hopkins-Lower Richland area are collaboratively working with DHEC, elected officials, and other local organizations to strengthen communication and ensure accountability and transparency of environmental investigations at the Westinghouse site.

NRC LICENSE RENEWAL

On September 12, 2022, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a renewed operating license for the Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication facility. The renewed license authorizes operations at the facility through September 12, 2062. Public comments and those submitted by DHEC, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), were considered prior to issuance. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was also completed and considered.

The EIS and additional information on the NRC license renewal can be found on our website.

EPA CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

In 2022, the EPA issued a consent order and civil penalty to Westinghouse for past issues related to the labeling, storage, handling, and processing of materials contaminated with perchloroethylene (PCE) at the Columbia Fuel Fabrication facility. Westinghouse discontinued the use of any new PCE at the facility in April 2020.

DHEC REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

Westinghouse completed its remedial investigation of the site and submitted a Remedial Investigation (RI) Report on August 23, 2022. DHEC's Bureau of Land and Waste Management is currently reviewing the RI

Report. Once DHEC completes its review of the RI Report, Westinghouse will address any comments on the document and submit a final draft for approval. After the RI is approved, Westinghouse will submit a Feasibility Study Workplan to start the process of evaluating cleanup alternatives. Documents related to the RI will continue to be posted on our webpage when available.

SEALAND CONTAINER REMOVAL

All SeaLand containers containing drums have been removed from the site and disposed of at a properly licensed disposal facility. Westinghouse has entered an agreement with EPA to address drums that were stored in the SeaLand containers.

EAST LAGOON

The East Lagoon was successfully closed in the Fall of 2021. DHEC issued a letter of completion on November 1, 2021.

AIR QUALITY PROCESS EXEMPTION

In July 2022, Westinghouse requested a determination from DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ) regarding the use of a vacuum drying process to capture volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and tetrachloroethylene (TCE) from the drums containing wet combustible materials (WCM) that were previously stored in the SeaLand containers.

After review of all applicable information, including a successful pilot study, the BAQ determined that the calculated total amount of VOC and TCE emissions from the vacuum drying process would be below regulatory thresholds requiring an air quality construction permit or an ambient air quality compliance demonstration. An exemption letter was issued by the BAQ on September 15, 2022. The exemption letter and related documents have been posted on our website.

AIR AND WATER PERMITTING NEXT STEPS

Based on public comments, permit modification requests, and additional information, DHEC's draft air operating and NPDES renewal permits for Westinghouse are being updated and will include additional public notice and thirty-day public comment periods in 2023. DHEC will notify community stakeholders when this occurs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DHEC encourages communities to learn more and stay engaged on the local, state, and federal levels by attending meetings, asking questions, and sharing information with others.

For additional information about DHEC's regulatory role at the Westinghouse site and our commitment to keeping the local community informed, please visit www.scdhec.gov/Westinghouse or contact:

Keisha Long

**Environmental Justice Coordinator
DHEC – Office of Environmental Affairs
(803) 898-0774**

longkd@dhec.sc.gov

For more information about operations at the site, or to request to be on Westinghouse's community mailing list, please visit www.westinghousenuclear.com or contact:

Karen R. Gay

**Communications & Community Affairs
Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility
Westinghouse Electric Company, US
(803) 647-1972**

gaykr@westinghouse.com