

## 1 Introduction

The Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Report is an initial look at the demographics and socioeconomics of a facility's surrounding community area. This includes information within a radius, as determined by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (Department or DEQ), race and ethnicity (decennial census year), poverty status, per capita income, and ability to speak English (most current American Community Survey (ACS) census range), the current North Carolina Department of Commerce county tier, and presence of Native American territory.

The primary goal is to encourage comments and suggestions from the surrounding community, industry, and environmental groups throughout the comment period.

It is important to keep in mind, that based on the data available, the following limitations of this study exist:

- census data is from 2010 and may be outdated;
- the more recent ACS data through 2017 are estimates;
- EPA's EJSCREEN does not provide all of the data categories that were used in this analysis, so the census tract and county data cannot be compared to the radius evaluating the facility boundary;
- census tracts can be large areas that do not identify exact locations of each population;
- some of the census tracts slightly overlap with the two-mile radius; and
- the Department cannot determine which populations are located within that small area of overlap.

The Department has reviewed the demographic and socioeconomic data of the communities surrounding the Duke Energy Belews Creek Steam Station in Belmont (Stokes County) to foster communication prior to the Division of Waste Management's public hearing for the new landfill permit application for the disposal of excavated coal ash at the Belews Creek Steam Station.

Under the Settlement Agreement and [Consent Order](#) signed in February of 2020, Duke Energy is required to excavate more than 76 million tons of coal ash from open, unlined impoundments at six facilities. Duke Energy submitted its closure plan for the Belews Creek Steam Station on December 31, 2019. The plan details full excavation of nearly all of the coal ash from the Belews Steam Station facility impoundment to one lined, onsite landfill. After a thorough review and public comment period, the Department determined on August 17, 2020, that the closure plan submitted by Duke Energy for the Belews Creek Steam Station to be protective of public health and the environment.

## 2 Environmental Justice Evaluation

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (Environmental Protection Agency). This evaluation examines the demographic and environmental conditions in Stokes, Forsyth, and Rockingham counties, as well as census tracts 701, 707, 31.06, and 410.01, plus the two-mile buffer around the property boundary of the Duke Energy Belews Creek Steam Station facility. Finally, the demographics for the State of North Carolina are also considered as they compare to both the county and local census tract and radius settings.

The Department has assessed the permit application and potential impacts on communities surrounding the facility as proposed in the permit application. Accordingly, the EJ Report will include:

- Overview of the permit application;
- Study of area demographics [determined by using the EPA Environmental Justice tool (EJSCREEN – <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/> ) and current, available census data (found at: <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml> )];
- Comparison of local area demographics to both county and statewide census data;
- County health assessment;
- Surrounding sensitive receptors; and
- Local industrial sites (using the NC Community Mapping System (<https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1eb0fbe2bcfb4cccb3cc212af8a0b8c8>)).

Demographics (including race and ethnicity, poverty status, and per capita incomes) for Gaston and Mecklenburg counties will be compared to the local (census tracts and project radius) level data to identify any disparities surrounding the project area. Using standard environmental justice guidelines from the EPA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, the following conditions will be flagged as potential communities of concern:

- 10% or more in comparison to the county or state average;
- 50% or more minority; and
- 5% or more in comparison to the county or state average for poverty.

### 3 Proposed Project

The proposed project to build one new, lined landfill for coal ash disposal at the existing Duke Energy Belews Creek Steam Station is consistent with the Coal Ash Impoundment Closure Plan, approved by DEQ on August 17, 2020. For this project, Duke Energy submitted two separate applications to two regulatory divisions in NCDEQ. Accordingly, the following sections outline the draft permits under review in the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) and the Division of Waste Management – Solid Waste Section.

#### Division of Air Quality

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC is requesting authorization to excavate the existing Belews Creek Steam Station Ash Basin and place the excavated coal combustion residuals (CCR) in a new lined Closure Landfill that will be located within the Ash Basin waste boundary. The project will result in increased emissions of particulate matter (PM), PM less than 10 micrometers and 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM10 and PM2.5, respectively), lead, and air toxics.

**Table 1. Project Emissions Increase, Tons Per Year**

	PM	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Lead
Project emissions increase, TPY	17.81	8.98	3.04	3.40E-03

Air dispersion modeling was performed for the following emissions. The results for each compound fell below the Acceptable Ambient Level (AAL).

**Table 2. Potential Emissions**

Toxic Compounds	Facility-wide Potential Emission Rates		
	lb/day	lb/yr	Percent of AAL (%)
Arsenic		223	10.71
Beryllium		22.0	1.42
Cadmium		229	0.54
Chromium VI	0.30		0.23
Manganese	2.99		0.05
Mercury	0.16		0.03
Nickel	2.73		0.19

Division of Waste Management

The Belews Creek Steam Station is owned and operated by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy) and located in Stokes County at 3195 Pine Hall Road, in the community of Belews Creek, North Carolina. The Belews Creek Steam Station began operations in 1974 as a two-unit, coal-fired electric generating station (2,240-megawatt capacity) and is currently in active operation.

In accordance with the Dec. 31, 2019, [Settlement Agreement](#) and signed Consent Order between Duke Energy, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) and various community groups, Duke Energy prepared a Closure Plan describing the closure activities of the one ash impoundment called the Basin at the Belews Creek Steam Station. The plan, approved by NCDEQ on August 17, 2020, detailed closure-by-excavation of the Basin and placement of the excavated coal combustion residuals (CCR) into one new permitted onsite lined landfill called the Ash Basin Landfill.

The Basin began operation in 1974 and stopped receiving wet sluiced ash in March 2019. The entire basin encompasses approximately 350 acres, but only 270 acres contain CCR requiring closure under the Coal Ash Management Act (CAMA).

**Table 3. Impoundment Size**

Impoundment	Estimated CCR Weight (million tons)	Estimated CCR Volume (million cubic yards)	Estimated Maximum CCR Depth (feet)
Basin	11.97*	9.975	80

\*Based on CCR inventory data provided by Duke Energy as of July 31, 2019

Under the approved Closure Plan, all CCR except for a small finger under the adjacent permitted and closed Pine Hall Road CCR landfill will be excavated and placed into the new lined landfill located within the plant property and partially within the former footprint of the basin. The landfill will be designed and constructed in accordance with existing state and federal laws and rules. It will be double-lined with geosynthetic material, have a leak detection system and leachate collection system, have environmental monitoring, and will be closed with a geosynthetic closure cap.

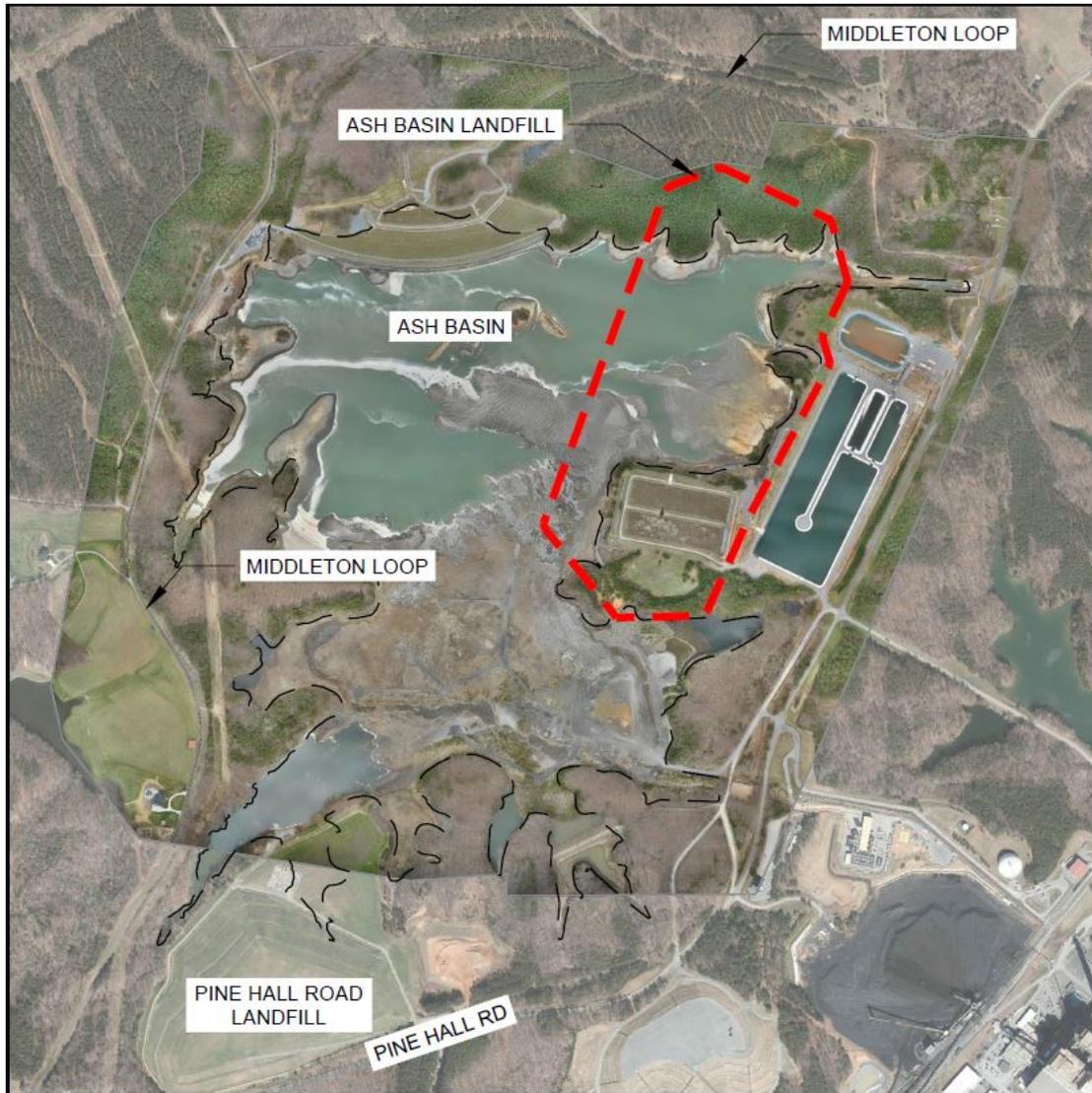
**8506-Ash Basin Landfill**

The Ash Basin Landfill will: 1) be located partially within the former footprint of the Basin adjacent to Pine Hall Road, 2) be approximately 90 acres, 3) designed to contain approximately 14.1 million cubic yards of coal ash, and 4) stand 168 feet tall (from primary liner to top of final closure cap) rising approximately 125 feet above Pine Hall Road.

The Division of Waste Management (DWM) received the Site Suitability Application (Site Study), Volumes I and II on September 30, 2020, and the Permit to Construction (PTC) Application on October 30, 2020. Following DWM technical comments, a revised Site Study was submitted on November 2, 2020, and a revised PTC Application was submitted on February 26, 2021. Duke Energy received the Notification of Site Suitability on March 22, 2021.

**Table 4. Landfill Size**

Landfill	Area (acres)	Designed Volume of CCR (million cubic yards)	Landfill Height (feet)	Height Above Pine Hall Rd (feet)
8506-Ash Basin Landfill	90	14.1	168	125



**Figure 1. Facility with landfill location.**

#### 4 Geographic Area

The Belews Creek Steam Station is located at 3195 Pine Hall Road, Belews Creek, NC 27009 (Figure 2).

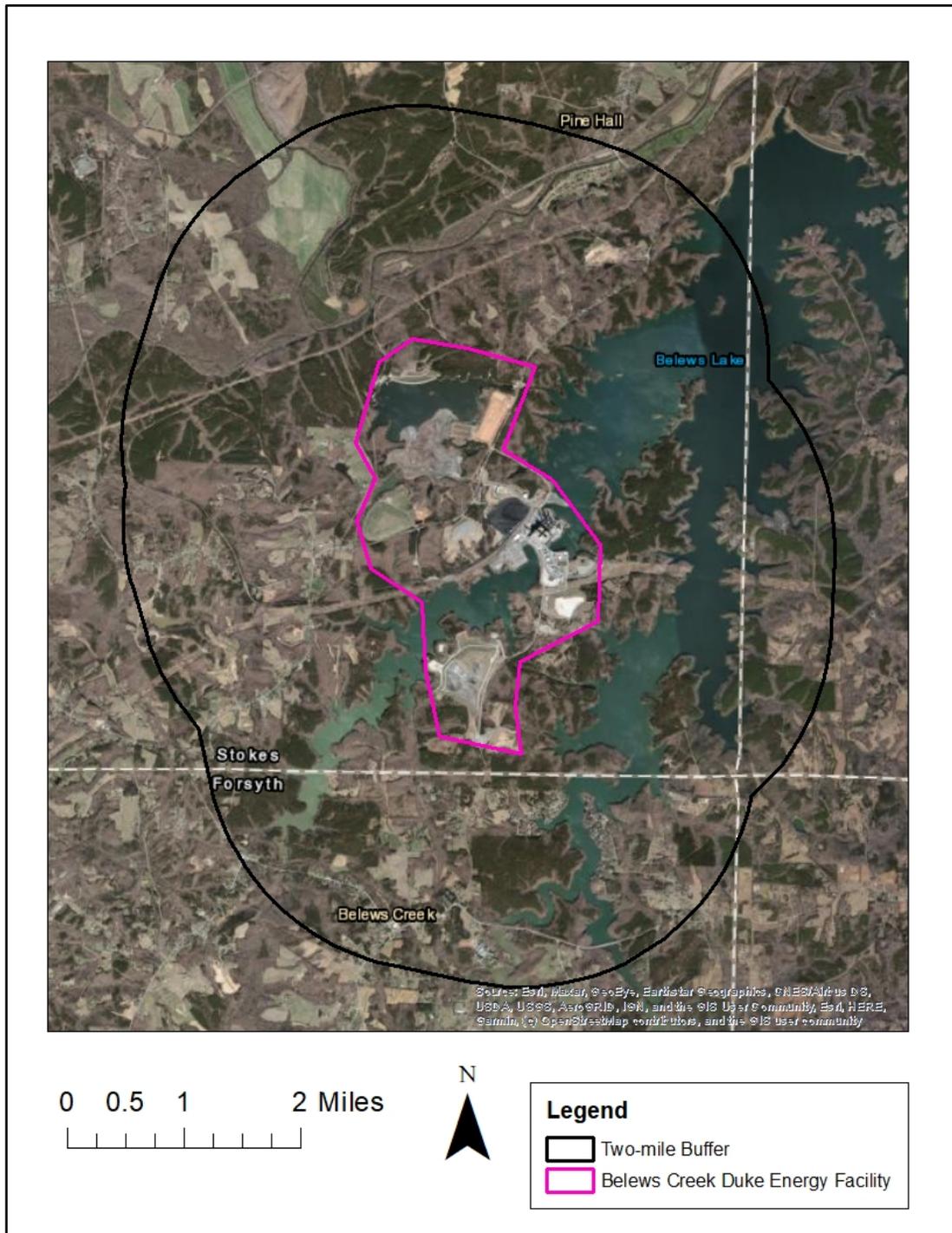


Figure 2. Facility location (Belews Creek Steam Station) with two-mile radius.

## Regional Setting

The Belews Creek Steam Station facility is located in Stokes County, and the two-mile facility buffer enters into Forsyth and Rockingham counties.<sup>1</sup> The N.C. Department of Commerce designated Stokes and Forsyth counties as Tier 2, and Rockingham County as a Tier 1 for 2021. Tier 1 counties encompass the 40 most distressed counties based on average unemployment rate, median household income, percentage growth in population, and adjusted property tax per capita. Tier 2 counties include the next 40 distressed counties, while Tier 3 are the least distressed counties based on these factors. The two-mile radius used in this analysis enters into four census tracts: Census Tracts 701 and 707 in Stokes County; Census Tract 31.06, in Forsyth County; and Census Tract 410.01 in Rockingham County (Figure 3). Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county with a unique numeric code (US Census Bureau). The two-mile buffer does not encompass any land within state designated tribal statistical areas. However, the Commission of Indian Affairs does identify an American Indian Association in neighboring Guilford County – the Guilford Native American Association.

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<sup>1</sup> While one very small portion of the northwest corner of Guilford County does appear to be encompassed within the 2-mile radius, this area was small enough that the DEQ did not include demographics for the entire County or that census tract in this report.

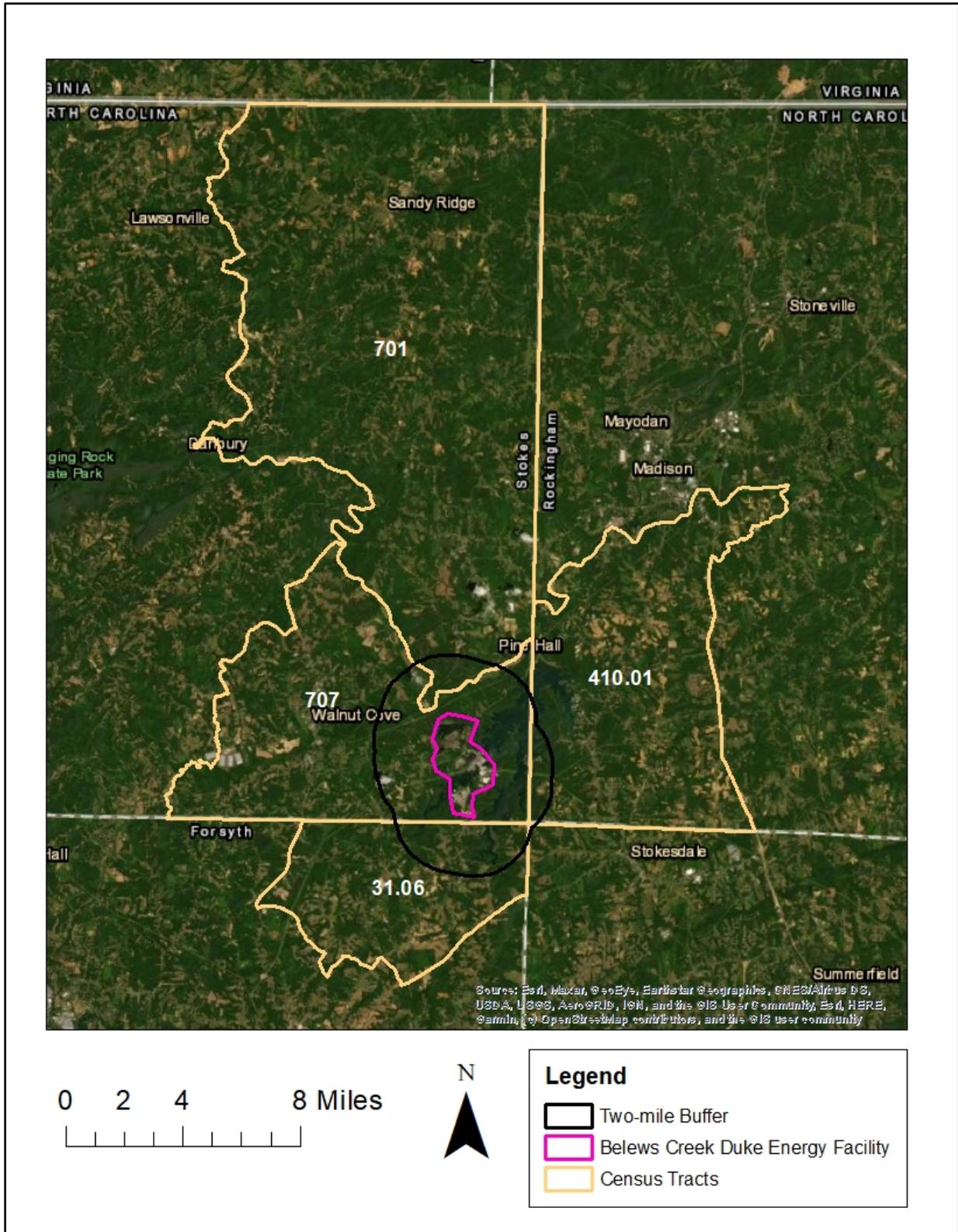


Figure 3. Census tracts surrounding facility location.

**Table 5. Regional Setting - Race and Ethnicity**

Subject	North Carolina		Stokes County		Forsyth County		Rockingham County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	9,535,483	100	47,401	100	350,670	100	93,643	100
White	6,223,995	65.3	45,653	<b>96.3</b>	205,934	58.7	68,744	<b>73.4</b>
Black or African American	2,019,854	21.2	1,897	4.0	89,533	<b>25.5</b>	17,529	18.7
American Indian or Alaska Native	108,829	1.1	138	0.3	894	0.3	307	0.3
Asian	206,579	2.2	125	0.3	6,427	1.8	423	0.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	5,259	0.1	7	0.0	156	0.0	44	0.0
Some other Race	15,088	0.2	39	0.1	696	0.2	97	0.1
Two or More Races	155,759	1.6	494	1.0	5,255	1.5	1,340	1.4
<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO (of any race)</b>	800,120	8.4	1,254	2.7	41,775	<b>11.9</b>	5,159	5.5

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

All **bolded and orange cells** indicate a difference that is greater than 10% when compared to the state.

**Table 6. Local Setting - Race and Ethnicity**

Subject	2-mile Project Radius		Census Tract 701		Census Tract 707		Census Tract 31.06 (Forsyth County)		Census Tract 410.01 (Rockingham County)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	1,729	100	6,720	100	5,681	100	3,099	100	6,103	100
White	1,293	<b>75.0</b>	6,137	<b>91.3</b>	4,385	<b>77.2</b>	2,816	<b>90.9</b>	5,270	<b>86.4</b>
Black or African American	353	<b>20.0</b>	257	3.8	1,041	<b>18.3</b>	157	5.1	257	4.2
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	0.0	23	0.3	12	0.2	14	<b>0.5</b>	23	0.4
Asian	3	0.0	15	0.2	16	0.3	4	0.1	27	0.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	<b>0.2</b>
Some other Race	1	0.0	7	0.1	6	0.1	4	0.1	5	0.1
Two or More Races	30	<b>2.0</b>	59	0.9	108	1.9	23	0.7	76	1.2
<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO (of any race)</b>	43	3.0	222	3.3	113	1.99	81	2.6	435	<b>7.1</b>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

All **bolded and orange cells** indicate a difference that is greater than 10% when compared to the state.

All **bolded and blue cells** indicate a difference that is greater than 10% when compared to the county and state.

All **bolded and green cells** indicate a difference that is greater than 10% when compared to the county.

**Table 7a. Poverty Status – Regional Setting**

Subject	North Carolina						Stokes County					
	Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level		Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-
Population for whom poverty status is determined	9,881,292	1,522	1,523,949	15,319	15.4	0.2	45,349	130	6,166	771	13.6%	1.7
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN												
White	6,281,258	2,576	668,925	9,394	10.6	0.2	42,208	346	5,581	737	<b>13.2%</b>	1.7
Black or African American	2,096,490	5,812	493,496	8,392	23.5	0.4	1,893	111	283	131	14.9%	7.2
American Indian and Alaska Native	117,702	1,595	29,577	1,585	25.1	1.3	188	85	33	40	17.6%	21.4
Asian	275,301	1,983	32,712	2,356	11.9	0.9	166	44	0	26	0.0%	18.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	6,414	671	1,246	264	19.4	4.2	13	43	0	26	0.0%	85.4
Some other Race	302,934	7,911	89,305	5,371	29.5	1.5	273	181	217	174	<b>79.5%</b>	27.5
Two or more races	252,709	6,223	54,335	2,369	21.5	0.8	608	274	52	58	8.6%	9.6
Hispanic or Latino	915,426	901	260,607	5,682	28.5	0.2	1,308	13	604	273	<b>46.2%</b>	20.9
All individuals below:												
200 percent of poverty level	3,513,670	25,035					15,293	1,134				
Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2014-2018) All <b>bolded and orange</b> cells indicate a difference that is greater than 5% when compared to the state.												

**Table 7b. Poverty Status – Regional Setting (Cont'd)**

Subject	Forsyth County						Rockingham County					
	Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level		Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-
Population for whom poverty status is determined	361,175	1,137	63,652	3,192	<b>17.6%</b>	0.9	89,819	259	16,201	1,604	<b>18.0%</b>	1.8
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN												
White	241,162	1,730	33,546	2,493	<b>13.9%</b>	1	68,117	632	10,037	1,262	<b>14.7%</b>	1.8
Black or African American	92,464	1,204	23,453	2,068	<b>25.4%</b>	2.2	16,467	356	4,315	813	<b>26.2%</b>	4.9
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,139	296	347	224	<b>30.5%</b>	15.5	419	168	22	28	5.3%	7
Asian	7,724	381	682	263	8.8%	3.3	583	107	133	151	<b>22.8%</b>	24.6
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	327	160	176	109	<b>53.8%</b>	26	59	57	0	29	0.0%	40.1
Some other Race	9,898	1,434	3,651	873	<b>36.9%</b>	7.4	2,464	626	1,107	454	<b>44.9%</b>	15.6
Two or more races	8,461	1,077	1,797	468	21.2%	4.8	1,710	376	587	242	<b>34.3%</b>	12.1
Hispanic or Latino	46,503	130	17,377	1,607	<b>37.4%</b>	3.4	5,453	32	1,753	411	<b>32.1%</b>	7.5
All individuals below:												
200 percent of poverty level	134,820	3,828					36,471	1,829				
Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2014-2018) All <b>bolded and orange</b> cells indicate a difference that is greater than 5% when compared to the state.												

**Table 8a. Poverty Status – Local Setting**

Subject	Census Tract 701						Census Tract 707					
	Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level		Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-
Population for whom poverty status is determined	6,165	444	454	233	7.4%	3.7	5,083	362	1,019	267	<b>20.0%</b>	5.2
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN												
White	5,531	479	454	233	8.2%	4.1	4,164	379	824	247	<b>19.8%</b>	5.9
Black or African American	449	275	0	17	0.0%	7.5	723	195	146	83	<b>20.2%</b>	8.5
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	17	0	17	-	**	4	6	0	17	0.0%	100
Asian	122	92	0	17	0.0%	24.6	30	55	0	17	0.0%	56.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	17	0	17	-	**	0	17	0	17	-	**
Some other Race	0	17	0	17	-	**	18	27	18	27	<b>100.0%</b>	72.5
Two or more races	63	84	0	17	0.0%	38.8	144	97	31	49	<b>21.5%</b>	30.4
Hispanic or Latino	80	102	0	17	0.0%	33.7	125	134	23	42	18.4%	21
All individuals below:												
200 percent of poverty level	2,255	542					2,201	345				

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2014-2018)

All **bolded and orange** cells indicate a difference that is greater than 5% when compared to the state.

All **bolded and blue** cells indicate a difference that is greater than 5% when compared to the state and the county.

All **bolded and green cells** indicate a difference that is greater than 5% when compared to the county.

**Table 8b. Poverty Status – Local Setting (Cont'd)**

Subject	Census Tract 31.06						Census Tract 410.01					
	Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level		Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-	Estimate	Margin of Error +/-
Population for whom poverty status is determined	2,740	324	230	132	8.4%	4.7	6,123	663	1,289	544	<b>21.1%</b>	7.9
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN												
White	2,583	335	217	130	8.4%	4.9	4,937	664	552	421	11.2%	7.7
Black or African American	138	152	13	23	9.4%	23.4	282	304	3	4	1.1%	2.4
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	12	0	12	-	-	106	105	0	17	0.0%	27.5
Asian	19	28	0	12	0.0%	70.6	11	19	0	17	0.0%	92.8
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	12	0	12	-	-	0	17	0	17	-	-
Some other Race	0	12	0	12	-	-	787	464	734	425	<b>93.3%</b>	5.1
Two or more races	0	12	0	12	-	-	0	17	0	17	-	-
Hispanic or Latino	10	15	0	12	0.0%	97.3	880	482	766	423	<b>87.0%</b>	9.8
All individuals below:												
200 percent of poverty level	629	220					1,705	551				

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2014-2018)  
 All **bolded and orange** cells indicate a difference that is greater than 5% when compared to the state.  
 All **bolded and blue** cells indicate a difference that is greater than 5% when compared to the state and the county.

## 5 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

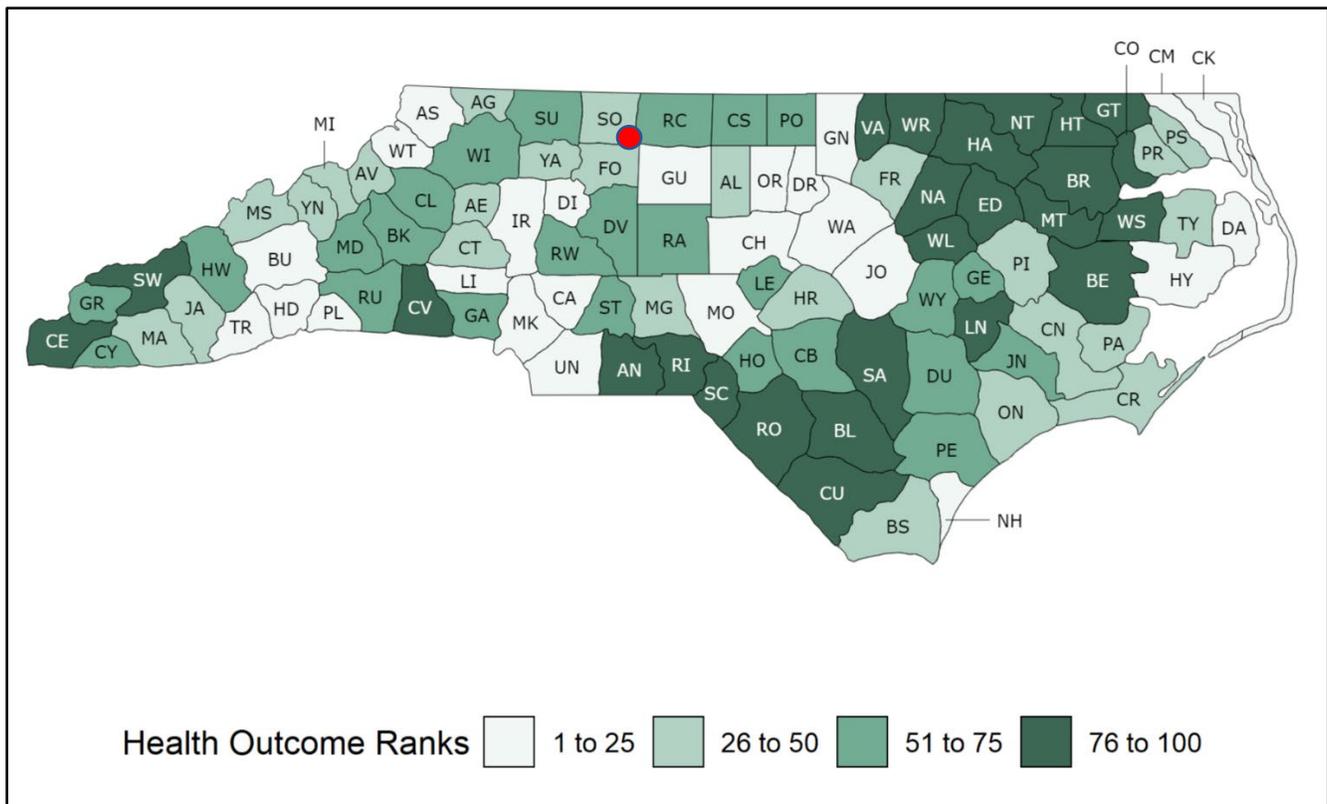
Per the Safe Harbor Guidelines, should an LEP Group be identified during the permit application process, written translations of vital documents for each eligible LEP language group that constitutes five percent or includes 1,000 members (whichever is less) of the population of persons eligible to be served or likely to be affected or encountered. If there are fewer than 50 persons in a language group that reaches the five percent trigger, then DEQ will not translate vital written materials, but instead will provide written notice in the primary language of the LEP language group of the right to receive competent oral interpretation of those written materials, free of cost. The Safe Harbor Guidelines apply to the translation of written documents only. Safe Harbor Guidelines are per the EPA guidance for LEP persons, and implemented by DEQ when deemed appropriate. The population of Spanish-speakers that speak English “less than very well” was less than five percent in all the census tracts included in the two-mile buffer. DEQ will revisit the Safe Harbor Guidelines if additional language access information comes available throughout the permitting process.

**Table 9. Limited English Proficiency**

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME	Census Tract 701		Census Tract 707		Census Tract 31.06		Census Tract 410.01	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total (population 5 years and over):	5,764	506	556	370	2,714	260	5,231	437
Speak only English	5,436	478	5,394	361	2,632	278	4,811	409
Spanish or Spanish Creole:	314	214	93	87	45	61	332	275
Speak English "very well"	64	66	81	79	45	61	236	205
Speak English less than "very well"	250	181	12	18	0	12	96	99
Source: US Census: 2015 5-year Estimates								

## 6 County Health

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, calculated a County Health Rankings system for all the states in the United States ([www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)). This ranking is based on health outcomes (such as lifespan and self-reported health status) and health factors (such as environmental, social and economic conditions). According to this 2021 report, out of all 100 counties in North Carolina (with 1 indicating the healthiest), Stokes County ranks 61<sup>st</sup> in health factors and 40<sup>th</sup> in health outcomes. Forsyth County ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in health factors and 32<sup>nd</sup> in health outcomes. Rockingham County ranks 71<sup>st</sup> in health factors and 75<sup>th</sup> in health outcomes.



**Figure 4. County Health Rankings for Health Factors in North Carolina provided by University of Wisconsin Public Health Institute.**

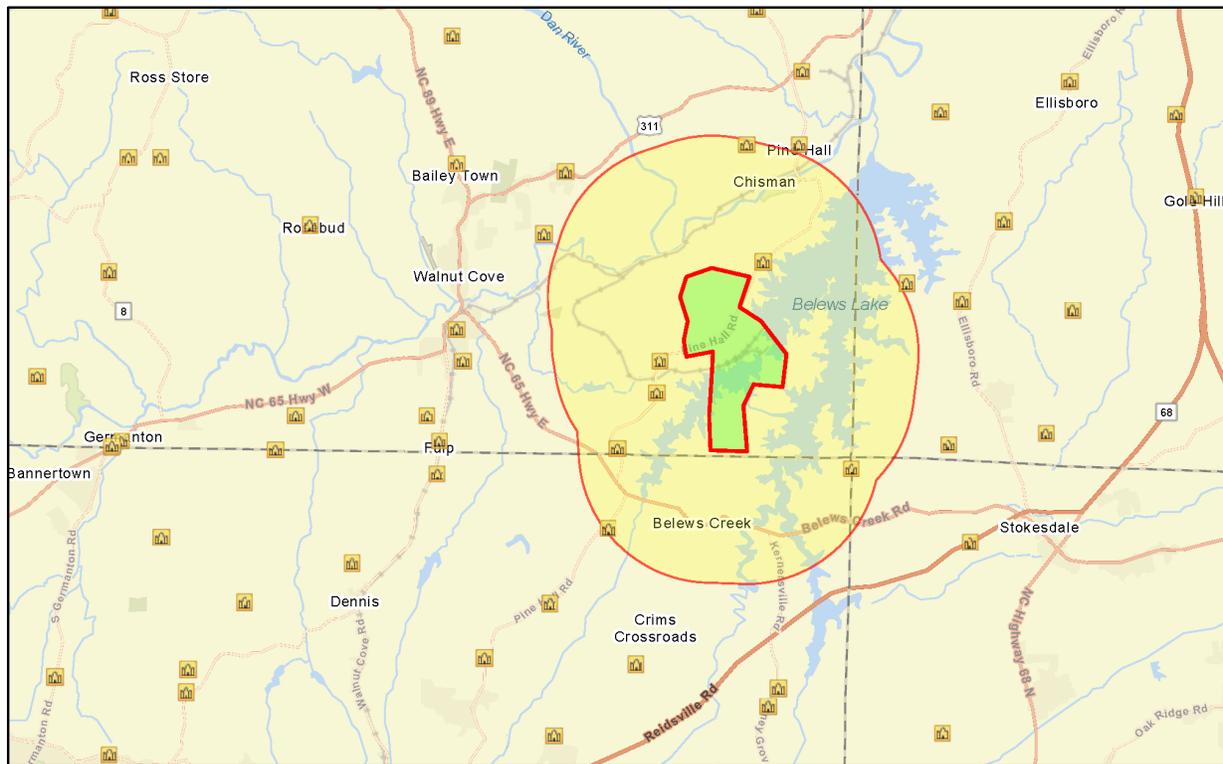
## 7 Local Sensitive Receptors

The EPA suggests that sensitive receptors include, but are not limited to, hospitals, schools, daycare facilities, elderly housing and convalescent facilities. These are areas where the occupants are more susceptible to the adverse effects of exposure to toxic chemicals, pesticides and other pollutants. Extra care must be taken when dealing with contaminants and pollutants in close proximity to areas recognized as sensitive receptors. For instance, children and the elderly may have a higher risk of developing asthma from elevated levels of certain air pollutants than a healthy individual aged between 18 and 64.

Within the two-mile project radius from the Duke Energy Belews Creek Steam Station, the following potential sensitive receptors were identified through EJSCREEN and Google Maps:

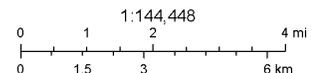
- Pine Hall Elementary School,
- Dry Hollow Church,
- Rock Hill Church,
- Mount Carmel United Methodist Church,
- Withers Chapel United Methodist Church,
- Forest Chapel United Methodist Church,
- Pine Hall Baptist Church,
- Pine Hall Presbyterian Church,
- Stokes-Rockingham Volunteer Fire & Rescue, and
- Cornerstone Baptist Church

Additional sensitive receptors may be identified during the permit application process.



4/15/2021

-  Places of Worship
-  Duke Energy Belews Creek Facility



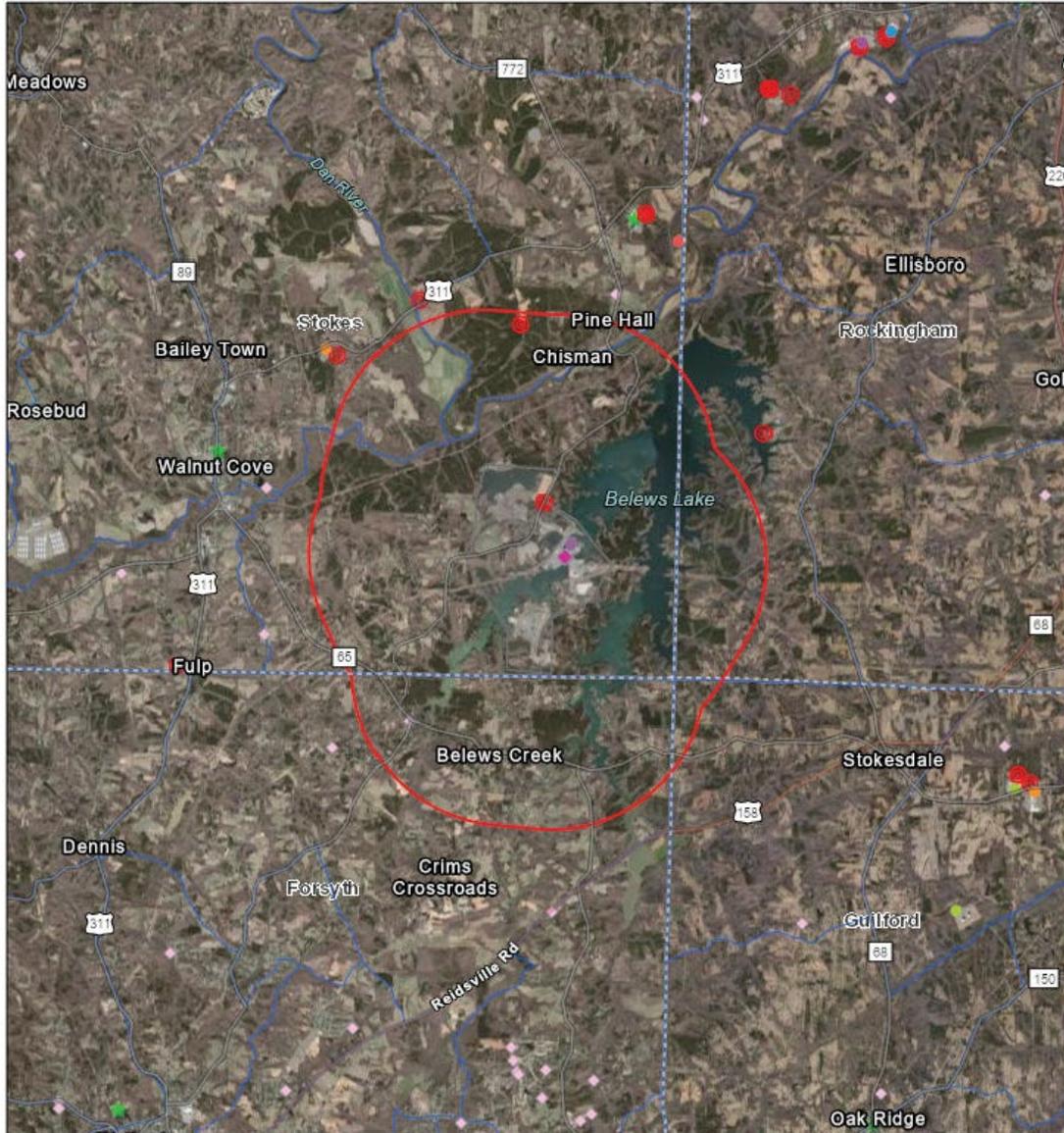
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, EPA OEL, OFA

**Figure 5. Sensitive receptors surrounding the facility**

## 8 Local Industrial Sites

Within the two-mile buffer of the Belews Creek Steam Station, there are 26 facility permits or incident reports (as of April 14, 2021):

- 1 Air Quality Title V permit (belongs to the Belews Creek facility itself),
- 4 NPDES Wastewater Treatment Permits (1 of which belongs to Belews Creek facility),
- 4 Coal Ash Structural Fills,
- 3 Permitted Solid Waste Landfills (all belong to Belews Creek facility - 2 are open, 1 is closed),
- 2 Land Clearing and Inert Debris Notifications,
- 5 Underground Storage Tank Incidents,
- 4 Aboveground Storage Tanks Incidents,
- 1 Underground Storage Tank Active Facilities, and
- 2 Land-Use Restrictions and/or Notices.



**Figure 6. Permitted facilities and incidents with the two-mile radius surrounding Duke Energy’s Belews Creek Steam Station.**

## 9. Conclusion

The Draft EJ Report is an initial evaluation of the demographics and socioeconomics of the community area surrounding a proposed facility or permit modification. This includes information within a determined radius by the Department (two miles for this project) on race and ethnicity (decennial census year), poverty, per capita income, and ability to speak English (most current ACS census range), current N.C. Department of Commerce county tier, and presence or absence of American Indian Tribal areas. The Draft EJ Report does not include a reconnaissance of the community. The proposed Belews Creek Steam Station coal ash landfill is located in an area designated with moderate health factors and outcomes in comparison to other areas of the state.

The surrounding area displays lower percentages of African-American residents as compared to the state, and in some cases, the county as well. There is also a slightly higher percentage of White residents in several of the surrounding census tracts. No LEP language groups met the five percent threshold for Safe Harbor Guidelines. Poverty levels appear to be slightly elevated in this area.

Based on the results from this Draft EJ Report, DEQ will conduct the following outreach:

- 1) Post the notice for public comment in newspapers in Stokes, Forsyth and Rockingham counties.
- 2) Provide initial and ongoing contact with the Guilford Native American Association (located in neighboring Guilford County).
- 3) Review the list of sensitive receptors while considering additional outreach options that may best fit this community's needs.
- 4) Share meeting announcements and comment period reminders through social media.
- 5) Contact known local community organizations and leaders, and provide them with information about the opportunities to provide comment during the public comment period.