



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

September 1, 2011

Mr. T. Preston Gillespie, Jr.
Site Vice President
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION
UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (REPORT 05000269/2011006, 05000270/2011006, AND
05000287/2011006)**

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

On August 9, 2011, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) Units 1, 2, and 3. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined the performance at ONS Units 1, 2, and 3 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

In our annual assessment letter dated March 4, 2011, (ML110630322), the NRC opened a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) with the aspect of procedure use [H.4(b)]. To address the SCCI, your staff performed a common cause assessment in February 2011 to identify performance weaknesses and develop corrective actions to address these weaknesses. While the assessment was thorough and identified approximately 30 corrective actions, more than half remained open with the associated identified actions not yet implemented. The NRC determined that an SCCI still exists because the NRC has a concern with your staff's scope of effort and progress in addressing this SCCI. Because this letter is the second consecutive assessment letter documenting an SCCI with the same cross-cutting aspect, the NRC will continue to monitor your staff's effort and progress in addressing the SCCI by a focused problem identification annual sample to evaluate the planned corrective actions and a review during the next biennial Problem Identification and Resolution inspection to verify the effectiveness of the corrective actions.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. We also plan on conducting several infrequently performed inspections which include: Inspection Procedure (IP) 60855.1, "Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants;" and initial reactor operator licensing examinations. Additionally, the staff will continue its review of issues associated with fire, tornado, and high energy line break mitigation. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident." The NRC is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine what additional actions may be warranted.

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).

Please contact Jonathan Bartley at (404) 997-4607 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard P. Croteau, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

cc w/Encl: (See page 3)

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan (09/01/2011 – 12/31/2012)

DEC

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cc w/encl:

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Oconee

Inspection / Activity Plan

09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION					6
1, 2, 3	08/29/2011	09/02/2011	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1, 2, 3	09/12/2011	09/16/2011	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1, 2, 3	09/26/2011	09/30/2011	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP					4
1	09/26/2011	09/30/2011	V23361	OCONEE/OCTOBER 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK					3
1	10/17/2011	10/21/2011	V23361	OCONEE/OCTOBER 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
PSB1-RP - RP OCCUPATIONAL WEEK 1					4
1, 2	10/24/2011	10/28/2011	IP 2515/179	Verification of Licensee Responses to NRC Requirement for Inventories of Materials Tracked in NSTS	
1, 2, 3	10/24/2011	10/28/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1, 2, 3	10/24/2011	10/28/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2, 3	10/24/2011	10/28/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1, 2, 3	10/24/2011	10/28/2011	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1, 2, 3	10/24/2011	10/28/2011	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1, 2, 3	10/24/2011	10/28/2011	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
EB3 ISI - UNIT 2 IN-SERVICE INSPECTION					1
2	10/31/2011	11/04/2011	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
EB3-LR - PHASE 1: U2 POST APPROVAL LIC RENEWAL					2
2	10/31/2011	11/04/2011	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
EB3SGISI - UNIT 2 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION					1
2	10/31/2011	11/04/2011	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
PSB1-RP - RP OCCUPATIONAL WEEK 2					2
1, 2	11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 2515/179	Verification of Licensee Responses to NRC Requirement for Inventories of Materials Tracked in NSTS	
1, 2, 3	11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1, 2, 3	11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2, 3	11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1, 2, 3	11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1, 2, 3	11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1, 2, 3	11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
PI&R - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION					5
1, 2, 3	11/28/2011	12/02/2011	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1, 2, 3	12/12/2011	12/16/2011	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	

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

Enclosure

Oconee

Inspection / Activity Plan

09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			EB3 HS - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION		2
1, 2, 3	01/16/2012	01/20/2012	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			OCO TFPI - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION		11
1, 2, 3	02/27/2012	03/02/2012	IP 7111105P	Fire Protection-NFPA 805 Transition Period [Triennial]	
1, 2, 3	03/12/2012	03/16/2012	IP 7111105P	Fire Protection-NFPA 805 Transition Period [Triennial]	
			7111108 - OCO 3 ISI & RPVH EXAMS		2
3	04/23/2012	04/27/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3SGISI - UNIT 3 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
3	04/23/2012	04/27/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			PSB1-RP - RADIOLOGICAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT		1
1, 2, 3	04/30/2012	05/04/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP		6
1	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	V23371	OCONEE / JUNE 2012 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM WEEK		6
1	06/11/2012	06/15/2012	V23371	OCONEE / JUNE 2012 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			PSB1-RP - PUBLIC RADIATION SAFETY BASELINE		4
1, 2, 3	07/30/2012	08/03/2012	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1, 2, 3	07/30/2012	08/03/2012	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1, 2, 3	07/30/2012	08/03/2012	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1, 2, 3	07/30/2012	08/03/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			EB3-LR - POST APPROVAL LR INSPECTION - PHASE 2		7
1, 2, 3	08/06/2012	08/10/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
1, 2, 3	08/20/2012	08/24/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
			TI-177 - TI-177		4
1, 2, 3	09/10/2012	09/14/2012	IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	
			PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE		3
1, 2, 3	09/17/2012	09/21/2012	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1, 2, 3	09/17/2012	09/21/2012	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2, 3	09/17/2012	09/21/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			7111108 - OCONEE 1 ISI & RPVH		2
1	10/29/2012	11/02/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3SGISI - UNIT 1 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	10/29/2012	11/02/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	

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Inspection / Activity Plan

09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1, 2, 3	11/05/2012	11/09/2012	LR 71003 - OCONEE 1 LR IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	2

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