



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

September 1, 2009

Mr. David A. Baxter
Site Vice President
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - OCONEE
NUCLEAR STATION**

Dear Mr. Baxter:

On August 11, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Oconee Nuclear Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only – Security Related Information" will include the Security cornerstone performance review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Oconee Units 2 and 3 was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Oconee Unit 1 was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on a fourth quarter 2008 Initiating Events Cornerstone finding of low to moderate safety significance (White). On May 7, 2009, we were notified by your staff of your readiness for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address this White finding. Therefore, we initiated supplemental inspection 95001 on August 31, 2009.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through December 31, 2010. In addition to the supplemental inspection and ROP baseline inspections, we also plan on conducting several infrequently performed inspections, which include Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/172, Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds; TI 2515/175, Emergency Response Organization, Drill/Exercise Performance Indicator Program Review; IP 60855.1, Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants; and operator licensing examinations. Additionally, the staff will continue its review of issues associated with fire, external flooding, tornado, and high energy line break mitigation. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

As you may know, the NRC is currently evaluating the scope and frequency of all the baseline inspection procedures. If the results of the evaluation, or any other circumstances, cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Jonathan Bartley at (404) 562-4607 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard D. Wert, Jr., Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287, 72-04, 72-40
License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

cc w/encl:
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Oconee
Inspection / Activity Plan
07/01/2009 - 12/31/2010

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATIONAL INSPECTION		3
1, 2, 3	06/01/2009	10/15/2009	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			PB1-SUP - SUPPLEMENTAL FOR WHITE LOSS OF INVENTORY		1
1	08/31/2009	09/04/2009	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area	
			PB7-PI&R - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION		6
1	08/10/2009	08/14/2009	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
1	08/24/2009	08/28/2009	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
			PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION		1
1, 2, 3	08/31/2009	09/04/2009	IP 2515/175	Emergency Response Organization, Drill/Exercise Performance Indicator, Program Review	
1, 2, 3	08/31/2009	09/04/2009	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1, 2, 3	08/31/2009	09/04/2009	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing	
1, 2, 3	08/31/2009	09/04/2009	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2, 3	08/31/2009	09/04/2009	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1, 2, 3	08/31/2009	09/04/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION OCCUPATIONAL WK1		2
1, 2, 3	10/12/2009	10/16/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
1, 2, 3	10/12/2009	10/16/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2, 3	10/12/2009	10/16/2009	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation	
1, 2, 3	10/12/2009	10/16/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			EB3ISI - UNIT 1 INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	10/19/2009	10/23/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3TI172 - TI-172 RCS DM BUTT WELD		1
1	10/19/2009	10/23/2009	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
			EB3SGISI - UNIT 1 STEAM GENERATOR INSERVICE INSP		1
1	10/26/2009	10/30/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION OCCUPATIONAL WK2		2
1, 2, 3	10/26/2009	10/30/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
1, 2, 3	10/26/2009	10/30/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2, 3	10/26/2009	10/30/2009	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation	
			ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATIONAL INSPECTION		3
1, 2, 3	12/01/2009	12/31/2009	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			ISFSI - ISFSI ROUTINE LOADING		3
1, 2, 3	12/01/2009	04/15/2010	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP		3
1	03/08/2010	03/12/2010	V23286	OCONEE/MARCH 2010 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure

Oconee
Inspection / Activity Plan
07/01/2009 - 12/31/2010

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK		3
1	03/29/2010	04/02/2010	V23286	OCONEE/MARCH 2010 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			PSB1-RP - RP ACCESS CONTROLS		1
1, 2, 3	04/19/2010	04/23/2010	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
			EB3ISI - UNIT 2 INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
2	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3TI172 - TI-172 RCS DM BUTT WELDS		1
1, 2, 3	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
			EB3SGISI - UNIT 2 SGISI		1
2	05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			PSB1-RP - RP PUBLIC RADIATION PROTECTION		3
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control Program	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE		3
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2, 3	08/02/2010	08/06/2010	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - PREP		3
1	10/04/2010	10/08/2010	V23339	OCONEE/OCTOBER 2010 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK		3
1	10/25/2010	10/29/2010	V23339	OCONEE/OCTOBER 2010 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	

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Enclosure