



Darlington County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Quarterly Update

IN THE NEWS



Duke Energy seeks renewal of reactor license

from staff reports, [Florence Morning News](#), September 19, 2019

"CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Duke Energy is seeking to renew the operating license of the reactor at the Robinson nuclear facility for another 20 years.

Duke announced Thursday it will seek to renew the operating licenses of the 11 reactors including the 741 megawatt reactor near Hartsville that's owned by its subsidiary Duke Energy Progress.

"Our nuclear power plants have safely and reliably provided electricity to our Carolinas customers for decades," said Preston Gillespie, Duke Energy's chief nuclear officer. "These plants generate clean and cost-effective power, provide thousands of well-paying jobs, and produce substantial economic benefits for the Carolinas. Renewing the licenses of these plants is important for our customers, communities and environment."

The first Duke Energy nuclear power plants will approach the end of their current operating licenses in the early 2030s. Preventive maintenance programs across the nuclear fleet and technology upgrades and investments over the years at all stations have contributed to their operating performance. In 2018, Duke Energy's nuclear fleet marked its 20th consecutive year with a fleet capacity factor - a measure of reliability - greater than 90%."

[Read more here](#)

In This Issue

In the News
DCEDP Spotlight Stats

PROGRESS MEMBERS

Annual Meeting:
October 17, 2019 5:45 pm at the
Darlington Country Club
RSVP by October 11 to
mperry@dcedp.com

Share your news

Do you or your company have any Darlington County news to share? If so, email us [here](#) and we'll include it in our next newsletter and on our website.

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Contact Us

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County clears \$4 million airport project for approach

by Samantha Lyles, News & Press, September 17, 2019

"Darlington, SC - At their Sep. 9 regular meeting, Darlington County Council finalized the local commitment needed to trigger a \$4.58 million runway improvement project at the county's airport.

By approving Ordinance 19-20, the county pledges to appropriate \$229,455 (5 percent of project costs) to the Darlington County Airport in order to receive \$4.13 million from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The state will also provide \$229,456 toward the project.

With this agreement formally settled, the runway rehab could begin later this month.

According to airport manager Barry Kennett, the 20 year-old asphalt runway has developed ruts along its 5,500-foot surface and must be milled down between 2 and 7 inches. The new runway's deep concrete surface will be more durable and will triple the weight capacity for landing aircraft.

Kennett has said the airport would be closed to airplane traffic for about 90 days during construction.

Council member Bobby Kilgo lauded the grant and noted that it's rare for a rural infrastructure project to receive so much money with such a small local match required.

"That's a lot of money for a small county airport, and that meant that somebody did a lot of hard work to convince the feds and the state that it was worthwhile," said Kilgo. "I know it's going to be inconvenient while they do the work, but when they finish, bigger corporations and bigger planes can come in there. It's going to be beneficial to our economic development."

[Read more here](#)

U.S. Department of Commerce Invests \$1.2 Million to Fund Critical Infrastructure Upgrades in Darlington

Press Release, EDA Public Affairs Department, September 25, 2019

"WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$1.2 million grant to the city of Darlington, South Carolina, to make wastewater system infrastructure upgrades needed to support local business development efforts. This grant will be matched with \$305,580 in local investments.

"The Trump Administration has been working hard to rebuild America's crumbling infrastructure," said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. "By investing in Darlington, the project will increase the resiliency of the entire wastewater system and decrease the likelihood of service interruptions for local businesses."

"It's great news for all of South Carolina to know that we have partners in the Trump Administration who understand the importance of providing businesses and local communities with the infrastructure necessary for their continued success and growth," said Governor Henry McMaster. "This investment will pay dividends in the Darlington community for many years to come, and we couldn't be more grateful to Secretary Ross and the U.S. Department of Commerce."

"This grant is great news and an important investment in Darlington's infrastructure," said Congressman Tom Rice. "I am grateful for the Trump Administration's support and I will continue advocating for Seventh District priorities at the federal level."

[Read more here](#)

Groundbreaking held for Bethea's \$23 million facility

from staff reports, News & Press, September 3, 2019

"Darlington, S.C. -Bethea Retirement Community in Darlington last week broke ground on a \$23 million, 60,000-square-foot health care and rehabilitation facility.

The project, to be completed in the fall of 2020, is "a pivotal moment, a life-changing event, in the future of every resident and staff (member) of Bethea," said Tom Turner, CEO and president of the S.C. Baptist Ministries of Aging. Bethea is a ministry of that group.

Bethea held a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 27 on the project.

The facility, when complete, will encompass 88 private rooms, 22 of them for short-term care and 66 for long-term care.

Also included will be a rehab therapy gym (3,000 square feet), a primary care office (1,500 square feet), screened porches and an ice-cream parlor. The design will allow private living for residents who have previously had semi-private rooms.

The design features four "households," groups of 22 residential rooms; each "household" is to have a kitchen and recreation area.

Bethea Retirement Community is the only Southern Baptist-affiliated retirement community in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, according to its website: "At Bethea, retirement living is an opportunity to live abundantly as residents discover new ways to serve Christ and others with purpose."

[Read more here](#)



Nearly 30 DCSD students 'sign' with local employers for internships

"DARLINGTON, S.C. -Twenty-seven Darlington County School District students will get genuine work-based experience this fall during 12-week paid internships at local businesses. The students and the 13 employers participated in a Fall Signing Day on Sept. 19 inside Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology's Conference Center.

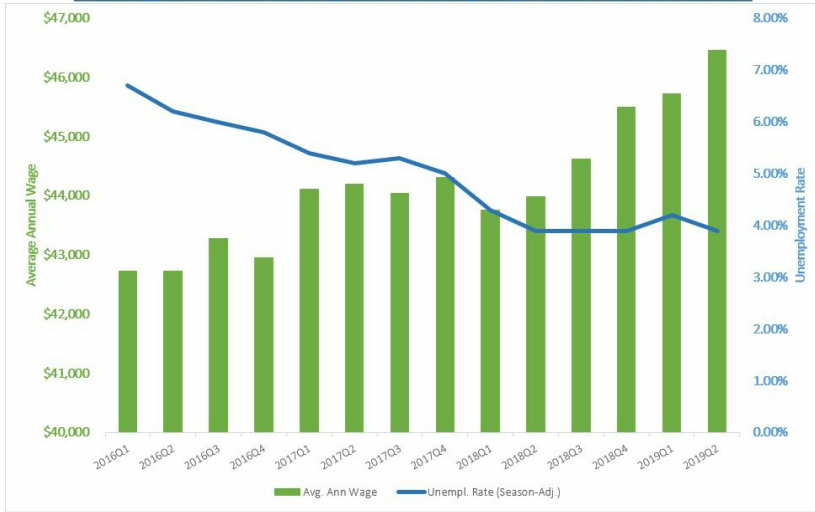
School guidance counselors recommended the student interns. Prior to the celebratory Signing Day at Mayo High School, all of the students underwent professional skills training and interviewed for the available positions with their schools' career specialists. The paid internships will take place at the employers' campuses and will help prepare the students for life after high school.

Superintendent Tim Newman began the Key to Career program with the goal of providing life-changing opportunities for Darlington County students through partnerships with the business community. Since then, many businesses in the area jumped at the chance to partner in a meaningful way with the school district."

[Read more here](#)

DCEDP SPOTLIGHT STATS: *Charting our success*

*Over the Years: Darlington County's
Average Annual Wage & Unemployment Rate Trends*



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Visit our website at www.dcedp.com