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RESOLUTION DELAYED



WALT UNKS, JOURNAL

An aerial image of Belews Creek Power Station on Jan. 14, 2026.

Forsyth commissioners opt to wait on vote on whether to support Belews Creek nuclear project

RICHARD CRAVER AND JOHN DEEM
Staff Reporters

Forsyth County Board of Commissioners have opted to delay taking a vote on whether to support a resolution supporting Duke Energy's plans for creating as many as six small nuclear reactors near its Belews Creek Steam Station.

The utility's power campus is in Stokes County just across the Forsyth County line.

Duke Energy chose a 1,000-acre property near the existing facility — which was built as a coal plant in the early 1970s, but now also uses natural gas — after considering

about 70 potential locations.

Forsyth commissioners heard a presentation at its May 19 briefing from Hank Kenny, a district manager for government community relations for the utility.

Commissioner Dan Besse said he has too many questions about the project to approve a resolution of support.

"I would be extremely uncomfortable adopting a resolution of recommendation," Besse said. "I do know Duke's position on this is not uncontested."

Duke Energy has applied for a federal early site permit as it continues to evaluate

rapidly evolving nuclear technology, such as small modular reactors.

Duke plans to initially add two small nuclear reactors at the site by 2037 as it phases out coal combustion there by 2040.

A potential — perhaps primary — customer of the expanded energy capacity could be the developer of a proposed multi-billion dollar, 5-million-square-foot data center campus in neighboring Walnut Cove.

The data center project is on hold after

Please see **DELAY**, Page A4

Board delays school vote

Parents and staff urged WS/FCS leaders to preserve two special needs schools

LISA O'DONNELL
Staff Reporter

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Board of Education, at its meeting on Tuesday, pushed a vote on the future of two schools for children with significant special needs to next month.

The Special Children's School and The Children's Center each serve some of the school district's most high-needs children from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade. The schools are in separate leased buildings.

A loss of state funding for some of those children prompted the cash-strapped school district to consider moving all or some of those children to other schools in the district that are under-capacity.

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NC eases JetZero workforce targets

State approves revised benchmarks for incentive package after company cites budget delays

RICHARD CRAVER
Staff Reporter

Add JetZero and the state's largest job-creation incentive pledge to the economic initiatives being affected by the 2025-27 state budget stalemate.

The state's Economic Investment Committee has made the fledgling aircraft manufacturer eligible for up to \$1.57 billion in direct state Job Investment Development grants over 37 years.

On Tuesday, the committee approved allowing JetZero to reduce its workforce targets for 2027 and 2028 and still qualify for annual state incentives.

As a result, JetZero will remain eligible for full Job Development Investment Grant incentives for 2027 even if it

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'They should be proud of themselves': Reynolds girls soccer run ends in state semifinal.

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