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

September 4, 2012

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

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000369/2012006 AND 05000370/2012006)

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

On August 14, 2012, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Oconee Nuclear Station Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. 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 assessment reflects the integration of the Security Cornerstone into the IMC 0305, "Reactor Oversight Process."ROP performance assessment program governed by IMC 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

The NRC determined the performance at Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 during the previous four quarters was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix. The NRC issued a Yellow Finding on December 6, 2011, for failing to ensure that the Standby Shutdown Facility (SSF) pressurizer heater breakers would function during all credited SSF events. All other inspection findings had very low (i.e. Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal expected range. The NRC determined that this Yellow Finding met the requirements of Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, Operating Reactor Assessment Program, for treatment as an "old design issue," and therefore, the finding did not aggregate in the NRC's Action Matrix. In addition to ROP baseline inspections, the NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95002, Supplemental Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area, to review the actions taken to address this finding the week of August 27, 2012.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. In addition to the ROP baseline inspections, we will conduct license renewal inspections, initial reactor operator examinations, and, consistent with the Agency's actions related to Fukushima, TI-187, Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns and TI-188, Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns. 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. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice" a copy of this letter will be 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 me at 404-997-4607 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Jonathan H. Bartley, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Oconee Inspection/Activity Plan (09/01/2012 – 12/31/2013)

cc w/Encl: (See page 3)

cc w/encl:

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# Oconee
## Inspection / Activity Plan
## 09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

| Unit Number | Planned Dates Start | Planned Dates End | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **TI-177** | **- TI-177** | **5** |
| 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** | **6** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 09/17/2012 | 09/21/2012 | IP 7111401 | Exercise Evaluation | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 09/17/2012 | 09/21/2012 | IP 71151 | Performance Indicator Verification | |
| | | | **TI-188** | **- TI-188 P2 - NTTF 2.3 - SEISMIC WALKDOWNS** | **1** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 10/15/2012 | 10/17/2012 | IP 2515/188 | Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns | |
| | | | **EB3 ISI** | **- UNIT 1 INSERVICE INSPECTION & RPVH EXAMS** | **2** |
| 1 | 11/05/2012 | 11/09/2012 | IP 7111108P | Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR | |
| | | | **EB3 LR** | **- UNIT 1 POST APPROVAL LR - PHASE 1** | **2** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 11/05/2012 | 11/09/2012 | IP 71003 | Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal | |
| | | | **EB3SGISI** | **- UNIT 1 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION** | **1** |
| 1 | 11/05/2012 | 11/09/2012 | IP 7111108P | Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR | |
| | | | **OL EXAM** | **- INITIAL EXAM PREP** | **3** |
| 1 | 11/26/2012 | 11/30/2012 | V23391 | OCONEE/DECEMBER 2012 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES | |
| | | | **OL EXAM** | **- INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1** | **3** |
| 1 | 12/17/2012 | 12/21/2012 | V23391 | OCONEE/DECEMBER 2012 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES | |
| | | | **OCO TFPI** | **- OCO - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSP** | **6** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 01/08/2013 | 01/10/2013 | IP 7111105x | Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial) | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 01/28/2013 | 02/01/2013 | IP 7111105x | Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial) | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 02/11/2013 | 02/15/2013 | IP 7111105x | Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial) | |
| | | | **OL RQ** | **- REQUAL INSPECTION** | **2** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 02/11/2013 | 02/14/2013 | IP 7111111B | Licensed Operator Requalification Program | |
| | | | **PI&R** | **- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION** | **5** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 04/01/2013 | 04/05/2013 | IP 71152B | Problem Identification and Resolution | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 04/15/2013 | 04/19/2013 | IP 71152B | Problem Identification and Resolution | |
| | | | **OL EXAM** | **- INITIAL EXAM PREP** | **3** |
| 1 | 05/20/2013 | 05/24/2013 | V23406 | OCONEE/JUNE 2013 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES | |
| | | | **OL EXAM** | **- INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1** | **3** |
| 1 | 06/10/2013 | 06/14/2013 | V23406 | OCONEE/JUNE 2013 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES | |
| | | | **MODS** | **- PERM MODS 50.59 INSPECTION** | **4** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 08/26/2013 | 08/30/2013 | IP 7111117T | Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 09/09/2013 | 09/13/2013 | IP 7111117T | Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications | |

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

# Oconee
## Inspection / Activity Plan
## 09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

| Unit Number | Planned Dates Start | Planned Dates End | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **EP** | **- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION** | **1** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 09/16/2013 | 09/20/2013 | IP 7111402 | Alert and Notification System Testing | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 09/16/2013 | 09/20/2013 | IP 7111403 | Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 09/16/2013 | 09/20/2013 | IP 7111405 | Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 09/16/2013 | 09/20/2013 | IP 71151 | Performance Indicator Verification | |
| | | | **ISI** | **- UNIT 2 IN-SERVICE INSPECTION** | **2** |
| 2 | 10/21/2013 | 10/25/2013 | IP 7111108P | Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR | |
| | | | **PSB1-RP** | **- RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE WEEK2** | **3** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 10/21/2013 | 10/25/2013 | IP 71124.01 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 10/21/2013 | 10/25/2013 | IP 71124.02 | Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 10/21/2013 | 10/25/2013 | IP 71124.03 | In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 10/21/2013 | 10/25/2013 | IP 71124.04 | Occupational Dose Assessment | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 10/21/2013 | 10/25/2013 | IP 71124.05 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 10/21/2013 | 10/25/2013 | IP 71151 | Performance Indicator Verification | |
| | | | **SGISI** | **- UNIT 2 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION** | **1** |
| 2 | 10/21/2013 | 10/25/2013 | IP 7111108P | Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR | |
| | | | **PSB1-RP** | **- RP-OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE** | **3** |
| 1, 2, 3 | 11/18/2013 | 11/22/2013 | IP 71124.01 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 11/18/2013 | 11/22/2013 | IP 71124.02 | Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 11/18/2013 | 11/22/2013 | IP 71124.03 | In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 11/18/2013 | 11/22/2013 | IP 71124.04 | Occupational Dose Assessment | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 11/18/2013 | 11/22/2013 | IP 71124.05 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation | |
| 1, 2, 3 | 11/18/2013 | 11/22/2013 | IP 71151 | Performance Indicator Verification | |

**Comments:**

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