



Dept. of the Navy, Marine Corps and Duke Energy leaders participate in solar facility groundbreaking

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – The Department of the Navy (DON), U.S. Marine Corps and Duke Energy Progress broke ground today for a large-scale solar facility at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Approximately 55,000 solar panels will be installed on 100 acres. Once operational, the facility has the potential to produce up to 17 megawatts of direct current energy. Duke Energy estimates construction completion by the end of 2015.

Notable groundbreaking ceremony presenters and attendees included Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations & Environment, Dennis V. McGinn, Commanding General BGen. Robert F. Castellvi, Mayor Sammy Phillips, Commissioner Chairman Barbara Ikner, and Duke Energy's Senior Vice President, Rob Caldwell.

McGinn stressed the importance of this project, "The collaboration between Duke Energy and the Department of the Navy to allow for the construction of a new solar facility will have a myriad of benefits. By hosting the solar facility on our land, we can provide physical security to protect the asset, diversify the local power portfolio and increase regional resiliency, all of which strengthen Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune's energy security."

Furthermore, this project is slated to contribute significantly to both military and state goals. It is the first of many groundbreakings for the Department to achieve the Secretary of the Navy's goal of bringing one gigawatt of renewable energy into procurement by the end of 2015. Concurrently, Duke Energy is contributing to North Carolina's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

In line with its energy efficiency values, Commanding General for Marine Corps Installations East, Brigadier General Robert F. Castellvi, explained the Marine Corps concept of Energy Ethos as "the shared vision that the efficient use of energy resources is a critical component of mission readiness in garrison and operational effectiveness in combat."

"Our Marine Corps experience on the battlefield has already proven that prudent use of energy improves our combat effectiveness," said Castellvi. "It makes our forces lighter and faster on the battlefield and it is equally as important here at our installations. Ultimately today's groundbreaking is ample evidence that we as a Corps are thinking more creatively than ever before when it comes to energy," he said.

Local representatives highlighted the benefits of this new, local, renewable energy source and its potential for increased economic activity throughout development and beyond.